

The Flinders GREEN SHEET

The Flinders Ranges Council "Green Sheet" aims to raise community awareness about the environment by providing useful information and tips to residents and businesses in the Council region. The Flinders Ranges Council "Green sheet" will be produced quarterly. We are open to any suggestions and ideas that can help to produce this document.

This months topic: Waste Recycling

April 2017

What is Waste Recycling?

Recycling is processing used materials (waste) into new, useful products. This is done to reduce the use of raw materials that would have been used. Recycling also uses less energy and great way of controlling air, water and land pollution.

Effective recycling starts with household (or the place where the waste was created). In many serious countries, the authorities help households with bin bags with labels on them. Households then sort out the waste themselves and place them in the right bags for collection. This makes the work less difficult.

Waste items that are usually recycled include:

- Paper waste: Paper waste items include books, newspapers, magazines, cardboard boxes and envelopes.
- Plastic waste: Items include plastic bags, water bottles, rubber bags and plastic wrappers.
- Glass waste: All glass products like broken bottles, beer and wine bottles can be recycled.
- Aluminium waste: Cans from soda drink, tomato, fruit cans and all other cans can be recycled.

When these are collected, they are sent to the recycling unit, where all the waste from each type are combined, crushed, melted and processed into new materials.



Did you know.....

- Steel and Aluminium—Australians use over 3 billion aluminium cans annually. Aluminium and steel products are 100% recyclable and require less energy to produce than virgin products.
- Paper and Cardboard—Australian households and businesses use millions of tonnes of paper every year. Australia has a 87% recycling rate of paper and cardboard, one of the highest in the world. Each tonne of recycled paper saves 13 trees.
- Plastic—Every day, Australian's buy and use products made of plastic. It is estimated that marine waste, mostly plastic, is killing more than a million sea birds and 100,000 mammals every year. Recycling plastic saves energy, wildlife and the environment.
- Glass—Glass was discovered by the Phoenicians more than 5,000 years ago, which makes it one of the world's oldest forms of packaging. Glass is 100% recyclable, and can be recycled and reprocessed indefinitely.



The Powell Gardens in Quorn are managed by a small group of dedicated volunteers with a wide and varied range of skills and knowledge on local native plants. If you are interested in more information on growing natives at home, head down to a Powell Gardens working bee to learn about planting in local conditions. These are held on the second Sunday & fourth Thursday of every month at 9am.

Reduce...

Reuse...

Recycle...

Importance and benefits of waste recycling

Recycling creates jobs:

People are employed to collect, sort and work in recycling companies. Others also get jobs with businesses that work with these recycling units. There can be a ripple of jobs in the municipality.

Recycling helps protect the environment:

This is because the recyclable waste materials would have been burned or ended up in the landfill. Pollution of the air, land, water and soil is reduced.

Recycling conserves natural resources:

Recycling more waste means that we do not depend too much on raw (natural) resources, which are already massively depleted.

Recycling saves energy:

It takes more energy to produce items with raw materials than from recycling used materials. This means we are more energy efficient and the prices of products can come down.



Things you can recycle and re-use at home

- Empty bottles, glass jars and plastic containers can be used to store food and other items.
- Buy second-hand items - you can find high quality goods.
- Household greywater can be used to water the garden.
- Give your used clothes to someone in need, via a charity store near you.
- Discarded paper printed on one side can be re-used for draft documents or notes.

Check with your local council on ways to recycle or safely dispose of batteries, motor oil, chemicals, paints, compact fluorescent light globes, food scraps, crockery, electrical goods, clothing, nappies, cling wrap and cooking oil. Don't put plastic bags in your recycling bin, even if they're biodegradable. Many supermarkets now have plastic bag recycling bins you can use. Flattening boxes and cans will make more room in your bin.

Make sure any bottles you put in the recycling are free from liquid, which can contaminate recycling or damage equipment. Put your grass clippings on the garden as mulch.

If you have any suggestions for topics for future issues please let us know

Green Sheet Challenge:

Green Sheet Answers from last Quiz Challenge:

1. Most of the energy we use originally came from where? **The sun**, the air, the soil, or the oceans.
2. Electrical energy can be produced from where? Mechanical energy, chemical energy, radiant energy or **all of the above**.
3. Which uses the most energy in homes each year? Lighting, water heating, **heating and cooling rooms** or refrigeration.

Please let us know how you went with this months challenge!

Would you like to see a particular topic covered next month, or do you have some suggested green living tips? Please send your ideas to greensheet@frc.sa.gov.au or 'Greening the Flinders', PO Box 43 QUORN 5433