

13.4 Notice of Motion - Public Place Recycling

Success for CVC Public Place Recycling

A review of Clarence Valley Council's public place recycling & waste stations was completed in May. The NEWF assisted CVC to audit the bins to determine the success of the trial, which involves thirteen bin stations located in the centre of Grafton and South Grafton. Each station consists of a red general waste bin alongside a yellow recycling bin with a specially designed opening. Both bins have stickers indicating what should be placed in each.

The results of the audit indicated that the recycling bins are diverting 43% of public place litter from landfill with each of the 13 recycle bins diverting 228 kgs per year on average. Contamination of the recycling bins with non recyclable materials such as plastic bags and polystyrene cups was quite low at only 7% by weight, which confirms that the content of these bins is suitable for recycling. The public place waste bins were found to contain up to 45% by weight of potentially recyclable materials such as glass, plastic and metal drink containers and clean cardboard and paper.

These results indicate that successful public place recycling can be achieved if suitably designed and labeled bins are located in the correct place and supported by an effective public education program. Diverting more recyclables from the waste bins and into the recycling bins is the next challenge.

