



7.0 Reduction

7.1 Objectives

To reduce the amount of waste produced at source.

Example: Manufacturers could be encouraged to use of less packaging for products or reduce the hazardous characteristic of the waste produced during manufacturing.

7.2 Background


Waste minimisation can be approached in many ways. One of the most effective is to target the production of waste at source. This puts the onus on the waste generator rather than passing on the problem to Council or the end user. That waste reduction is topmost in the waste management hierarchy reflects the importance of focussing efforts on this element of waste management.

Council has an advocacy role in influencing effective waste reduction initiatives. This can be achieved through education and facilitation. Economic instruments such as waste charges on domestic and business derived hazardous wastes can be levied to reflect the true costs of handling and disposal of such wastes.

Some of the challenges facing Council with regards to waste reduction are the balance between the true cost of waste disposal and the ability of the community to afford such a system, and the conflicting drivers of waste reduction initiatives versus commercial waste disposal operators requiring volumes of waste to make their businesses viable.

7.3 Issues

- Lack of knowledge or information on reducing the generation of waste.

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- Community and business buy-in on the waste reduction initiatives.
 - Council needs to set an example in reducing waste.
 - Conflict between reducing waste and business drivers to maximise waste volumes for adequate returns.

7.4 Methods

- To encourage waste reduction including hazardous waste to the community via promotional and educational programmes.
- To support local initiatives by schools, maraes and other community organisations.
- To promote waste reduction and cleaner production to commercial and industrial companies as a means of not only improving the environment but also creating financial savings for them.
- To carry out an in-house waste audit of Council's offices and to identify ways of reducing waste. Use the waste audit results to demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits of carrying out waste audits to other businesses.
- To use financial incentives and disincentives to influence waste reduction.

7.5 Performance Measures

Waste reduction values to be targeted by 2005 are

- 50% reduction in green waste
- 25% reduction in kitchen wastes
- 25% reduction in paper
- 25% reduction in recyclable materials.

Annual waste surveys will enable the effectiveness of waste reduction initiatives to be measured and trends identified. Adjustments may have to be made accordingly to ensure that targets are achievable. Waste reduction targets will be reviewed regularly and revised as appropriate.

7.6 Monitoring

- Carry out a full Waste Analysis Protocol survey prior to adoption of the WMP to establish baseline waste composition.
- Carry out an annual limited waste composition survey.
- Carry out a full WAP survey every five years (in lieu of the limited survey) or when required.