
Monday, 7 May 2007

\$500 000 FUNDING BOOSTS REGIONAL RECYCLING

Environment and Conservation Minister, Gail Gago today announced State Government funding of nearly \$500,000 for rural communities around the state to help improve their recycling efforts.

“The Zero Waste SA grants have been allocated for a range of infrastructure and educational projects which focus on diverting recyclable items, such as paper and cardboard, from landfill,” Minister Gago said.

“The grants are the first to be made from total funding of \$3.6 million over three years which represents a significant recycling fighting fund for regional SA.

“Grants have been allocated to councils, businesses and community groups who have shown initiative and a long-term commitment to resource recovery.

“Increasing resource recovery means significant gains for the environment because not only does it prevent materials from ending up in landfill, but in many cases, far less energy is required to recycle products than to produce them from raw materials,” Minister Gago said.

“We've seen tremendous improvement in the volume of materials recycled through similar grants in metropolitan Adelaide, but the rates are considerably lower in the regions.

“About 20% of our waste is generated in regional areas, and through this program, Zero Waste SA is helping rural communities to focus on the best way to recycle this material and prevent it from ending up in landfill.

“The grants have been selected with input from the people who live and work in the regions themselves ensuring that the funds are provided to projects which meet local community needs and South Australia's Waste Strategy targets.

“Eligible projects include equipment and infrastructure designed to divert waste from landfill, including the development of resource recovery and drop-off recycling facilities,” Minister Gago said.

“A task force incorporating expertise from local government, the EPA and the waste management industry assessed packages submitted to Zero Waste SA.

“Regional workshops were also held to identify projects that would contribute the most benefit to rural communities.

“Council, industry and business representatives who have participated in the planning and assessment process have shown a genuine commitment to zero waste and improving waste management in their regions,” Minister Gago said.

LIST OF GRANTS

- **\$150,000** to the Wattle Range Council for three resource recovery facilities at Millicent, Penola and Beachport.
- **\$105,000** to the District Council of Yankalilla for resource recovery and waste transfer facilities.
- **\$90,000** to the City of Whyalla for the Eastern Eyre Waste Management Group for sheds, compounds and education programs aimed at recycling paper, cardboard and plastic.
- **\$66,674** to Finding Workable Solutions Inc for Goolwa Resource recovery to provide long term employment for people with a disability and a retail outlet for recycling salvageable goods.
- **\$51,772** to the Kingston District Council for the Kingston Transfer Station, a drive-through building to recycle domestic and commercial waste materials
- **\$25,637** to the Yorketown Progress Association for a Sort and Save Shed for recycling
- **\$2,171** to the Waikerie Primary School for Waikerie Primary Youth Environment Team Day activities.

For further information contact: Fiona Jenkins, Zero Waste SA Program Manager (Local Government) on 0411 653 179.