



# COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

## PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT



This project is funded by the Waste Authority through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

<b>Contract number:</b>	785
<b>Organisation:</b>	Waste Recycling Education Network (WREN) – Auspice SMRC
<b>Project Title:</b>	Recycling Drop Off Stations
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$3,470 excl GST



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## ORGANISATION & PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Organisation overview

The Waste Recycling Education Network (WREN) is an independent group consisting of community volunteers (residents) from the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) member councils (City of Fremantle, City of Melville, Town of East Fremantle, Town of Kwinana).

The role of the WREN, formerly known as the Community Advisor Group, which has existed since 2007 is to:

- increase community understanding of the importance of waste avoidance, resource recovery and recycling and sustainable living;
- increase community understanding of the operations and programs of the SMRC;
- gather community feedback and suggestions to assist with education and decision making;
- proactively assist the SMRC to respond effectively to issues and arising in the community and industry.

It will achieve this by:

- actively engage through events and activities with local businesses and communities to promote waste avoidance, resource recovery and recycling and sustainable living;
- providing feedback to the SMRC on the activities of WREN;
- pass on any community concerns to the SMRC

### Project overview

The WREN sought funding from the Waste Authority through the Community Grant Scheme for the construction of 8 Recycling Drop-off Stations for the collection of 4 problematic waste items (batteries, mobile phones, printer cartridge, light bulbs) for their adequate recycling and/or disposal. The WREN identified that many people in the SMRC's region don't have easy access to dispose of these items that don't belong to any household bins.

The recycling stations were distributed among the different member councils (libraries, administration building, etc) that had already expressed to the SMRC an interest in hosting a station. The councils hosting the recycling stations on their premises are responsible for the material collected.



The goal of this project is to provide residents with easily accessible and nearby drop off points for the appropriate handling of these problematic waste items. The collection of these items will also help reducing contamination of the material collected through the household recycling bins. Finally, adverse environmental impacts resulting from the inadequate disposal in landfill of these items will also be limited.

The WREN who oversaw the project, partnered with the Fremantle Men`s Shed who procured the material and built the recycling drop off stations. As for the artwork and decals to be installed on the stations, they were produced by the SMRC.

In terms of design of the recycling stations, few iterations of the initial prototype led to a final design that we believe will prove long lasting, easier to handle and weather resistant as some stations may be placed in a secure outdoor location. Consultation with Waste Education Officers from other regional councils already using similar stations contributed to the final decision.

### **Project outcome and achievement**

Due to several reasons, the construction of the recycling stations took longer than foreseen. Within the WREN, a change of project coordinator due to schedule constraints and delays in finalising the station`s design halted the beginning of the construction phase. While at the Men`s Shed, an unexpected decrease in the number of members available during the holiday season delayed the construction of the stations.

However, the construction of the 8 recycling stations was completed at the beginning of May 2019. The recycling stations have since then been distributed to the member councils. A period of adjustment may be expected for hosting councils to evaluate if the current locations are optimal in terms of accessibility to the residents and so on.

Promotional material to advertise the location of the recycling stations and the material collected will be produced by the WREN in collaboration with the SMRC.

Both the WREN and the SMRC are very interested in witnessing and understanding how these stations are adopted and used by the residents and how they contribute to improved waste management. Each council hosting stations will be provided a table to register the quantities of items collected on a monthly basis along with feedback from residents and employees handling the recycling stations and the material collected. This information will help decide on any changes to improve the quantity of material collected leading may be to other stations being built and deployed within the limits of the SMRC.



## EVALUATION / RESULTS - DATA

*What kind(s) of project data/information did you collect?*

As explained in the previous section the recycling stations have successfully been built despite some delays. However, no data have been collected yet, but it is our intention to keep track on a monthly basis of the quantities collected through these recycling stations. Along with any comments/feedbacks from residents using these stations and employees handling them and the material collected to improve the outcome of the stations.

*Please explain how you recorded / measured your results, and include all the data you've collected, whatever it may be!*

Results in terms of real data will be collected by councils on an annual basis. This data will be able to be provided by councils towards their waste diversion data which is reported as part of the census each year. Initial data is included at the end of this report.

*Was your project successful in the way you expected? Did you achieve what you set out to do? (did you reuse/reduce/recycle as much as you had planned to?) If not, what happened?*

YES

NO

Yes, the project was successful in building of recycling drop off stations to be used by different member councils of the SMRC.

However, we are yet to promote the stations via the SMRC's website and its e-newsletter and have just started collecting data.

*Do you feel your project made a positive difference in your community and why?*

YES

NO

Unfortunately, at this time we cannot rely on data collected in regards with the use of the recycling stations, however we believe that the stations will help dealing adequately with problematic waste items, providing residents with nearby, easily accessible collection points.

*How many people in total do you think your project has reached/affected?*

The stations will be available to in excess of 65,000 households across three councils. It is also hoped that this initial injection of drop off points amongst these councils will spur a higher provision of services to residents.

## LESSONS LEARNT

*What lessons were learned through the project – what worked and didn't work?  
What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again?*

The design of the stations should have been given more consideration at the beginning of the project in order to have a product that suits our needs. A list of criterion for the design should have been developed with all the members of the group.

The Men`s Shed representative was very helpful and was very mindful in reaching an outcome that would satisfy us. This project might have been a bigger and more complicated one than the projects usually undertaken by the Men`s Shed.

If we were to do this project again, we would need, as much as possible to gather a team of members that would be responsible to deliver the project instead of having only one person.

More time should be taken at the beginning of the project to establish a project schedule with regular updates on the work progress.

*Did you encounter any problems/challenges in carrying out the project? If so, what were they?*

As mentioned previously, some challenges included the search of information to decide on a design that would meet our needs (long lasting, design, materials, etc).

Also, not having a big enough team of dedicated members at the Men`s Shed to do the work in a way that work can be done despite the absence of some members.

*What advice would you give to other groups considering undertaking similar projects?*

It`s important to take time at the beginning to discuss the various phases of the project and allocate time to complete them. We wanted to build recycling stations and we quickly decided on a model that was close by without researching alternative designs that could work better for us. A discussion on what are our criterias for such recycling stations would have saved us time.

At the WREN level, it could be wise to have two persons working on a project in order to share the load and reducing the risk of having delays if one person has time constraints and cannot continue for an extended period of time.

If working with organisations that rely on volunteers to do the work, have a work schedule with regular update on work progress. If possible, form a team with more members than less so work can continue if members are away

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / PROMOTION

*Does your organisation (or project) have a website or Facebook page?*

The WREN is promoted on the website of the SMRC along with the e-newsletter sent out by the SMRC.

The website is the following :  
<https://recycleright.wa.gov.au/get-involved/>

*How did you acknowledge the Community Grants Scheme funding you received?*

The artwork and decals installed on the recycling stations include the logo of the Waste Authority.

Promotional information about the recycling stations will be sent via the SMRC's website where the Waste Authority will be mentioned (website, e-newsletter, etc).

*Did you purchase any capital equipment with your grant money? (this includes things like sheds and large pieces of equipment)*

No

*Were there any promotional / media opportunities for the project? (newspaper articles, photos)*

YES

NO

Promotional or media opportunities will happen, via the SMRC's website, newsletter and each individual council hosting a station. However, they haven't been produced yet. We had a newspaper article published in a community newspaper.





*Did you produce any promotional material for the project? (flyers, brochures even screen prints of online promotion – Facebook posts etc)*

YES

NO

Not yet but material will be developed to advertise the recycling stations, their locations, and how to use them.

## VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

*Were you able to complete your project in the approved timeframe?*

YES

NO

*If there were variations or extensions, what were the cause(s)?*

The project was completed. Data was not available by the original due date, however the project was granted an extension to provide collection data by February 2020.

## FUTURE PROJECTS

*Did any opportunities or ideas arise during the project?*

YES

NO

*Do you now have ideas for other future projects?*

During our monthly meeting of May, we conducted a brainstorming session to identify activities the WREN could do in line with our role and the newly released Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030. While these ideas were not generated as a direct result of the project, they include: providing education and information to the community via various channels, writing submissions to lobby on specific issues and so on. We also need to increase our number of members !

## PROJECT PHOTOS

Please attach project photos, screen prints of promotional materials and their brief descriptions here.





This February 2020 document is an addition to the report that was submitted by the WREN on May 31, 2019 to the Waste Authority to comply with its obligations through the Community Grants Scheme 2018.

### **Background information**

When it was time for the WREN to complete the report for the grant received via the Community Grants Scheme 2018 to build 8 recycling stations to be located within the different Member Councils of the SMRC, due to delays both in the building of the stations and in their delivery in the community by the different councils, no data had been collected then.

It was then agreed that data would be collected from the moment the stations would be delivered on location until January 24, 2020, compiled and provided the following week to the Waste Authority to meet our reporting obligations. This addition to the existing report is submitted to provide such data which consists of quantities of material collected in the different councils with the recycling stations.

## **EVALUATION / RESULTS - DATA**

As previously mentioned, the data consists of quantities of material collected via the recycling stations. Four different types of material can be collected: household batteries, ink cartridges, mobile phones and chargers and finally, household light globes and fluorescent tubes.

### **Location of the units**

The City of Kwinana was the first council to have its stations on location. They were delivered on October 7, 2019, at the following locations:

- Kwinana Market Place
- Darius Wells Library and Resource Centre



The City of Melville had its stations launched on November 11, right in time for the National Recycle Week held November 11 -17, 2019. An article was published in the Melville Gazette. The stations are located at:

- AH Brack Library and Creative Space
- Blue Gum Community Centre
- Willagee Community Centre

The City of Melville is seeking to secure funding for the construction of 8 additional units to be dispersed on its territory. If successful at getting the funding the units could be delivered in the community toward the end of the year.

The Town of East Fremantle had its station delivered on December 17, 2019 at the Glyde-In Community Learning Centre. Few weeks after its delivery, due to space constraints the unit was moved to the Town Hall until its permanent destination is finalised.

The City of Fremantle has recently delivered one station at the Fremantle Library, the other station is yet to be delivered. The station at the library has not been emptied yet, therefore no quantities of collected material can be reported at this time.

### Quantities of material collected

The quantities of household material collected were recorded in kilograms (kg) and provided by the recycling companies whenever the units needed to be emptied. The following table provides the quantities of material collected within the different councils.

Member Councils	East Fremantle	Kwinana	Melville	Total
Batteries (kg)	7	279	801	1087
Globes/Fluo tubes (kg)	4	17	27	48
Mobiles/chargers (kg)	0.1	41	36	77.1
Printer cartridges (kg)	0.2	16	12	28.2

As shown with this table, the quantity of batteries collected via the stations is substantial. With time, as more people become aware of these drop-off points and develop the habit of using them, we believe important quantities of material will be diverted from landfill. It would be worth considering the addition of other units within the territory along with the collection of other kinds of waste to make it easier for local community members to adopt the right behaviour.