

# Tweed's Multi-Bin System

Recycle more and waste less



**From 1 December 2009 Tweed Shire Council will introduce a Multi-Bin System for domestic household use.**

## Why the new system?

### Better recycling – less waste to landfill

The majority of most people's waste can be recycled. The larger 240L bin for recycling provides a greater space to pack recyclables into. Separating the bins also provides a clearer message - the two bins are for different types of waste.

### Less contamination of recycling

The overflow of general rubbish into the recycling section of split bins contributes largely to contamination of recyclables. If recyclables become too contaminated, they need to be disposed of in landfill.

### Standard Australian colours for bins

Being consistent with messages and colours across the country makes the bins easier to use. Confusion over which bin to use often leads to a loss of, or contamination of recyclables.

## Who will be affected?

All Tweed Shire residents with a garbage bin service. Due to space limitations, multi-unit dwellings (more than two dwellings) have a number of options available to them.

A small proportion of businesses and schools which use divided bins will also come on line with the new system.

## What will change?

Your current household divided bin will be removed and replaced with a separate red lid 140L garbage bin and a separate yellow lid 240L recycling bin. You won't need to do anything for this to

happen. Your new bins will arrive from 13 October, however collection for the new bins will not begin until 1 December.

These bins are the standard sizes each household will receive for the first six months. After this initial six months, residents will be given the option to either keep their red lid 140L garbage bin or swap it for either an 80L garbage bin or 240L garbage bin. Alternative charges will apply. There will be no change to the current green organics bin service where this is available.

Please note: There is no option to swap the size of your recycling bin however you can order additional bins at a cost.

## Pricing

Domestic waste management charges are included in your rates. Charges include the supply, servicing and replacement of any broken parts on your bins. The pricing for the 2009/2010 financial year already includes the new service and has only increased by 16 cents a week (\$217.80 for 2009/2010 compared to \$209.30 for 2008/2009).

## How the new system will work

This brochure details what you can and cannot put into each bin, when it will be collected and an outline of additional options available to Tweed residents for recycling.

# Recycling Service - 240 litre

Your recycling service is collected every two weeks. The collection day will be the same day as your garbage collection and alternate with the optional green organics service if available in your service area.

## What's new with recycling?

To make plastic recycling less confusing, Tweed Shire Council can now accept any disposable, household plastic bottles or containers with a lid.

This means you no longer need to look for recycling symbols or the plastic identification codes, which are often hard to see. Follow the guideline above and remember the scrunchy rule.

**Scrunchy rule:** If a plastic can be scrunched or easily broken (eg. food wrap, biscuit trays, plastic bags, chip packets and meat trays), it cannot be recycled – place these items in your red lid garbage bin.

**Leave plastic lids on plastic bottles:** In the Tweed Shire, lids only need to be separated if they are made from a different material to the bottle (eg. glass jar with metal lid). If the material is the same (plastic bottle with plastic lid), keep it on. Place metal lids in metal cans and squash to keep them in. (Lids on their own are too small to go through the recycling facility).

## Examples of acceptable plastics include:

Takeaway containers, juice, milk and softdrink bottles, margarine containers, fruit punnets, peanut butter jars, sauce and salad dressing bottles, yoghurt tubs, cosmetic containers, haircare containers, liquid soap containers, medicine bottles, shampoo and conditioner bottles, roll-on deodorant bottles, cleaning product containers.



**Free your recyclables:** Plastic shopping bags, including those which are biodegradable, cannot go into your domestic recycling bin as they become caught in machinery at the recycling facility.

Do not put your recyclables into plastic bags – instead, use a box or tub to collect your recyclables to easily dispose of them. To recycle plastic bags, return them to shopping centres which collect them for recycling or even better, say no to plastic bags.

Labels do not need to be removed - they separate in the recycling process.



## Do not contaminate your recyclables

These items cannot go into your recycling as they contaminate other recyclables: Plastic bags and other scrunchy plastics, ceramics, window glass (including glass cups), mirrors, food, used tissues, paper towels or paper with food residue.



# DO THE RIGHT BIN



## Do the right thing with your bin

Keep your bins one metre apart and free from obstacles such as cars and trees.

Place your bin with the wheels facing away from the kerb.

# Garbage Service - 140 litre

Option of changing this service to a 240 litre or 80 litre after the initial six months

Your garbage service is collected weekly.

Any household waste that cannot be re-used, recycled or composted goes into your red lid garbage bin.

- ✓ Scrunchy plastics such as plastic bags, wrappers, chip packets and plastic bread packets.
- ✓ Plastics that do not fit into the 'disposable, household plastic bottles or containers with a lid' category eg. plastic coat hangers, plant pots, styrofoam eg. meat trays, disposable foam cups and packaging.
- ✓ Ceramics, pyrex, candescent light globes, window glass, mirrors.
- ✓ Food waste, nappies, soiled paper (used paper towels, tissues or pizza boxes).



### Do not put in

- Car batteries
- Scrap metal
- Car/ auto parts
- Hazardous waste (asbestos, chemicals, paint)
- Concrete
- Gas bottles
- Motor oil
- Plaster boards
- Roof tiles
- Syringes
- Garden waste



Check out the 'Additional Recycling Services' section of this brochure to find out where these items can be taken or recycled.

# Green Organics Service - 240 litre

Council offers an optional 'user pays' 240 litre garden waste service available to the current service area

This is an optional 'user pays' service collected every two weeks. The collection day will be the same day as your garbage collection on alternate weeks with your recycling bin.

To find out if this service is available to your area, or to arrange the service, contact Council's Waste Management Unit.

Tenants should note that Council requires the permission of the property owner or the Real Estate Agent before a green organics service can be placed on a property.

The green organics collected from this service is taken to Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre where it is mulched and available for sale to the community. The centre is open Monday to Friday 7 am to 4 pm; weekends and holidays 10 am to 4 pm (closed Good Friday and Christmas Day).

Only place these items in your green organics bin;

- Leaves
- Small branches and palm fronds (up to 10cm diameter by 30 cm long)
- Grass clippings
- Other small prunings

Please do not place any other items in your green organics bin, even if they are organic.

The green lid bin is not a 'composting' process. Food and biodegradable or compostable shopping bags should not be placed into your green organics bin.

Households are encouraged to compost garden prunings. Compost bins and worm farms are available for sale at the Tweed Civic and Cultural Centre and Murwillumbah Civic and Cultural Centre.



# Additional Recycling Services

Apart from everyday household recycling, Tweed residents can make use of a number of other free recycling options. Dates for scheduled collections are advertised in Council's newspaper, the Tweed Link or from Council's Waste Management Unit.



## Metal collection

**When:** Free collection from your property available all year round. Phone Council's Waste Management Unit to arrange this service.

**Items collected:** Derelict motor vehicles, unwanted farm machinery and unwanted white goods (eg. old washing machines, fridges and freezers).

All metal items collected are sent to processors to be recycled.

## Electronic waste (e-waste)

**When:** Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre accept e-waste at no charge all year round. Two collection days are also advertised each year in April and October.

Do not put e-waste into your household recycling bin – these items cannot be recycled through this system.



### Items accepted:

- Computer equipment – monitors, hard drives, keyboards and mice, power supplies, floppy disc and CD drives.
- Business and home office equipment – printers, scanners, mobile phones, photocopiers, fax machines, answering machines, telephones, electronic games and toys.
- Entertainment equipment – televisions, videos, DVD players, hi-fi equipment, stereos, speakers, digital cameras and video cameras.

### Items not accepted:

- Gas bottles
- Non-rechargeable batteries
- White goods
- Fluorescent light tubes.

## Household chemicals

**When:** One collection day during March or April each year at Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre.

### Items accepted:

Up to 20 litres of household chemicals, including paint and paint-related products, pesticides, herbicides and poisons, solvents and household cleaners, pool chemicals, acids and alkalis and hobby chemicals. The aim of this collection is to reduce the amount of toxic substances sent to landfill by diverting these to proper facilities that can safely treat them and prepare many for re-use or recycling.

## DrumMuster

**When:** Two collection days during April and December each year at Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre. Collection is available other times of the year by appointment only – phone (02) 6676 6085 to arrange this.

**Items accepted:** Empty plastic and metal drums displaying the DrumMuster logo.

Drums must be cleaned both inside and out (including caps and threads) and allowed to drain or air dry so no rinse water or dry chemical residue remains - in line with Agsafe Standard for Effective Rinsing of Farm Chemical Containers brochure available from chemical retail outlets. Lids must be removed and steel drums punctured at the base.

Unclean or partly filled containers will not be accepted.

## Council clean up

**When:** Two collection days usually during May and November each year. Available to residents who receive a garbage collection service.

**Items accepted:** Maximum one cubic meter (small box trailer) of excess household items. Must not be used for vacant allotment clearing, commercial/trade waste or general farm cleanups.

Unreasonable amounts of household rubbish will not be collected.



## Compact fluorescent and fluorescent light bulbs

Residents can bring their used fluorescent light bulbs to the Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre free of charge. The glass must be intact and preferably in packaging (use the packaging from the replacement bulb). These bulbs are broken down under controlled conditions and disposed of responsibly.

## Contact Council's Waste Unit

**Telephone: (02) 6670 2694**

**Fax: (02) 6670 2557**

**Email: [waste@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waste@tweed.nsw.gov.au)**

**Web: [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au)**

