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COTTESLOE COUNCIL NEWS

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Aerial view of the Brockway site shows the new DiCOM installation, and inset, a close-up of the first digester vessel.



This month's page focuses on environmental issues and is suitably illustrated by the artwork of Mitchell McTavish (Cottesloe Primary, year 6) from the 2009 Cottesloe Calendar.

YOU COULD CLEAN-UP!

WILL you help improve your local environment?

Clean up Australia Day is on Sunday, March 1, and it's easy to be a part of the action. Cottesloe Beach and the surrounding foreshore areas have been registered as a clean up site.

Find out how you can be involved by calling Cottesloe's Jade Hankin.



She's the Town's own sustainability officer based at the Civic Centre. Jade's number is 9285 5016 or email:

jade@cottesloe.wa.gov.au

There's more information about the day online at the Clean Up Australia Day website- www.cleanup.org.au



News in brief...

Meetings at Civic Centre

NEXT Council meeting Monday February 23, at 7pm.

Development Services Monday February 18, 6pm.

Works and Corporate Services Tuesday February 17, 7pm.

Greenwaste

THE next round of collections begins on March 7; full details will appear on this page on March 7. Also, a full list of collections and dates appears in the new Waste Calendar. If you do not have a copy, please contact the Civic Centre.

This is a job for the Captain – and friends!

CAPTAIN Cleanup has had a warm and wonderful response in Cottesloe this summer. The Captain is a very friendly bloke and is always looking to make new friends, so his beach visits continue on Saturday mornings in February. He'll be there from 9.30am to 11.30am.

You'll also spot the Captain and his bright yellow car around the beach area on Sundays; on the 15th 1-3pm; and 22nd 12-2pm.

New citizens – welcome!

New citizens of Australia, and Cottesloe: pictured with Mayor Kevin Morgan are (from left) Yolanda Brent-White, Robert Meiring, Helen Kinsey, Robert Willes and Iain Fraser.

They were welcomed at the Australia Day ceremony at Mosman Park by a large party including premier Colin Barnett and Federal opposition deputy-leader Julie Bishop.



Think Water, too!

PRACTICAL advice on reducing water use in and around your home – and cutting back the contaminants that enter our stormwater and groundwater – is on the way to your door.

It's all in the next round of Cottesloe's 'Think Water' campaign, which will be hitting your letterbox in March. Watch out for the package; not only does it carry handy hints on water wisdom but also some useful garden goodies that kids and adults will enjoy.



Councils plan to slash landfill

LOCAL councils have begun testing a waste-disposal method that could slash the tonnes of rubbish going to landfill.

If successful the DiCOM system will recycle up to 80 per cent of waste. It is also self-powering, producing 'green' electricity and a useful final product - compost.

WA company AnaeCo Ltd has developed and patented the DiCOM technology and installed the first bio-conversion vessel at the Brockway waste transfer site. The company has financed the trial and, working as a region, five local councils – including Cottesloe – are supporting it by delivering their waste for processing.

Diversion

"Cottesloe produces 4,000 tonne of waste every year. At the moment almost 60 per cent goes into landfill," said Ruth Levett, the Town's principal environmental officer. "DiCOM could reduce that to 15-20 per cent.

"So diversion from landfill is the main environmen-

tal gain. But the possibility of converting so much waste into a useful product, while producing enough energy to power itself, is a tremendous bonus. In fact it seems likely that excess electricity could be fed into the State's power grid as green energy."

How it works

Waste delivered to Brockway goes directly into the system without pre-storage. So there are no unpleasant odours around the site. Other recyclable materials (metals, plastics, etc) and non-recyclables (batteries, window glass, etc) are rapidly separated in a MRF (materials recovery facility.)

Treatment

Everything else is fed into a sealed bio-reactor vessel. A three-stage sequence - aerobic, anaerobic and aerobic - of processes takes 21 days to convert the waste into compost and energy.

Water

No scheme water is used in the process and no waste water results. Water from the process is recycled into the next batch. A small amount of water is incorporated into the finished compost and replaced with bore water.

Green power

The way the whole process is powered is of great satisfaction to environmentally-aware people.

Organic materials contain stored energy. Converting that energy into useable electricity is one of the benefits of the combined aerobic/anaerobic digesters at Brockway.

Biogas

Digesters create biogas which is fed directly into a gas-fired combustion turbine. (This is a micro-turbine, the type of turbine most often used for small-scale electricity production.)

The mechanical energy produced by biogas combustion - in an engine or micro-turbine - spins a tur-

bine that produces a stream of electrons, or, electricity. Also, waste heat from these engines can provide heating or hot water.

The trial

"Stage 1 is the current trial," explained Ruth Levett. "The councils - working together as the WMRC (Western Metropolitan Regional Council) want to see six consecutive batches successfully processed at Brockway.

"At that point we can move to stage 2, the installation of two more vessels giving the site a total capacity of 55,000 tonnes a year."

Fortunately DiCOM is a vertical installation, with a relatively small 'footprint'. However, fitting three vessels onto the Brockway site will be a building challenge.

At present, WMRC's final disposal site is at Red Hill, a round journey from Brockway of around 100 kilometres. The Brockway transfer station has been operated since 1991. Member councils' waste is consolidated there to reduce transport costs.

Landfill

WMRC believes landfilling of waste is no longer acceptable for disposing of organic waste, and people expect local government to pursue better, environmentally acceptable methods. Contracting with AnaeCo Ltd for construction of an Alternative Waste Treatment facility at Brockway was in line with that pursuit, and the goal of further cost savings, with a bonus of producing green energy.

AnaeCo

The Western suburbs are now at the forefront of a waste treatment system that has global potential. After almost six years in planning and development, a successful local trial is extremely important and crucial to the operating company. It has patented the system in Australia, China and the USA; has patents pending in