

Tuesday 12 April 2011

Indigo Shire doing its bit to reduce greenhouse gasses

Approximately 600 houses across Indigo, Wodonga and Towong Shires will take part in a trial to divert organic waste from landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The 16 week trial is run by Cleanaway; the company contracted by Council to collect waste, and will commence the week after Easter.

Beechworth residents within an area bounded by High Street, Balaclava Road, Cemetery Road, Sydney Road, and Junction Road will take part in the trial.

Between 18 – 21 April, residents involved in the trial will have a green waste bin, a kitchen tidy with compostable liners, new stickers for bins to help identify which bin waste should go in, a waste collection schedule for the 16 week trial period and a household waste brochure delivered to their homes.

Indigo Shire Council Waste Management Coordinator Mark Greene said the trial will promote the 'three bin system' of disposal. "This system is already largely in place, but this trial will be a temporary change, with more emphasis on organics waste disposal than in the past. Participating residents are encouraged to use their green bin for kitchen waste such as meat and food scraps, where in the past, most people use green bins for grass clippings, weeds and leaves. The green bin will be collected weekly during the trial and general waste and recycling will be collected fortnightly. This will go back to normal once the trial is complete," Mr Greene said.

Approximately 50% of all waste in the general rubbish bin is organic, and Cleanaway is looking for alternative ways to manage this waste so that it is diverted from landfill and greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

"When organic waste finds itself in landfill, as well as taking up space, as it breaks down, it produces methane gas. This is because landfill lacks the moisture and oxygen it needs to break down. The trial will use a process that will turn waste into nutrient-rich compost which can enrich soils, help conserve water and reduce evaporation," Mr Greene said.

Residents involved in the trial are encouraged to provide feedback about their experiences, which will inform future Council policy on green/organics waste collection.

Residents are invited to attend a BBQ and information session, to be held this Thursday 14 April at Baarmutha Park from 5:30pm.

For more information or feedback, please contact the Cleanaway office in Wodonga at any stage of the trial on 02 6024 4590 or email Wodonga@cleanaway.com.au.

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