

7th March 2007

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Providing the Energy to Turn Waste into a Resource

Waste is a national issue, and the spotlight on waste management usually focuses upon our capital cities. However waste doesn't just stop there. Every year in Australia each one of us generates an average of 1000kg of industrial, commercial and domestic waste, whether we live in the city or the country.

The only way to manage this huge amount of waste and stop it from ending up as landfill is to change our attitudes towards rubbish. **RENEW NSW** (formerly The Regional Waste Forum) is a voluntary group created to do just this and to focus upon communities in regional NSW.

Supported by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, **RENEW NSW** provides solutions to waste management in rural and regional NSW through a strong framework of volunteer organisations.

RENEW NSW gives a spotlight to communities that are usually overshadowed by larger regional and metropolitan areas, by implementing original, creative and practical initiatives that are conducted at grassroots level.

Working with governments, industry representatives, schools and local residents, **RENEW NSW** represents over 100 local councils that span over 1 million square kilometres in NSW and consists of over 1.2 million residents.

With strategic programs focusing upon public education, resource recovery and landfill rationalisation, **RENEW NSW** actively achieves results and consistently sets benchmarks for industry and governments to work toward for a more ecologically sustainable future.

"RENEW NSW focuses on finding solutions to waste issues that provide improved environmental outcomes and give savings to these areas through cost sharing," said chairman, Stephen Sykes.

RENEW NSW (comprised of 8 regional waste groups), builds awareness of waste creation and reduction issues through campaigns such as 'Waste to Art' competitions, Public Event Waste Management strategies and Joint Contracts with industry leaders.

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The Waste to Art campaigns aim at demonstrating that waste is not just an end commodity headed for landfill, but a reusable resource. Art is only one product that waste can be recreated into. Other campaigns include reusing plastic bags as public space furniture and chemical drums as bins and road signs.

The Public Event Waste Management programs aim to educate council members and the public alike to be aware of the waste that is being created around them. This includes strategic placement of bin infrastructure, public behaviour surveys and on-going monitoring of large scale events.

RENEW NSW also actively looks to industry to assist in finding easy and cost effective ways to eliminate waste. By working with industry bodies to provide scrap metal collections, household chemical collections, green organics processing and kerbside recycling collections, Central West NSW has seen reductions in the price of green organics processing of over 40% a cubic metre and an increase in price paid to the Councils for scrap metal of 30% a tonne. The economic benefits of these activities ensure increased services to remote areas.

Every group that has come together to formulate **RENEW NSW** is dedicated to taking positive steps within their region to improve the region's future.

The 8 groups that make up **RENEW NSW** include:

Midwaste	Represents the Mid North Coast of NSW, covering regions such as Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Gloucester.
North East Waste Forum	Represents the North East region of NSW, including regions such as Byron Bay, Lismore and Ballina.
Northern Inland Regional Waste	Represents the New England and North West of NSW, including regions such as Armidale, Narrabri and Tamworth.
Netwaste	Represents the Central West of NSW, including regions such as Bathurst, Dubbo, Blue Mountains and Broken Hill.
Murray Regional Organisation of Councils	Represents the Murray region of NSW, including regions such as Albury, Deniliquin and Corowa.
REROC Waste Forum	Represents the Eastern Riverina region of NSW, including regions such as Cootamunda, Gundagai and Wagga Wagga.
Riverina Regional Organisation of Councils	Represents the Western Riverina region of NSW, including regions such as Carrathool, Murrumbidgee and Narrandera.
South East Resource Recovery Regional Organisation of Councils	Represents the South East of NSW, including regions such as Bega, Young and Queanbeyan.

RENEW NSW is open to suggestions regarding waste management and resource recovery projects from public, private and government sources from across the state. Comments and suggestions can be made via their website: www.renewnsw.com.au.

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For media enquiries, interview and photo opportunities, please contact Trease at Niche Product Marketing on (02) 9331 6662 or e-mail on trease@nichepm.com.au