

Questions and Answers June 2010



1. What is the Halve Waste campaign?

'Halve Waste - reduce, reuse, recycle' is a 2-year public awareness and education campaign developed to engage the whole community in efforts to reduce waste and increase recycling in the greater Albury region. The objectives of the Halve Waste campaign are to:

- Reduce the regions waste by active recycling;
- Engage and inform the community about waste management; and
- Halve the amount of waste (currently 200,000 tonnes annually) that is going into the Albury Waste Management Centre by 2014.

2. What will the campaign do?

The campaign will include:

- Free waste assessments for businesses - with recommendations for cost effective recycling;
- Business pledge to reduce waste to landfill;
- A schools waste education program;
- A new home composting program with Council subsidised compost bins and training;
- A business waste exchange putting producers of waste in touch with potential users;
- A resident waste exchange with options for recycling and a recycling guide;
- A new waste and recycling information web site;
- And, waste education for the community.

Additionally, Council has recently approved the construction of a commercial and industrial sorting facility at the Albury Waste Management Centre for greater diversion of recyclables, the development of another landfill cell in the northern valley, as well as, a new transfer station and recycling facility for residents. Construction will begin soon and it is expected that all these changes will lead to increased waste processing and subsequently greater recycling diversion.

3. Why do we need to halve our waste?

Here in the Albury region we are facing some serious waste management challenges:

- The region's landfill, Albury Waste Management Centre, is filling too fast: at current levels of disposal it will be full in less than 20 years.
- Albury's landfill receives 200,000 tonnes of waste per year from Albury and the region, that is enough to fill 630 Olympic sized swimming pools.
- Albury Landfill is the 4th largest landfill in NSW and the largest outside of Sydney.
- In Albury, 15% of the weight of the domestic garbage bin is made up of recyclable materials.
- Recycling rates for commercial and industrial and construction and demolition wastes are falling

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well short of state recycling targets.

- Of the 200,000 tonnes of materials landfilled in Albury each year, 30% of this is domestic garbage, which means that 9,000 tonnes of domestic recyclable materials are being landfilled annually when it should be recycled.
- 1770 kg of waste is produced per person per year in Albury. This is compared to the NSW average of 1145 kg per person per year.
- The average household waste to landfill in Albury for 2007/2008 was 529 kg per person. The average in NSW was 333 kg per person. This indicates Albury residents are generating 158% of the NSW average.
- The Albury landfill currently receives 550 tonnes of waste material per day.
- Albury recycles 260 kgs of materials per person per year. This is a good result, but there is still room for improvement.
- 68 % of the landfill is made up organic waste which produces methane, a harmful greenhouse gas.
- Inert waste from builders and contractors that is sent to Albury landfill annually is equal to 67,000 tonnes.
- Commercial and Industrial businesses send 60,000 tonnes of waste to the landfill annually.
- Albury's diversion rate for the 2007/08 period was 29% for domestic waste, 7% for commercial and industrial waste and 14% for construction and demolition waste. This is well below both Victorian and NSW targets.

4. Who is involved?

Halve Waste is an initiative of Albury City Council and Riverina Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC), in partnership with the City of Wodonga and the Shires of Towong, Greater Hume, Corowa and Indigo.

5. Where can we get further information on the campaign?

For further information you can visit www.halvewaste.com.au or you can contact Mike Ritchie, Director, Mike Ritchie and Associates Consultants on 0408 663 942; mikeritchieassoc@bigpond.com

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