

PRESS RELEASE

15th July 2010

Free Business Waste Assessments kicked off

More than 80 Albury businesses pledged to improve recycling in the first two days of the “Halve Waste – Reduce Reuse Recycle” campaign.

Mike Ritchie, the project director from Mike Ritchie and Associates said that the response from the business community “has been overwhelming”.

“Business is already right behind the campaign” Mr Ritchie said. “In only 2 days of visits to businesses, already 80 have signed the Halve Waste Pledge, with many requesting free waste assessments”.

“For those companies we have already identified more than 250 new recycling opportunities including cardboard, fluoro tube, printer cartridges, plastic and glass recycling” Mr Ritchie stated.

By making a pledge, businesses commit to generating less waste, improving recycling and minimising waste to landfill.

AlburyCity has also signed the Pledge to review and reduce its waste to landfill.

AlburyCity Mayor Councillor Glachan said “*Council is doing its bit and is pleased to sign the pledge*”.

“*We are calling for businesses to have a look at all of the small, smart and effective things they can do to improve recycling and reduce waste*” said Cr Glachan.

Mr Ritchie said that the Halve Waste campaign will be keen to promote Halve Waste champions and will promote the names of those companies that sign the pledge.

Launched on 18th June 2010, the two year campaign – “Halve Waste – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” - is supported by Albury, Corowa, Greater Hume, Towong, Indigo and Wodonga and the 10 other councils represented by RAMROC (the Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils).

“*Of the 200,000 tonnes we landfill, as much as 70% can be recycled with existing technologies*” the mayor of AlburyCity Cr Glachan said. “*That is a huge waste of resources which could be the source of lots of green jobs in recycling and resource recovery*”.

Albury landfill receives 200,000 tonnes of waste per year making it the 4th largest landfill in NSW and the largest outside Sydney.

Cr Glachan said “*Our goal is to recycle an additional 100,000 tonnes per year or 50% of the waste still going to landfill including both household and business waste. That is a big target*”

but with a strong partnership between businesses, households and Councils we can make a difference.” she said.

Mike Ritchie, who is also National Vice President of the Waste Management Association of Australia, said “this is one of the most progressive and ambitious waste education and reform programs in Australia. These Councils are to be congratulated on this far reaching initiative”.

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