

The Op-Shop

Saving Waste from Landfill

COUNCIL NAME

Uralla Shire Council

WEB ADDRESS

uralla.nsw.gov.au

SIZE

3229.8 square
kilometres

POPULATION

6,126

Overview

The Uralla Shire Council Op-Shop is saving 60m² of landfill space each year. Opened in 2011 in response to community demand, the shop is located within Council's landfill site. This has been a critical success factor ensuring operational costs are kept to a minimum. Importantly any revenue raised by the business is reinvested into waste and recycling education programs delivered by Uralla Shire Council.



Uralla Shire Council Landfill Op Shop

Background

The Op-Shop was an idea stemming from Uralla Shire Community as part of a Climate Consensus project held in 2009. When Council re-assessed waste services in 2010, the development of an Op-Shop was included as a strategy to improve recycling services.

Prior to setting up the landfill Op-Shop, Council undertook visits to other Op-Shops at landfill facilities and held discussions with other councils regarding the day to day operational and financial arrangements.

The main objectives in creating the Op-Shop were to:

- increase the volume of material diverted from landfill;
- increase reuse/recycling rates amongst residents; and
- raise community awareness of the value of items that are often thrown away.



REFERENCES

uralla.nsw.gov.au

Implementation

The Op-shop is a fixed operation of the Uralla Landfill: as long as there is a landfill, there will be a landfill Op-shop. This has been ensured by using existing staff from the landfill, modifying the existing shed onsite and using reclaimed materials for items such as shelving and counter tops.

Vitality, revenue raised by the Op-Shop is reinvested into community waste education programs. This was established as part of the business model at the beginning of the project. Across the year, revenue is variable eg Spring-Summer generally yields the highest revenue return.

To prevent excessive stock piling of material and allow for easy public access and display of products, the Shop has one entrance/exit point for the public, internal access to the rest of the shed for staff, and is adjacent to the supervisor's office, staff facilities and parking for customers to load/unload their goods.

Landfill staff select suitable items for sale through the Shop from those that come into the recycling facilities: for example, items collected as part of Council's clean up day. Residents can leave unwanted items for donation to the Op-Shop. The Op-Shop is available to all residents including staff to purchase items. If products are not sold, they are put into an available recycling stream.

Outcomes

The Op-Shop is helping to meet State and Local Government objectives of diverting waste to landfill. It saves an estimated 60m² of landfill space each year. It is also helping raise community awareness of product usefulness and extending the life cycle of a product by modelling actions such as re-purposing of products: e.g. old cupboards used as chook houses, and wheelbarrows as planting pots.

The Op-Shop is attracting residents from as far afield as Bingara, Walcha and Armidale. The Op-Shop fits in well for weekend day trippers/tourists attracted by the range of second hand shops, cafés and nurseries. Tradespeople looking for reclaimable fixtures and fittings for restoration/renovation projects also come from the same catchment area.

Key Learnings

- Location, location, location!!! The shop is convenient and easily accessed as it is adjacent to existing recycling services within the Council landfill site.
- Turn stock over quickly. Display in an easy to browse manner and price at a value which facilitates quick turn over. This minimises stockpiling and provides all members of the community with the opportunity to purchase items.
- Capitalise on the growing trend toward reuse and "up-cycling" of product amongst the community.
- Staff ensure that the product to be sold is actually suitable for sale e.g. no helmets, car capsules or hazardous products.
- Strict policies are in place to prevent staff setting their own prices for product. Appropriate internal auditing for handling cash sales (no EFTPOS) are also essential.
- Link with other council recycling initiatives and broader community programs. The Op-Shop is promoted as a source of material for Council's Waste to Art competition.

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