**Waste 2025 Conference Abstract Submission**

**(for face-to-face Conference which includes live broadcast)**

*Insert presentation title here (max 10 words)*

*My presentation is relevant to the following topic area(s).*

***\*\*\* SELECT A MAXIMUM OF 4 TOPIC AREAS ONLY \*\*\****

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Aboriginal community waste management**  (projects, results, planning, what else to be done) |  | **National, state and local issues** (policies, strategies, responses, opportunities, challenges) |
|  | **Circular economy** (case studies, right to repair, material traceability, new materials targeted, climate change impacts) |  | **Organics** (food only vs FOGO, implementation strategies, new services) |
|  | **Collections** (innovations, new systems, vehicles, challenges) |  | **Plastics** (plastics recycling, plastics recovery schemes, small & large scale plastics projects) |
|  | **Container deposit schemes** (new schemes, new containers, innovations) |  | **Problem waste** (solar panels, batteries, textiles) |
|  | **Disaster waste management** (bushfires, floods, pandemic) |  | **Procurement, tenders & contracts** (from start to finish, procurement approaches, tender processes and waste service contracts) |
|  | **Economics** (business cases, data gathering, planning for financial impacts, reviews & analyses) |  | **Product stewardship & extended producer responsibility** (current & planned schemes, new materials to be captured by schemes, local schemes for recovery) |
|  | **Education** (behaviour change, community engagement, social media, planning FOGO education) |  | **Project Planning** (projects currently planned, challenges and barriers, planning controls and conditions, project management) |
|  | **Energy from waste** (projects, case studies) |  | **Regional issues** (regional responses to waste settings, collaboration, joint projects) |
|  | **Hazardous waste** (asbestos, clinical & medical, illegally dumped hazardous waste, systems for managing hazardous materials) |  | **Resource recovery** (recycling, C&I/C&D, organics & other material recovery, emerging markets, insights & updates) |
|  | **Infrastructure & planning** (FOGO capacity, new material recovery planning) |  | **Social enterprise** (new entrants, recent endeavours, case studies) |
|  | **Innovative projects** (sustainability innovations, artificial intelligence, case studies) |  | **Strategic waste planning & policy** (stakeholder engagement, strategy development, waste policy impacts and opportunities) |
|  | **Landfill & facility management** (facility operations management, strategic planning, compliance) |  | **Technology in waste management** (AI, early adopters, innovations, improvements to services due to technology, barriers) |
|  | **Legislation, regulations & levies** (major updates, monitoring & enforcement, response to changes in regulations) |  | **Waste projects** (project management, business cases, grant delivery, case studies) |
|  | **Litter & illegal dumping** (prevention, new management systems & innovative & smart initiatives, surveillance) |  | **Other** |

**Proposed Panel Discussion** -Proposed topic & participants suitable for key issues that may be addressed by a Panel of presenters. For this category suggest your topic & who you will arrange to attend and present (maximum of 5 panel members).

**Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** Andrea Baldwin

**Presenter position:** Team Leader Resource Recovery

**Presenter organisation:** Albury City Council

**Presenter email address:** andrea.baldwin@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

**Presenter phone number:** 02 6023 8111

**Presenter mobile number:** 0428 667 092

**Biography**

Andrea Baldwin has been leading change in waste management for 20 years. A motivated leader keen to improve local and regional waste practices. Recognised for innovative strategic planning, effective operations and communications by the waste industry. Driving Albury City's high level strategic environmental outcomes with a hands on operational focus. Her role encompasses the long term direction for albury's waste strategies and the operational management of the Albury Waste Management Centre; a large regional landfill facility accepting approx. 200,000 tonnes annually, along with leading a regional domestic kerbside collection contract for eight councils. Managing the Halve Waste program, this program now extends to North East Victorian councils, and Murray and Riverina Waste Group councils. This program is a broad based education program, providing waste information to the regional community. Andrea has taken on the delivery of the regional strategy for the Murray and Riverina Waste Groups, and supports 13 councils in the RAMJO area along with holding the current chair role for RENEW.

**Abstract Summary**

Albury City Council during 2024 completed the construction of a material recovery facility for construction and demolition materials. This facility is now operational, servicing a regional population of 180,000 and accepting builders waste along with inert materials for recovery. This facility aims to accept approx.. 20,000 tonnes annually. The project has been supported financially by NSW EPA grant funding and Council funding, valued at $8.6 Million the project aims to divert between 60 – 80%. Current results show in excess of 70% recovery. This presentation will outline the project development, current operational workings, results and learnings.

**Abstract**

Andrea has taken on the delivery of the regional strategy for the Murray and Riverina Waste Groups, and supports 13 councils in the RAMJO area along with holding the current chair role for RENEW.

Abstract Summary

Insert abstract summary here (max 100 words)

Albury City Council during 2024 completed the construction of a material recovery facility for construction and demolition materials. This facility is now operational, servicing a regional population of 180,000 and accepting builders waste along with inert materials for recovery. This facility aims to accept approx.. 20,000 tonnes annually. The project has been supported financially by NSW EPA grant funding and Council funding, valued at $8.6 Million the project aims to divert between 60 – 80%. Current results show in excess of 70% recovery. This presentation will outline the project development, current operational workings, results and learnings.

Abstract

Insert abstract here (400-600 word

The Albury Waste Management Centre (AWMC) is owned and operated by Albury City Council, and is the region’s major waste disposal facility offering a range of recycling, resource recovery and waste management initiative’s. It services a catchment population of 180,000 people from the surrounding local government areas of Albury City, City of Wodonga, Federation Council, Indigo Shire Council, Greater Hume Council and Towong Shire.

In 2010, the goal of reducing the amount of waste going to landfill was initiated, this program now aligns with a target to achieve 80% of material diverted by 2030. The onsite overall diversion rate at the AWMC in 2023 was 53%, this represented 51% diversion from Municipal Solid Waste, 15% construction and demolition and 1% diversion from the commercial and industrial sector.

A temporary Construction and Demolition Material Recovery Facility (C&D MRF) was initiated in 2015 at the AWMC and consisted of a construction and demolition waste sorting area hardstand, where the building materials are sorted using a material handler, loader, and manual labour for the recovery of recyclable materials. This was achieving low recovery rates and provided the data to support a more advanced system. In 2017/18 Council approved the development for a material recovery facility for C &D waste, supported by a funding opportunity available through the NSW EPA Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure grants.

The MRF will support the regions ambition of reducing waste to landfill by increasing the throughput and recovery rate of C&D waste material. In addition the MRF will provide environmental, social, and economic benefits through recovered material, increased employment, reduced waste, assist with meeting State targets and lengthening the life of the landfill facility.

The MRF was delivered through two contracts, design and construction of the MRF machinery plant and construction of the warehouse, office and supporting civil infrastructure.

The facility is designed to receive and process in excess of 20,000 tonnes and increases the recovery rate of C&D waste from 15% to a rate above 60%. The contract for the warehouse centred around the C&D sorting plant and included the construction of an 85m x 35m warehouse building, modular office building, civil works, service connections and ancillary works. The construction duration was 43 weeks and was completed by January 2024. This project was fully managed by Council and continues to be managed by Council for daily operations.

An official opening occurred in February 2024 with operations starting in March 2024. Thirteen staff were engaged to work within the MRF. This consisted of one Leading Hand, two plant operators and ten diversion officers. Casual staff have been engaged to manage any shortfalls.

Stakeholder engagement sessions were carried out during March 2024 with key clients to inform them of the changes in operations, that is from a hardstand area to a disposal area undercover and the requirements around accepted and non accepted material for separation through the plant.

Since start up, commissioning delays, breakdowns, equipment repairs and lack of resources have all been challenges senior staff have had to manage, this alongside changing behaviours of waste transporters to divert their material to this new onsite location. Decreased charges were implemented to encourage use of the new MRF and ongoing work with waste transporters is a regular occurrence. The MRF is now six months in and achieving in excess of 70% recovery rate. This presentation will provide an overview of the development of the building, the ongoing separation of the material, education processes, and provide learnings around transitioning to a large industrial plant that is a Council managed owned and operated facility.