



PACKAGING STEWARDSHIP FORUM



Australian Food and Grocery Council Litter Prevention & Waste Minimisation Award

Name of your town:

Dorrigo- a town for all seasons

Name of your Project:

Dorrigo waste management Project- Red, yellow Green lets keep Dorrigo Clean.

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This award recognises initiatives that aim to reduce waste streams or the amount of litter present leading to and within regional centres which encourages education programs to prevent littering and reduce waste streams.

Note: It is essential you answer all judging criteria below to give Keep Australia Beautiful NSW a good understanding of your project.

Project Summary

Dorrigo has long been recognised for its natural pristine World Heritage listed rainforest environment. With our high rainfall we are often called an emerald in a sea of brown. Our town is proud of its spectacular scenery and take pride in keeping the streets clean. The High School developed a program using red, yellow green bins and now the town has linked with Coffs Harbour and Nambucca Heads Shires to promote active recycling with the 3 bins. Red bins are for rubbish, yellow for recycling and green for green waste. In the first 3 months of recycling, Dorrigo had the highest figure of 25% for recycling across the 3 shires. Other initiatives involve a pilot to reduce waste in our National Parks by removing bins and getting day-trippers to take their waste back home for disposal. The trial has proved a huge success with the park being left clean and no waste for pesky goannas to spread around. Another project is the promotion of non-plastic bags by the Chamber of Commerce. Most businesses now either uses paper, calico or recyclable plastic bags in an attempt to reduce the amount of bags going into Landfill. The last major project for this year was the upgrading of the Dorrigo Waste management facility and the construction of a new shop to reduce, reduce and recycle treasures that were disposed of by people. The shop has been a huge success and many a bargain is to be found.

How does your project address the issues of Litter Prevention and/or waste minimisation?

The projects have had a major impact on the production of waste on the plateau. Green bins are emptied once a week and yellow and red on alternative weeks. The project has rationalised the waste stream and waste now travels to Coffs Harbour for processing. Local waste is managed at the new waste depot and large skips are provided for recycling and disposal of drums, oils etc. Metal is recycled at the centre and worthwhile treasures go into the shop to be reused and resold. The projects link in with the waste management of schools with all schools in Dorrigo actively recycling paper and bottles. Schools also have worm farms and composting to process green waste. The promotion of the use of non-plastic bags by the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses reduces the number of plastic bags going into landfill and provides a clean image for the town. EG. Lolly shop bags

What is the level of community education?

The Level of community education is high with a very good record of recycling. The clean streets and well maintained bins reflect a Council and community dedicated to promoting a clean green image for the town. Education is promoted in the schools with the High School having won many environmental awards for excellence in environmental achievements. This message is then taken home and is reflected in the high standard of waste management from the community.

What level of promotion exists for the project?

The projects have been very well advertised from Handybin promotions on TV and in the print media. The local paper has been a strong supporter of all the community's projects with regular articles about Tidy towns and school achievement.

How does the project show innovation in litter prevention and/or waste minimisation?

The project shows a holistic approach to waste management by adopting a structured and well-supported program for recycling waste. The project has a simple and catchy phase to make it easy for the community to do the right thing. The infrastructure is present to allow for easy disposal of waste and the accompanying education campaign allowed for ease of use. Other projects such as no bins in the National Park were a bold initiative. Some people said that people would leave their rubbish there. This has not been the case. The park is clean and it saves funds that would normally be spent to collect waste. The use of non-plastic bags is gathering momentum around the state and Dorrigo is proud to be part of that project.

Describe the partnerships have been formed with:

- **Businesses**
- **Councils and**
- **Volunteers**

Businesses: The Chamber of Commerce has openly supported and endorsed the red, yellow, green project and has linked in with Council and Handybin to make it happen.

Councils: The Council workshop in Dorrigo has been an integral partner in keeping our town clean. They actively empty the bins around town and manage the waste stream in the cemetery.

Volunteers: the community as a whole are actively engaged in picking up rubbish and keeping our streets clean. There is strong evidence of town pride as you walk around the town and drive around the streets. Many people carry bags to pick up litter that was thrown out of visiting cars. Clean up day is very well patronised each year with many lending a helping hand from the very young to more mature.

Dorrigo's central business district is clean, well maintained and reflects Dorrigo's vibrancy and appreciation of the environment. There are street murals and the town war memorial is a striking epitaph to Dorrigo's involvement in wartime activities.

Is there a management plan for the project?

Yes there is a management Plan for the project. The activities link in with the Bellingen Shire Council waste management Plan and locally with Chamber of Commerce overall plan for the Town. These plans dovetail in with local business, schools and community groups.

What planning was undertaken?

Extensive consultation was taken by Council with media release, public meeting and discussion with major stakeholders during community committee meetings. Many times Shire Council reps have attended Tidy Towns meetings to have input and receive ideas from committee members.

What level of volunteer support is there for the project?

Dorrigo has around 123 different community groups from a population of 1000. Many people have input on a range of activities and their say on many more. All the people on the Tidy towns committee are volunteers and we advise Council on issues that affect the community.

What evidence shows that the project has been successful?

The proof of the project is in the town. Dorrigo community is proud of the appearance of the town and statistical evidence shows that Dorrigo has adopted recycling the most of any of the towns in the area. There has been a lot of effort put into beautifying the streetscape of Dorrigo. Our community works hard to enhance our environment and keep the region in such a fantastic state.

Please forward your electronic submission(s) on a CD to:

2007 Tidy Towns Sustainable Cities Submissions
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW
1/83 Marion Street
Harris Park
NSW 2150

Alternatively, please email your submissions to:

info@kabnsw.org.au

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS: FRIDAY 3 AUGUST 2007

Supporting materials, publications and/or photos may be inserted or attached here:

