

MEDIA RELEASE

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How landfill charges are stimulating business innovation

In June this year, Queensland introduced their Waste Reduction and Recycling Strategy which included a suite of new initiatives designed to encouraging businesses to invest in recycling strategies and reducing the generation of waste. From 1st December 2012 this strategy will be supported by an Industrial Waste levy. Funds raised from this levy will be allocated to environmental initiatives such as acquiring land for national parks and creating better waste management facilities, and to initiatives that will help businesses to recycle more and reduce their total waste generation.

The launch of Queensland's Waste Reduction and Recycling Strategy brings them in line with similar programs that have been in effect with the other states for a number of years.

The core intention for these programs is simple – to provide education, strategies and support to encourage businesses to change their processes to dump less and recycle more.

So how do we turn this increased cost into an increase in profit? Here are some guiding principals for you to consider:

1. Avoid waste generation – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The less landfill waste your organisation produces the lower your waste costs will be. There are also significant cost savings to be made when your business uses less resources.
2. Install well labelled recycling bins that allow you to effectively separate waste for re-use and recycling. Your staff will correctly separate their waste if you make it easy for them to do so.
3. Nurture a “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” workplace culture so it becomes natural for your staff to recycle and reduce the general waste they generate.
4. Update procurement policies to promote products with recycled content and/or low waste products.

If you are looking for low-cost, simple to implement changes in your “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” systems, companies such as RUD have a full range of both indoor and outdoor recycle bin solutions that allow you to reduce your costs by separating your high-cost waste from your low cost and free recyclables are available.

If your company is positioned to invest more heavily in process change, consider the OMO profit margin success story. Their new “Small and Mighty” design uses 50% less packaging but still delivers the same number of washes. And because the bottles are smaller, production, packaging and distribution costs are reduced – the latter by a massive 62%.*

Whether your organisation is small or large, there are enormous economic savings to be made in the “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” pursuit. The less you use, the less you need to buy and the less you need to pay to dump. And if “Reduce” isn't something you can manage easily, remember that cardboard recycling is free and paper recycling is less than half the cost of landfill disposal - if all you do is separate your rubbish into two even piles of landfill waste and paper, you're breaking even... add a third even pile of cardboard and you've reduced your costs by 25% in the face of a 50% increased levy.

The facts are clear. Implement your new recycling systems now – our financial and environmental futures depend on it.

For further information on how to implement a recycling scheme, please contact Mark Williams, RUD Product Specialist on (07) 3712 8000 or via email at mark.williams@rud.com.au