

RESOURCE RECOVERY UPDATE

June 2009



In partnership with its six member Councils the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council has been working for the past eight years to develop a suitable resource recovery solution that will serve Perth's Eastern Region. This is known as the Resource Recovery project.

What's the aim of the Resource Recovery project?

The project will provide a more sustainable and environmentally friendly solution to managing our waste. Most importantly, a solution where we can turn waste into valuable products such as compost or energy.

Depending on the waste treatment used, resource recovery can divert between 75—90% of waste from landfill.

The EMRC's key objective is to have a fully operational resource recovery solution in place by 2014 or sooner, which would involve a resource recovery facility and/or resource recovery park.

The resource recovery facility will treat waste and turn it into compost and/or energy. A resource recovery park will facilitate the reuse and recycling of unwanted household and commercial goods back to the community and industry.



What has been done so far?

The EMRC has not rushed into the Resource Recovery project. It is pursuing a carefully planned process to ensure it takes the necessary steps to make the best decision.

Over the past eight years the EMRC has undertaken extensive strategic planning and research on the various technology options, household waste collection systems and on the different site options for the facility. The EMRC has also engaged with the community via community surveys, forums and workshops.

What's happening now?

Following the past eight years of research and development, the member Councils are approaching the time when important decisions have to be made, which include:

- What sort of facility is best for our region?
- Where is the best place in our region to site this facility?
- What is the best waste collection system that complements the waste treatment technology?
- What is the best ownership model for the EMRC and its member Councils?

Expressions of Interest

The EMRC recently advertised for Expressions of Interest on technology and location options for the Resource Recovery Facility. This will provide valuable information to the EMRC Council to consider when finalising its preferences for the technology, location and ownership model.

The technology options that may be submitted as part of the Expressions of Interest include; anaerobic digestion, gasification, pyrolysis, combustion and plasma. Facilities utilising these technologies currently operate safely and to strict environmental standards around the world.

While the EMRC-owned sites at Red Hill and Hazelmere are options being considered, the final location will be decided after consideration of resource recovery technologies suitable for the region, community input, financial analysis and the environmental and planning approval process.

Final decisions are still several years ahead with the facility planned to be operational by 2014.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is a strong part of the Resource Recovery project. The EMRC is currently undertaking research involving surveys and focus groups to ascertain the views of the community in Perth's Eastern Region on the possible technology and location options.

More information

To learn more about the Resource Recovery project, visit www.emrc.org.au or call 9424 2222.

