

Leading the way for waste management on campus

Education

Western Sydney University has eight campuses across the Greater Western Sydney region, providing education and research services to a community of more than 44,000 students and 3,000 staff in New South Wales fastest growing area.



Western Sydney University's Campbelltown campus

A view towards the future

With operations of this scale, the University is a significant producer of waste and is constantly reviewing its waste collection services with a view to decreasing waste to landfill and increasing recycling rates.

In 2009, Western Sydney University began to introduce indoor and outdoor recycling bins across its campus. These bins were installed across the ten campuses, particularly in areas adjacent to food outlets and break-out areas.

While the implementation of the recycling bins was well supported by education campaigns, the University continued to face the ongoing challenge of cross contamination of its waste that was being sent for recycling.

A partnership through education

With a diversion from landfill rate of only 14% in 2009, Western Sydney University approached SUEZ to identify ways to combat the continual contamination issues of co-mingled recycling which hindered diversion and increased avoidable costs across all of its campuses.

72% REDUCTION
IN WASTE MANAGEMENT
EXPENDITURE FROM 2009-15

With a long term partnership of more than 20 years, Western Sydney University and SUEZ looked towards a proactive approach that met the University's growing needs and delivered an environmentally responsible way of processing its waste.

SUEZ worked with Western Sydney University to identify single waste streams that could be managed effectively. SUEZ currently provides services for individual waste streams such as paper and cardboard, green waste, fluorescent lighting, sharps and confidential documents

and ensuring recycling and recovery is maximised. SUEZ also attends University open days to educate students on recycling and waste management initiatives. Also providing assistance at events such as iPad days, where students are provided with recycling bins for packaging when issued with new iPads.

Investing in technology

When seeking to address the large amount of contamination within the University's co-mingled recycling, a more sophisticated approach was required. Leveraging its investment in Advanced Resource Recovery Technology (ARRT), SUEZ introduced advanced processing for the University's general waste and contaminated co-mingled waste. The waste is compacted and sent to SUEZ's ARRT facilities where the process aims to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill by reusing, recycling, and reprocessing as much material as possible.

SUEZ's ARRT facilities can divert up to 75% of waste from landfill by turning general waste into compost. The compost created can be used in rehabilitation projects to replenish severely degraded soils. This approach has helped the University recover valuable resources from its general and co-mingled waste that would otherwise be going to landfill.

Setting the benchmark

Western Sydney University and SUEZ continue to work in partnership to find cost effective ways to manage the University's waste whilst increasing environmental performance. Through the partnership, expenditure on waste management services fell by 72% from 2009 to 2015 with total savings of more than \$1 million per year. The University has also achieved an 83% recycling rate in 2015, reduced landfill by 69% and total waste by 57%. This performance is more than twice that reflected in the recently established sector benchmarks by the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association.

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