



RECYCLING COLLABORATION in the City of Yarra

A case study for the business and precinct shopping recycling projects - City of Yarra

Background

This recycling project targeted businesses in six shopping strips in the City of Yarra. Successive audits have shown that businesses in these shopping strips typically have not recycled well. There has been significant contamination in recycling bins and issues with recyclable items being placed in landfill bins.

Parts of Yarra were historically serviced by the City of Melbourne, so there has been a mix of bins and signage in some areas. There are also progressive changes occurring, with new businesses replacing old ones. In Yarra's older shopping areas, the shopfronts tend to be narrow with little space available for bins, service and storage.

As a result of these findings, Yarra saw a need to implement a recycling education campaign for local businesses in North Carlton. The campaign aimed to change awareness and behaviour around recycling and landfill bins while also exploring opportunities to improve space for bin storage.

Response

Council worked with businesses including the neighbouring Gerald's Bar and St Clements Greengrocer, and nearby Skinner and Hackett butchers in Rathdowne Street. The greengrocer, the bar, and the butcher had started sharing services where their collections overlapped, which meant a more effective use of space in a suburb where each centimetre is tightly held.

Council helped them with information on recycling right and on free used oil collections, and with internal corrugated recycling bins and bin signage, all of which meant more recycling and less landfill.

By sharing services, St Clements was able to access recycling services for glass, plastic and cooking oil at Gerald's Bar. In return, Gerald's Bar used St Clements organics, cardboard and polystyrene collection services. Skinner and Hackett butchers also recycle what little cooking oil they use through Gerald's Bar.

Benefits

These three businesses have greatly improved their approach to recycling with an additional 6.9 tonnes of materials recycled during the project period. At the same time, they have saved space by sharing their recycling and waste services, resulting in more space for tables, service, storage and greater potential for more income.

For more information about this project contact Recycling and Waste Services at the City of Yarra on (03) 9205 5555.

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