



What's New

NEWSROOM

CRATE RECYCLING NEWS FOR SYDNEY RESIDENTS

26/07/04 Stuart Silver

Every year the people of New South Wales help themselves to more than 700,000 plastic milk crates - but now Dairy Farmers and Waste Services NSW are asking Sydneysiders to lend a hand and do their bit by bringing any crates they have at home or at work to their local Waste Management Centre for recycling.

"We've made it easy for people to return the crates, all we're asking now is for everyone to do the right thing" said Calvin Boyle, Dairy Farmers Chief Executive Officer.

From July onwards, residents can take any milk crates they have to their closest Waste Management Centre where the crates will be collected and either recycled or returned to the milk delivery system.

Mr Boyle said the 'disappearance' of so many crates - at least 2,000 a day - requires an additional 730 tonnes of plastic a year with an annual replacement cost of over \$3 million. "That's a considerable drain on the environment and a heavy financial burden for our co-operative owners, the dairy farmer and their families to bear," he said.

While Dairy Farmers has an ongoing program to retrieve those crates taken by individuals and businesses, without greater cooperation from the general public, these efforts can really only amount to 'a drop in the ocean'.

"When we launched the milk crate recovery program last year, we received an enormous amount of support from the public. With the start of this recycling program, we hope to remind people about the problem and provide them with an easy way to get involved at a local level," said Mr. Boyle.

Mr. Boyle said Dairy Farmers had gone to considerable lengths to design environmentally friendly milk crates that were both durable and reusable. "We are committed to ensuring our milk crates are a renewable resource but we need the support of the public to ensure they remain viable over the long term," he said.

Waste Services NSW's CEO, Ken Kanofski said, "We're pleased to partner with Dairy Farmers in what we believe is a very worthwhile campaign. This is a positive example of corporate responsibility and we encourage the local community to get behind the program."

For those people unable to get to their local Waste Management Centre, Dairy Farmers has established a special telephone hotline number - 1800 883 534 and an email address milkcrates@dairyfarmers.com.au - to allow people to hand back any crates they have, or report where they have seen crates. Dairy Farmers will then arrange for these crates to be picked up.

The recovery program covers all milk crates, not just those belonging to Dairy Farmers.

"We're simply asking people to take a good look through their garages, sheds and homes and to give our farmers, and the environment a break and bring back a crate," said Mr. Boyle.

© Copyright Dairy Farmers 2002-2004