



Dapto Leagues Club, 2013

## Case Study Dapto Leagues Club

# Bin Trim – Waste solutions for a sustainable business

Dapto Leagues Club is a not-for-profit organisation focused on giving its members the entertainment, sporting and dining opportunities they want, while reducing operating costs. The Bin Trim program has helped the Club find simple ways to make big savings through recycling.

### What's in the bin?

The Club's 3-cubic-metre skip bin for mixed waste was being collected six times a week and sent to landfill. Although the Club's 150 staff made use of another skip for periodic cardboard and polystyrene recycling, a quick Bin Trim assessment revealed that large quantities of cardboard, glass, food waste and aluminium were still being thrown in with general waste. These materials could

all be separated for recycling or reprocessing. In fact, the Leagues Club could be recycling 28 per cent more of its waste:

Priority materials for recycling or reuse:

- Glass
- Food
- Cardboard
- Aluminium

### Actions to reduce waste and recycle more

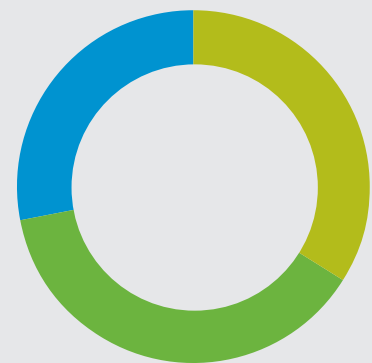
Installing a cardboard compactor has reduced general waste volumes considerably. 'The savings have been amazing,' says Operations Manager Matt Gooden. 'It's been fantastic; I don't know why we didn't do it before.'

The Club worked with key staff through team meetings, and put up signs and instructions on how to use the new cardboard baling system. Trip hazards created by staff stockpiling cardboard boxes in work areas before throwing them away are no longer an issue – staff are now in the habit of using the compactor and, with it located



### Potential recycling

Bin Trim identified that Dapto Leagues Club had the potential to recycle 28 per cent more.



- 34% General waste
- 38% Currently recycled
- 28% Potential recycling

### Bin Trim savings

Dapto Leagues Club managed to recycle an additional:

- 4.5 tonnes of cardboard per year
- 4 tonnes of food waste per year
- 1.7 tonnes of commingled recycling per week
- Saved \$4680 in general waste costs



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in front of the general waste bin, the temptation to discard cardboard boxes instead of recycling them has been reduced. 'They've been right on board,' Gooden says.

Pre-consumer food waste such as offcuts, gravies and leftover vegetables are now being separated for collection. Actions implemented included:

- Purchased and installed a cardboard baler
- Worked with key staff to increase recycling through team meetings
- Installed recycling bin signage and instructions for the cardboard baler
- Undertook a four-week trial of the recycling and waste system changes
- Reduced weekly collection of general waste bin
- Installed three 240-litre recycling bins
- Sustainability team appointed to further engage staff.

## Results and savings

Although there was an initial investment to buy the cardboard compactor, the Club found that the equipment and new recycling service would pay for itself in 3.6 years and save \$1924 per year on an ongoing basis. This means the general waste bin is no longer as full and weekly collections have been reduced from six to five. This has saved \$4680 a year and reduced waste to landfill by 17 per cent. Recycling glass and diverting food waste has also eliminated excess weight charges, saving an additional \$52 a day and helping to offset the cost of the commingled recycling collection service. 'I found the program to be a great stepping-stone to where we need to be and has helped initiate the process of becoming more sustainable,' Gooden says.



## For further information

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# What is your business really throwing away?

Download Bin Trim and see how you can save [epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim](http://epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim)

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