



Community Recycling Centres

CASE STUDY: Liverpool Community Recycling Centre

Liverpool Community Recycling Centre (CRC) opened in July 2014. This new purpose-built facility is located at the existing Council Depot in Rose Street, Liverpool. Liverpool City Council was granted \$250,000 to build the centre as a demonstration model for the CRC program.

Getting started – collaboration is key

From conceptualisation through to completion, building the Liverpool CRC was a process of collaboration. There was internal recognition that the project would fill a gap in terms of providing a new household problem waste service to the community and everyone in Council was on board from the word go.

One of the most valuable steps was to think about all of the internal stakeholders.

From conceptualisation through to completion, building the Liverpool CRC was a process of collaboration.

“For Liverpool City Council this involved town planners, engineers, asset managers, environmental health officers and trade co-ordinators from the depot.”

“Having everyone on board was really important – we were able to discuss what would and wouldn’t work and bring together everyone’s collective expertise.”

There were some initial minor concerns about how the facility would be received by residents living adjacent to the site. This was addressed through door knocking with residents to take them through the proposal before securing early start funding.

Design approval was granted by the NSW EPA paving the way to start the process.

Planning phase – space is a luxury

Liverpool City Council knew it wanted the CRC to be at the existing council depot.

The Council had a large space to work with which was an advantage. The land was large enough to be able to position the new centre well away from the functioning depot.

The Council wanted to avoid residents driving inside the depot. It was possible to have two separate entry points – one for trucks accessing the depot and the other as a dedicated entry just for CRC traffic.

The Council planned for a ‘drive through’ facility, allowing for three or four cars to park undercover and unload their problem waste at any one time. The facility was also designed to be locked overnight.

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Design and construction – the learning curve

A development application (DA) was required for this project because it was a new build. Internally the project team was supported by Council’s Town Planners, who took the team through what was required for a DA submission. As part of this process, the DA required specialised plans which were to be prepared by a consultant.

Key learnings expressed by Liverpool City Council during this phase were to be as detailed as possible in the request for tender documents.

The Council was also required at this point to notify residents of the DA application via letter and include the plans for comment. No comments or objections were received, the DA was approved and the build was able to commence.

During the design and construction it was important to remember to allocate a construction management budget and to involve the other internal departments required for the project as early as possible.

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Operation and logistics – smooth sailing

The Council's DA operating conditions for the facility are standard. The CRC operates six days a week from 8.00am to 3.00pm Monday to Saturday.

The facility, which opened in July 2014, has since averaged approximately 15–20 cars per weekday and 30–40 cars on Saturday. Whilst there were some initial concerns that there may be dumping outside the gates when the facility was closed, this has not been a problem.

The CRC is manned by one full-time staff member from Monday to Thursday, who is supported by a trained team of existing full-time Council employees for the other days of the week.

The facility has been promoted via local newspaper ads, the Council's website and a promotional mail out to residents. The Council also keeps postcode records of cars during drop offs. The majority of people hear about the facility through ads in the local paper, from the flyer or by word of mouth.

Since opening, the CRC has run very smoothly. There was some initial uncertainty about how frequently pickups for the core group of wastes would be needed, but a regular schedule has now been established. The other materials Council has chosen to collect require a few collections each week, which can be performed without interruption to the flow of residents through the centre. The highest volume of materials received are paints and electronic waste.

Other operational improvements have included adaptations to the e-waste skip bins which are approximately two cubic metres in size. The height of the bins made it difficult for staff members to lift heavy items such as televisions. To solve this problem new skip bins which have a fold down side that turns into a ramp were acquired. Staff members can now place television sets onto trolleys and push them into the bin.

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Key learnings

- **Communicate.**
Be as clear as possible about what you want and consult with all key stakeholders from the beginning.
- **Consider the overall design of the facility.**
This was a key consideration for Liverpool City Council and returned good results. Involve all the internal council departments required to provide input into the project as early as you can so they can allocate budget and resources.
- **Plan big and think big.**
Down the track you may want to increase the type and volume of items you receive. Storage is also needed for full containers, as turnaround can take up to three days for things like e-waste.

CRC features

- Purpose-built, large drive-through 300 m² shed, equipped with amenities, internal bunding, rainwater tank, solar panels and adequate natural ventilation.
- Five roller doors that open onto a sealed driveway to provide access for removal of full storage receptacles.
- Separate entrances to the main depot and to the Community Recycling Centre.
- Automatic entry gates installed at the main depot entrance to ensure only council traffic enters this part of the site.
- Alterations to security fencing, installation of security lighting and CCTV.
- Landscaping to improve the existing site aesthetics.

Contact Liverpool CRC

Liverpool Recycling Drop-Off Centre
99 Rose Street, Liverpool
Phone: 1300 36 2170

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NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
59–61 Goulburn Street, Sydney
PO Box A290
Sydney South NSW 1232

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