

Container recycling

Canossa had no recycling facilities for newspapers, milk bottles and steel cans. The organisation installed five wheelie bins dedicated to recyclable materials, resulting in monthly savings of \$700 on general waste disposal costs.

Paper recycling

Canossa generates significant amounts of paper waste in its offices. They have now placed bins for paper recycling near photocopiers and fax machines. The paper is collected free of charge, allowing Canossa to save money by reducing the number of collections of general waste bins.



Clinical waste

The WasteWise audit revealed that some hospital staff were placing items in the clinical waste bins, which could be disposed of in general waste. A staff retraining exercise enabled Canossa to reduce their clinical waste bill by \$180 each month.

Organic waste

Canossa's grounds are located a short distance from the newly opened Ti Tree Bioenergy Facility – a facility that captures the natural gas and methane that organic waste generates and converts it into electricity. The Waste

Committee organised for Canossa's kitchen and garden waste to be taken to the facility so its energy could be reclaimed.

Hospital's patience rewarded

Not only did the Waste Committee save the hospital about \$1200 in waste-related expenses in its first month, it also redirected several tonnes of valuable resources that would have otherwise ended up in landfill.

At this stage, the waste minimisation project at Canossa is in its infancy. The Canossa Waste Committee has estimated that in the coming months, they will be able to reduce the cost of waste disposal even further, to a point where it is less than half of what they were paying prior to the WasteWise Queensland audit.

With Canossa's annual savings likely to be in excess of \$20,000, the hospital now has plenty of extra funds to provide upgraded facilities, a cleaner environment and more social activities for its patients and staff. Canossa plans to continue their eco-efficiency successes with a review of water and energy use.



The perfect cure

The WasteWise Queensland program helps businesses cut waste disposal costs by reducing or even eliminating waste. It is a flexible program that allows partners to design their own programs tailored to their specific needs. Participating businesses reap the rewards of lower costs, higher profits, greater efficiency and improved environmental performance. By joining the WasteWise Queensland program, the Canossa aged care facility changed some of their constant costs into significant savings. Peter Cooke and his Waste Committee have demonstrated that becoming WasteWise is the perfect cure for an ailing waste disposal system.



For more information

- > visit www.epa.qld.gov.au/sustainable_industries
- > email sustainable.industries@epa.qld.gov.au
- > call (07) 3225 1999