

MEDIA RELEASE

May 1 2008

Spreading the good word about Compost

As part of International Compost Awareness Week SITA Environmental Solutions (SITA) is giving residents in four Melbourne metro council areas the opportunity to take home free samples of locally produced compost.

Residents in the Council areas of Darebin, Banyule, Brimbank and Hobsons Bay can collect a free 10-litre bag of compost from nominated council sites during International Compost Awareness Week.

With more than 5.2 million tonnes of organic waste recycled across the country annually¹, Australian's are pretty good at recycling their food and organic waste. However, our average weekly mixed garbage bin contains approximately 60%² organic waste that would be much better off being turned into compost or mulch and put back into the garden instead of being disposed of to landfill.

City of Darebin's, Manager Environmental Engineering, Maurie Schultz, supports International Compost Awareness Week, and said "There are many good reasons to use recycled organic garden waste on your garden. Apart from all the great benefits to your soil structure and the water savings to be had, it's about closing the recycling loop."

"The whole point of collecting household green organic waste, that can't easily be compostable in the home garden, is to take it to companies who specialise in large scale composting and treatment of this material. They can then turn it into something that is a great product and has environmental and community value" said Mr Schultz.

SITA's Organic Resource Recovery Facility in Brooklyn processes municipal garden organics (green waste), and annually produces 40,000 cubic metres of compost, mulch and soil blend products which helps to rejuvenate and regenerate local parks, sporting fields, open spaces and home gardens in over 50% of metro Melbourne Councils.

SITA is proud to support International Compost Awareness Week (May 4 – 10, 2008) which aims to help educate the community about the importance of compost as a valuable organic resource and its beneficial effects on the environment.

SITA's free compost bags can be collected from May 4 at the following Council sites:

- 📍 **Darebin City Council**, Darebin Resource Recovery Centre, Kurnai Avenue, Reservoir (30 x 10-litre compost bags available, one bag per resident)
- 📍 **Banyule City Council**, Banyule Waste Recovery Centre, Waterdale Road, Heidelberg (30 x 10-litre compost bags available, one bag per resident)
- 📍 **Brimbank City Council**, Sunshine Harvester Customer Service Centre (part of Sunshine Library Complex) 301 Hampshire Road, Sunshine (15 x 10-litre compost bags available, one bag per resident) OR Keilor Customer Service Centre: Municipal Office, Old Calder Hwy (Cnr Borrell St), Keilor (15 x 10-litre compost bags available, one bag per resident)
- 📍 **Hobson Bay City Council** is also running a Worm Farm Competition. The first 30 competition entrants will also take home a free 10-litre bag of compost.

SITA Environmental Solutions, a SUEZ Environment subsidiary, provides weekly services to over 43,000 commercial and industrial clients and more than 800,000 households across Australia. SITA's services include domestic, commercial & industrial waste collection; waste assessments; resource recovery and recycling options; processing of organic materials into compost; renewable energy facilities; hygiene services; waste treatment; and product destruction.

SITA's compost, mulch and soil blend products are available at a number of Garden Centres around the north and west of Melbourne – please check the Metropolitan Waste Management Group's website for a complete listing at www.mwmg.vic.gov.au

SUEZ Environment, a branch of the SUEZ Group, supplies services, plant and equipment essential to life and to environmental protection: drinking water production and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, waste processing and recycling. Backed by its experience in the water and waste sectors, SUEZ Environment has a wide-ranging portfolio of know-how, providing sustainable solutions for local authorities and businesses.

More information on SITA's services can be obtained by calling 13 13 35 or visit www.sita.com.au

¹ COMPOST WEEK WEBSITE [HTTP://WWW.COMPOSTWEEK.COM.AU](http://WWW.COMPOSTWEEK.COM.AU)

² AS ABOVE

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