



**WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA**

NATIONAL OFFICE:

Suite 4D, Level 4
5 Belmore Street
BURWOOD NSW 2134

T 02 8746 5000

F 02 9701 0199

E enquiries@wmaa.asn.au

W www.wmaa.asn.au

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NATIONAL CARBON COMMITTEE BACKS CLIMATE CHANGE HEAD'S CALL FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY FACTOR WITH EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

A body specifically formed to focus on the waste management industry's carbon emissions has backed a call of the Secretary of the Department of Climate Change to consider factors like energy efficiency alongside the emissions trading scheme.

The National Carbon Committee of the Waste Management Association of Australia has praised a recommendation by Dr Martin Parkinson for energy efficiency to be a "complementary measure" alongside an emissions trading scheme.

Speaking at the Climate Action Network Australia conference in Sydney last week, Dr Parkinson said that energy efficiency measures and support for research and development were two "obvious" areas where emissions trading alone will not achieve what is required.

"The waste industry is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on new technology to enable recycling. Making products from recycled materials can use less energy and therefore drive energy efficiency", said Mike Ritchie, Chairman of the Carbon Committee.

Waste industry management participants are responsible for annual turnover of \$11.5 billion.

"We are concerned that the emissions abated through resource recovery and recycling –by avoiding the production of goods from raw materials – be taken into consideration and, for example, figured into the Australian Emissions Trading Scheme (AETS) offset market. At the moment it would appear that the Scheme will only deal with emissions from landfill", Mr Ritchie said.

Media Contacts:

**Mike Ritchie, Chairman, National Carbon Committee of the Waste Management Association of Australia and General Manager, SITA Environmental Solutions
0401 980 391**

Michael Meagher CPR Communications 0410 482367