



Media Release

Darwin City Council

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Darwin Recycling Bin Surveys

As of Monday 9 February 2009, recycling bin contamination surveys will be taking place throughout Darwin. This is to identify the source and types of contamination in the recycling stream in order to better educate the community about recycling.

The surveys will be conducted by Darwin City Council contractors, Transpacific Cleanaway over a six week period. All recycling bins randomly surveyed will have their contents checked for contamination. This information will be provided to the resident in order to improve their understanding of what items can and can not be recycled.

What is recycling bin contamination?

Not all products are recyclable. When recyclable material contains other non-recyclable items it is considered contaminated. At the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) recyclables are hand sorted and some contaminants can be removed during this process. Many forms of contamination cannot be readily separated from the recycling stream. In this event it may be necessary to reject a whole load.

According to Darwin Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer it is important for all residents to get behind recycling: He said "Contaminates in the recycling stream are a major obstacle to our efforts and I encourage all residents to be vigilant when placing items in their recycle bin".

Darwin City Council is committed to working towards the elimination of contamination from our recycling stream to improve the quality of materials that can be recovered. This will assist in conserving our limited natural resources into the future

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