



Latest *from* the Landfill



Household waste powers homes

More than three hundred Tasmanian homes have now received enough energy generated by the re-use of household waste to power them for a year, through a new methane combusting renewable energy initiative at Southern Waste Solutions' Copping Landfill.

Operated by LMS Energy, the Copping Renewable Energy Facility has already exported almost 2,000 megawatt hours of electricity since being switched on in February 2019.

The facility's output to-date is equivalent to the energy required to power every house in the surrounding suburb of Copping for approximately two years.

The move to renewable energy generation sees SWS contribute to Tasmania's growing clean and green energy reputation.

Southern Waste Solutions CEO Christine Bell said it was exciting to see the gas-flaring project evolve to the next level and begin creating renewable energy.

"The gas flare was initially installed in order to minimise greenhouse gas emissions entering the atmosphere," Ms Bell said.

"It's amazing to now think that landfill gas generated from domestic waste, which in the most part is created inside our homes, is being converted into an energy source which can be used to power our homes."

Weeds copping grief at landfill

If you find keeping environmental weeds out of the backyard a struggle, spare a thought for Axel Meiss from EcoWorks, an independent environmental consultancy working in ecological rehabilitation tasked with environmental and land management at Southern Waste Solutions' (SWS) 704 ha Copping landfill site.

With such a large site footprint, environmental weed populations at the Copping landfill site have the potential to flourish and spread into neighbouring properties. To mitigate this risk SWS has implemented an ongoing weed management program since 2010.

"Overall, the Copping site is ecologically very healthy, with many parts being weed-free – a characteristic which is quite rare among landfill sites I've worked on," said Mr Meiss.

"Waste received at a landfill may contain material such as green matter and soil that has the potential to result in new weed populations establishing themselves at tip sites.

"Weeds also love disturbance, with extreme weather events and regular groundworks taking place at landfill sites presenting a number of challenges to land management.

"A particular focus of the program at Copping has been management of the troublesome serrated tussock, a weed inherited by the site when it changed usage from a farm to a landfill, and a weed that is a problem in drier parts of Tasmania.

"Through a proactive approach to land management, combining weed management with broader environmental management practices, we have managed to contain the spread of serrated tussock, as well as many other weed populations."

SWS CEO Christine Bell said the weed management program was just one of SWS's best practice environmental initiatives designed to minimise the impact of the landfill.

"I would like to thank EcoWorks for the great work they do in maintaining the ecological health of the Copping landfill site, we are very proud of the condition of the site," Ms Bell said.

"SWS is committed to taking a proactive approach to environmental management and to being a good neighbour, and the weed management program is just one of the ways we seek to do this."



The Copping landfill site is ecologically very healthy, as evidenced by the many species which call it home.

Images: Dr Terry Walker, AquaSci

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