

New Silage Wrap Recycling Program

A new silage plastic recycling program will make it easier and cheaper for local farmers to dispose of silage wrap in an environmentally conscious way.

Coordinated by Council, local farmers are encouraged to drop off used silage wrap in Bulka Bags at the Koonwarra or Foster Transfer Stations from 17 July to 30 July, during normal opening hours. The drop offs will be charged at \$11 per bulka bag.

Council is also continuing to support the Plasback program for recycling used silage plastic. Silage wrap brought into Koonwarra or Foster Transfer Stations in Plasback bags will continue to be accepted free of charge.

The collected silage wrap will be taken to Melbourne for reprocessing into a range of products such as matting, black builders plastic, fencing materials, road barriers and heavy vehicle tracks.

Waste Management Supervisor, Peter Roberts, said that the new silage wrap recycling program would help redirect waste from landfill and make it easier for farmers to do the right thing with their used silage wrap.

“Unfortunately, silage wrap that is not recycled is often sent to landfill,” Mr Roberts said. “It takes up a lot of space, doesn’t compact well and the potential resources made out of the recycled materials is also lost if landfilled.”

Over 100,000 tonnes of plastic goes onto Australian farms every year. Silage wrap, mulch film, grain bags, cotton wrap, bunker liners and covers, feed, seed and fertilizer bags, bulka bags, baling twine, bale net, vine covers, pallet wrap, drums, irrigation pipes, packaging ... the list is seemingly endless.

“Modern farming would be impossible without these plastics, but they leave an unwanted legacy as very little of this plastic is recycled,” Mr Roberts explained.

“The silage wrap recycling program is one way in which we can help prevent silage wrap accumulating on farms - becoming litter, blowing across the countryside, clogging the waterways and being ingested by stock and wildlife.”

Silage wrap dropped off for recycling should be shaken clean of silage, gravel and other contaminants before being bundled up and put in bulka or Plasback bags. Bulka bags need to be able to be rolled off your vehicle or trailer at the site. Please remove any net wrap or twine. Farmers are advised not to burn or bury silage wrap on their farms as this practice is illegal and penalties apply.

For more information, please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

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