

DPS Environmental Myth Buster—#12

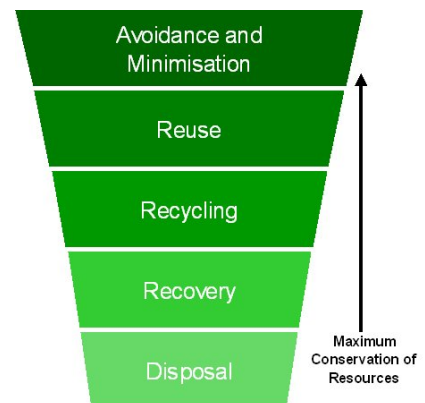
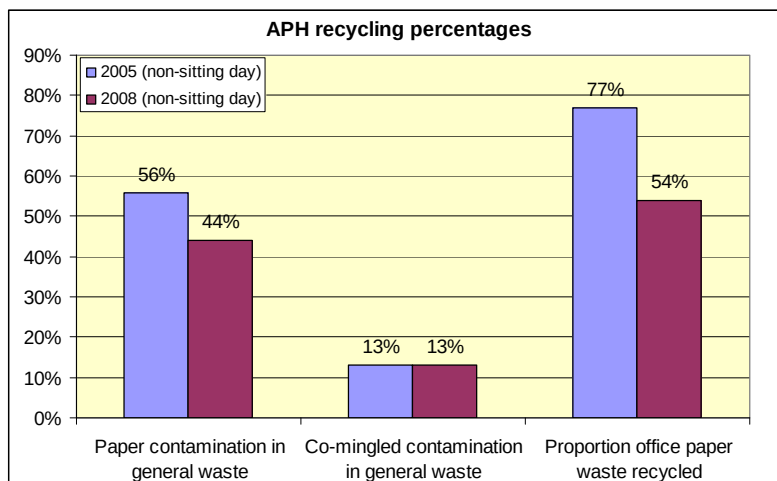
Environmental Myth Busters

"In 2007-08 we recycled much more paper and co-mingled material than the year before, so we must be great recyclers...?"

More material recycled, surely this is good news for the environment?

1 Unfortunately not, because we generated 128 tonnes more waste this year. An extra 43 tonnes that went to landfill and paper and co-mingled recycling also increased (by 69 and 16 tonnes respectively).

2 Some statistics do not give the full picture. Although the amount of paper contamination in the general waste stream has reduced since 2005 (by 12%) which might seem a good result, the amount of paper waste being recycled has also decreased, by 23%! This means that, as a proportion, we are throwing more paper waste in the general waste bin.



The waste hierarchy

3 The best environmental outcome is always to use (and buy) less in the first instance. Think about size, quantity and durability when purchasing.

4 After reducing consumption, the next best action is reusing where possible and then recycling. Disposal should be an absolute last resort.

Training offer – waste management

5 Our Myth Buster is delighted to offer a 10 minute training session on waste management to your section. Most people are surprised about just how much can be recycled. So, if you are wondering what to do with polystyrene cups or packaging, cables or anything else, then email us dps.environment@aph.gov.au.

6 Library, Client Support, Maintenance Planning and SBS staff in MG18 have already taken up the offer.