

Website—Environmental management at Parliament House

The environmental management at Parliament House website has been updated. Regularly, we will update data on energy and water use, greenhouse gas emissions and waste, including co-mingling. You can access this webpage from the Portal, or at the following link www.aph.gov.au/dps/building/EMS/index. The site also includes advice on how to minimise environmental impacts at work. Suggestions for improvement are welcome, eg where you trying to find information on something specific? (email DPS.Environment@aph.gov.au).

DPS Environmental Myth Buster—#8

Recycling is more expensive than sending to landfill

Even taking into account the extra time and effort it takes to sort out rubbish, recycling is much cheaper than sending to landfill.

Did you know that DPS gets a rebate for all the paper we recycle? For every tonne of paper waste recycled, rather than sending to landfill, we save approximately \$180.

The last waste audit (2005) found that 55% of the waste going to landfill was paper. If this figure is still accurate, then last year there was potential to divert 235 tonnes of paper from landfill, **saving more than \$42,000**.

Sending waste to landfill is the worst outcome, both economically and environmentally.

Can you help sort through rubbish?

On a related topic, it's time for DPS to conduct a waste audit and we are looking for volunteers to help. DPS needs up-to-date figures on how much waste is generated and what proportion is recyclable so that we can plan improvements to waste management at Parliament House.

Teams of four will work together to collect and sort through waste samples. We are looking for people who can spare a day to help. (Don't forgot to check with your manager that they are happy for you to help out on work time.) The work will involve some lifting, walking and data entry. The audit will be undertaken on a secret day in May. Thanks!