

Manufacturing Victoria's resource recovery future



Wastech helps minimise waste to landfill by providing customised recycling solutions to customers all over Australia.

Solutions for the waste industry

Established in Victoria in 1993, Wastech Engineering is one of the largest providers of equipment to the waste and recycling industries in Australia. Wastech's head office and the main manufacturing site are located in Hallam, Victoria.

Wastech provides standardised and custom-designed and engineered solutions for the waste industry. Its products are designed to minimise the volume of waste diverted to landfill. Products include waste compactors, transfer stations, materials recovery facilities (MRFs) and waste infrastructure for multi-unit dwellings. Wastech also offers waste management services, including consulting and advice.

The importance of research and development

Wastech provides innovative solutions for its customers and invests heavily in research and development to develop environmentally sustainable and higher efficiency products. Recent innovations include:

- a 'Smartweigh' bin weighing system that can measure the volume of waste generation by source
- a 'Smarttubes' chute system that allows a single chute to handle both waste and recycling streams via a diverter that separates the streams at the basement collection point
- a range of high-force compactor heads (coupled with custom designed bins and hoppers for a total solution)
- a range of compacting garbage trucks from global leader FAUN in Germany, that Wastech will manufacture under licence in Australia.

A culture of continuous improvement

With its culture of continuous improvement and use of 'Lean' principles, Wastech is committed to minimising waste both for its customers and itself. The Lean method is a formal approach to project and process management used in manufacturing and business to identify savings opportunities through continuous improvement.

All Wastech employees undergo a 12-month Lean training program resulting in a Certificate III, IV or Diploma in Competitive Systems and Practices. The Lean methodologies now form part of the fabric of the business and have delivered significant improvements throughout the supply chain, manufacturing and business systems.

SNAPSHOT

ORGANISATION

Wastech Engineering

PROFILE

One of the largest providers of equipment to the waste and recycling industries in Australia.

OBJECTIVES

To partner with clients to deliver innovative resource recovery solutions and reduce waste to landfill.

CHALLENGES

The high cost of assessing upfront feasibility and getting approval for resource recovery projects. .

NEXT STEPS

Continuing to grow the business over the next five years.

"In January 2015 we invested \$400,000 in equipment including a plasma cutter, brake press, guillotine and section roller to allow in-house processing of materials," explains Brett Jones, CEO of Wastech. "This is reducing our production lead times, input costs and increasing the quality of our output, as well as enabling us to create two additional full time positions".

Meeting industry challenges

Wastech works with clients from project inception to design, manufacturing and installation. The company invests significant resources in the upfront feasibility and approval process for each project – sometimes with no return when projects do not go ahead.

"Significant resources are required to operate in this space," explains Brett. "The gestation period of these projects is typically very long and requires significant capital investment. Wastech invests heavily in engineers, designers and project managers of the highest calibre to provide the best resource recovery solutions in the Australian market."

Strategic partnerships

Wastech recently partnered with the CP Group from the United States to introduce new waste and recycling sorting technology to the Australian market for municipal waste, construction and demolition waste, and commercial and industrial waste.

According to Scott Foulds, National Manager of Major Projects at Wastech, the CP Group is a world leader in equipment design and innovation with vast experience across all types of sorting systems.

"This partnership gives us access to even more knowledge, data and experience," says Scott. "It enables us to stay at the cutting edge of resource recovery technology and use our knowledge base to continually improve the solutions we offer to our customers."

An environment conducive to growth

In February 2015 Wastech opened a purpose-built service centre in Hallam. The centre is the national service administrative hub, responsible for servicing over 5,000 equipment items throughout Australia. The new site was chosen for its location within Melbourne's south east growth corridor, its strong transport links and a supportive industry environment.

"The Victorian Government is very progressive when benchmarked against other states," says Brett. "Government departments such as Sustainability Victoria, the Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning are very supportive of the resource recovery industry. They clearly understand the need for policy direction and alignment between all stakeholders to work together to develop and implement solutions that deliver significant diversion from landfill".

"The Victorian Government is very supportive of the resource recovery industry."

Brett Jones, CEO, Wastech Engineering

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