



Green matters — a round-up of news that's green and smart

**Fantastic plastic**

In the past, despite your best recycling efforts at home, many plastic items such as yoghurt, margarine or ice cream tubs, presented a challenge in collection and sorting at recycling plants. So these items were sold to China as mixed plastic bales for sorting — or worse sent to landfill.

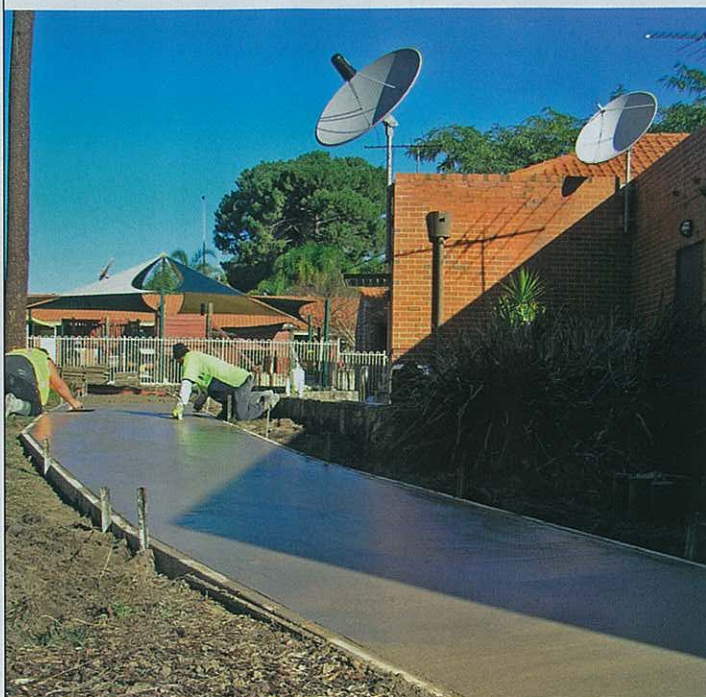
This is all changing, thanks in part to a project called the *Rigid plastic packaging recycling project* funded by the National Packaging Covenant — a government and industry group set up to increase the sustainability, use and recovery of packaging in Australia.

**Your old icecream tubs can then be melted down to make products such as bar stools...**

The *Rigid plastic packaging recycling project* is giving the rigid plastic containers a second life by separating them, then freeing them of contamination, grinding them into flakes and feeding them into a machine called an extruder.

Your old ice cream tubs can then be melted down to make products such as bar stools, cable reels, car under-trays, compost bins, export pallets, pot planters, binder-folders and water-tank grids.

Check out this great project at [www.packagingcovenant.org.au](http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au)



**On the right path**

Another step along the path to a low carbon future has been taken with Australia's first geopolymer concrete path laid at the Curtin University of Technology campus in Perth, Western Australia.

The demonstration geopolymer path is a result of collaboration between many organisations including Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing (CSRP), CSIRO, Curtin University, Rocla, Golden Bay Cement, Boral and the Geopolymer Alliance.

Geopolymer concrete has a number of desirable properties over ordinary Portland cement-based concretes, not the least being the fact its manufacture produces 80 percent less greenhouse gases than most other concretes. This is no small matter when cement and concrete are estimated to contribute around five to eight percent of the world's manmade greenhouse gas emissions.

Geopolymer concretes are produced by reacting aluminate and silicate-bearing materials with a caustic activator. Often waste materials such as flyash from power generation or slag/waste materials from metal production can be used, thus leading to a cleaner environment in two ways.

More information can be found at [www.csrp.com.au](http://www.csrp.com.au)

**Computer companies go green**

Computer energy use adds up to a big part of the green problem, and in response to this, Intel, Dell, Lenovo and EDS has launched *The Climate Savers Computing Initiative* in Australia.

All four of these companies have representatives on the board of the Climate Savers Computing Initiative, as do Google, Microsoft, Hewlett Packard and World Wildlife Fund, who also supported the local launch.

Founded in June 2007, the initiative works by setting aggressive targets for businesses and individuals throughout the world to introduce better power management of their computing equipment and purchase energy-efficient computers. The industry-wide, non-profit initiative is seeking to achieve a 50 percent improvement in global computer energy efficiency by 2010.

The program's goal of 90 percent efficiency for PC power supplies would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 54 million tons per year and at the same time save more than \$5.65 billion in related energy costs.

The program is open to all businesses, government agencies, NGOs and individuals in Australia. Members of the initiative worldwide include computer manufacturers and chip makers, environmental groups, energy companies, retailers, and government agencies.

For more info, check out [www.climatesaverscomputing.org](http://www.climatesaverscomputing.org)

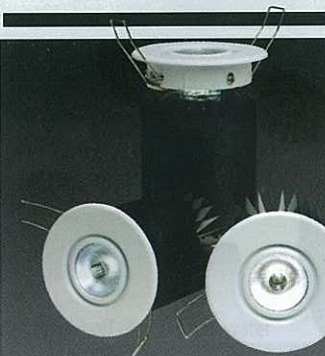


**Green packaging for CDs & DVDs**

TDK Life on Record has just released the Filing Drawer limited edition — packs of CD and DVD discs housed in recyclable filing drawer styled cardboard packaging for easy access.

The recyclable cardboard box contains 100 discs shrink-wrapped with 100 paper storage sleeves — replacing the plastic material traditionally used to house bulk quantities of blank media — ie spindles and cases.

The Filing Drawer CD and DVD packs are an experiment by TDK at this stage, but the company says if the demand is strong enough, we will see the product retailed permanently. For



**Halogen alternative**

Here's an alternative to those energy-hungry halogen lights you may have. Ecolume is a new range of LED-based lighting products which use Osram LED technology.

Ecolume's range of down-lights use Osram's 1000 lumen Ostar and with a power consumption of 15 watts and efficiency of 50lms/watt at 700mA, Ecolume's down-light is certainly a good replacement for 50 watt halogens. With a life of 50,000 hours they also promise to make bulb changing and maintenance a thing of the past.

They are available in cool and warm white with beam angles ranging from 12 to 36 degrees. The fascia is available in white, brushed chrome and brass. The Ecolume is priced at \$154 per light. To get more info check out [www.ecolumelighting.com](http://www.ecolumelighting.com)

