

**25 June 2015****Council cuts costs to encourage more residents to go green**

Mattresses and fridges can now be dumped at Sunshine Coast Council's resource recovery facilities for free, garden bin charges have been cut and most ratepayers are in for a carbon tax rebate on their rates.

Mayor Mark Jamieson said savings had been introduced to encourage the community to reduce, reuse and recycle wherever possible.

"To achieve council's vision to become Australia's most sustainable region, council has committed to reducing waste going into landfills by introducing a number of incentives," Mayor Jamieson said.

"As well as free disposal of unwanted mattresses and non-degassed fridges, and the cut to garden waste bin charges from \$70 to \$60 per annum, council has reduced clean timber and plasterboard loads from \$161 per tonne to \$50 per tonne.

"And in other good news for ratepayers, council will pass on the \$2.1 million carbon tax refund to eligible ratepayers following the repeal of Federal Government legislation last year.

"Council will give each rateable property with a waste service an approximate rebate of \$17 on their next rates notice."

Mayor Jamieson said while a standard wheelie bin collection charge had increased by \$6.90 per annum, council had not increased tip fees.

"Council is constantly reviewing our expenses and operational savings are being passed on to our customers and ratepayers," Mayor Jamieson said.

"Council will this year spend \$4.5 million on capital works and environmental projects at its waste management facilities, including construction of new landfill cells, capping closed cells and upgrades to leachate treatment systems.

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