



PROJECT OUTCOME

PEERLESS FOODS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND (2005)

Based in Braybrook, Peerless Foods supplies edible oils and margarines to food manufacturers, caterers, restaurants, bakers and retailers throughout Australia and overseas. Most products are based on vegetable oil as raw ingredients.

All oils are cleaned in the refining process, by adding about 1 per cent by weight of absorbent clay-like powder called bleaching earth. When bleaching earth is filtered from the oil, after it has absorbed many of the contaminants, its colour changes from tan to dark brown and it is known as spent bleaching earth (SBE). SBE can contain up to 35 per cent oil and other organic compounds.

With approximately 1000 tonnes of SBE sent to prescribed industrial waste (PIW) landfill per year, the Peerless Braybrook site was identified as one of the Top 30 producers of prescribed industrial in the calendar year 2000.

With the help of regional EPA staff and a waste expert funded by EPA under the Top 30 Project, it was revealed that the SBE could be composted by a facility that was either licenced or held an exemption to take SBE. Peerless were advised of this fact and contacted a local composting facility.

Under a licence to take SBE, the recycler now uses it as an additive to its composting process, adding variety to the diet of the microbes and complimenting the green waste it takes from the local council.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND SAVINGS

With a total diversion of approximately 1000 tonnes of waste per year from prescribed industrial waste landfill, this has meant significant economic savings for Peerless. Furthermore, the recycler is able to use this material and convert it to compost for suppliers.

CONTACT DETAILS

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