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1. **Cleaner Production Program in Viticulture Nearing Completion** – Preliminary findings have been submitted to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), NSW for the project “Implementing Cleaner Production into a cluster of wine producers in the Hunter Valley” being managed by CORE.

Working with the eight wineries has increased the relationship of the RO processing sector with the industry in the Hunter Region.

The main project objective has been to carry out cleaner production assessments and implement appropriate Cleaner Production projects in a cluster of eight (8) wineries in the Hunter Valley. The focus of the assessments and the search for cleaner production opportunities have been on the winemaking operations and equipment rather than the vineyards. This is also because most of the wineries in the Hunter obtain considerable amounts of grapes from external sources, some from interstate vineyards.

Benchmarks developed from winery records by CORE were produced for a range of operating performance factors. These included rating various environmental impact areas against organisational revenue and product output such as: energy cost and units (gas and electricity); wastewater produced; processing water used; grape marc produced; paper and co-mingled containers recycled; mixed waste generated; and chemical usage.

Findings to improve efficiency included:

- Insulating additional tanks and refrigeration piping;
- Reducing the heat loading in the wine storage areas by installing automatic doors;
- The development and implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS);
- Install a wastewater effluent and solids reuse; and
- Install power factor correction measures (hardware and software).

Proposed cleaner production initiatives for each winery have been chosen for implementation and final case studies will be developed for public release.

2. **Rehabilitation Action Agenda Receives Exemplary Consultancy Report** – The demand for rehabilitation grade mulches and soil amendments is increasing as consultants are being demonstrated the benefits of member's products by CORE. The benefits have included extraordinary plant establishment and growth, reduced erosion and water run-off and a long-term sustainable soil medium. CORE has conducted soil tests on all products used (incorporating local materials where possible), managed stakeholders, prevented weed growth, monitored the soil development, monitored plant growth and produced case studies.

The consultants for one major coal mine in NSW has developed a report for the NSW mines department praising the best practice rehabilitation efforts. A stakeholder meeting with the department, local residents also allowed CORE to promote the outcomes. This had led to a demand for a further minimum of 10,000 tonnes of material.

For members wishing to learn more about the RAA and consider taking part, please contact Kevin Morgan at kevin@corebusinessnet.com.

3. **CORE Develops Links with the Composting Council of Canada** – CORE has established links with the Composting Council of Canada to assist preparation for Enviro 06 where Eric Love of CORE has accepted an invitation to be the stream leader for organics "Strategies for Successful Organics Recycling". It is envisaged that Susan Antler, the Executive Director of the Composting Council, will provide valuable and fresh international knowledge and experience by presenting a paper with an international perspective "*Successful organics recycling – Rhetoric or reality? An international perspective*".

The Composting Council of Canada, is a national non-profit, member-driven organization (the equivalent of Compost Australia in Canada) with a charter to advocate and advance composting and compost usage. It serves as the central resource and network for the composting industry in Canada and, through its members, contributes to the environmental sustainability of the communities in which they operate.

CORE has sought the assistance of a former Composting Council of Canada employee, Fanny Hennebo, to create this relationship and co-ordinate the Enviro 06 events. Fanny will also assist to bring the international knowledge of involvement in a national compost organisation to Australia. More information about the Composting Council of Canada is available at www.compost.org.