



ZEROWASTE
NEW ZEALAND TRUST



Encouraging and motivating all sectors of New Zealand society to work towards a target of **Zero Waste**.

Up-date May, 2006

Welcome to our new format newsletter.

We are pleased to present a new format for our newsletter, which we wish to keep shorter and more accessible than the previous pdf format. Please let us have any comments or suggestions, and of course you are welcome to respond to our articles if you wish.

In this issue:

Glass

A possible solution to the South Island's problem of surplus glass 'mountains' is being considered, with an offer from Potters Industries Australia to purchase some 10,000 tonnes per year of processed clean, crushed, clear glass ... [Click here for more](#)

Plastic Foam

Zero Waste and Vita NZ Ltd are setting up a system to enable the recycling of surplus clean, used and sorted polystyrene foam from sofas and settees. Read how you can become involved in this scheme ...

[Click here for more](#)

" 3 - 2 - 1 - ZERO "

A major component of waste to landfills here in New Zealand is green waste and putrescibles. So we commend Timaru District Council for its decision to adopt a new waste collection system, based on a 3-bin system for recycleables, compostables, and wastes ... [Click here for more.](#)

Compact energy-saving light bulbs

With the push for energy savings, many of us are replacing our traditional incandescent light bulbs with the new, compact, energy-efficient, mini-bulbs. These are in fact a miniaturised version of the well-known 5 or 6 foot fluorescent tubes, and as such, they contain significant quantities of mercury - a very toxic heavy metal. They must be properly and safely disposed of ...

[Click here for more](#)

Final Round ZW Funding

For the past few years, the Zero Waste Trust has distributed SMF funds for waste minimisation. This scheme is now concluding, as SMF has not funded us for 2006/07, but there is still one last chance to apply for our final round. Applications close at the end of this month ...

[Click here for more](#)

Another milestone has been passed in the drive to make New Zealand Councils 100% Zero Waste, with the Waikato District Council, in March this year, adopting a target of zero waste to landfill by 2020. Our congratulations to Councillors and staff - this is a significant achievement.



Zerowaste Up-date News:

Glass

A possible solution to the South Island's problem of surplus glass is being considered, with an offer from Potters Industries Australia to purchase some 10,000 tonnes per year of clean and dry, crushed clear glass. The company produces specialist hemispherical glass beads, which are used to make reflectorised road marking products.

At a recent seminar in Ashburton, organised by Zero Waste Ltd and Wastebusters Trust Canterbury, Russell Pieper of Potters Industries, detailed the requirements of his company for a high quality feedstock of crushed glass. Geoff Hemm, a specialist in the field of glass processing, outlined the detailed preparation that is necessary to ensure a high quality product, which includes a first-crush and cleaning process, followed by burning and drying, and then the final crush down almost to the size of coarse sand grains. This high level of processing is necessary as the product needs to be clean, free of plastic and paper labelling materials, free of all metals, and free of mirror or toughened glass.

Discussions are underway to consider the logistics of this proposal, and Zero Waste has opened a special forum on its web-site to facilitate communication between interested parties. The proposal envisages recycling depots supplying fully sorted and dry crushed clear glass to a central facility, which will in turn burn the glass clean, and carry out the final crushing. The price paid for the product could exceed \$250 per tonne, so agreement will have to be reached on how much will be paid to the recycling depots, and how transport costs will be shared.

This potential market for the South Island's glass could provide an answer to the question of what to do with the large quantities of glass that have been accumulating since late last year. For those who might wish to become involved, proper processing will be necessary and this will require considerable capital expenditure. Consideration needs to be given as to how all parties can work together to reach a resolution on this and make the most of this opportunity. The Zero Waste web-site is hosting a Glass Forum to assist in this process - open to all interested parties. The forum can be found at: www.zerowaste.co.nz/forum If you wish to join the discussion group and require the password, please e-mail the.editor@zerowaste.co.nz

Plastic Foam Recycling

ZeroWaste and Vita NZ Ltd recently announced the setting up of a new system which will enable recyclers to separate out plastic foam from furniture in the waste-stream, and have it recycled and re-used within New Zealand. Plastic foam is in common use in the furniture industry, and after some years of use, old furniture is regularly disposed of to landfill - an expensive and wasteful procedure. The components of furniture include metal, untreated wood, fabric and webbing, and plastic foam. With the prospect of an outlet for foam in the local market, it makes sense for recyclers to consider the disassembly of the furniture they receive, thus releasing the wood for firewood, the metal for recycling, and the foam for recycling. This leaves only the fabric to go to landfill. Clean squabs, car seats, carpet underlay and cushions are other sources of foam. The foam can fairly readily be separated from any frame, though it is critical that the foam be clean and dry, and that it be totally free of staples and any other contaminants, such as lumps of glue.

The scheme comprises a series of collection depots across the country, to which foam can be delivered by community and private recyclers. This scheme should bring about significant savings by diverting the product away from your local landfill.

If you are a recycler, and wish to become involved in this, either simply as a way of getting rid of foam, or perhaps by becoming a local collection agent, please visit our web-site for detailed information: www.zerowaste.co.nz/

Final Round - ZW Funding

You are invited to submit an application for your share of the **final round** of the Zero Waste Trust funding scheme. Funds are available for the assistance of waste reduction initiatives, whether by community groups, non-profit organisations, or local authorities. Please write up your application in terms describing the outcomes sought, rather than labour costs. Grants are not available for capital expenditure. A preliminary assessment of your proposal has to be made, so interest should be expressed as soon as possible, as, if approved in principle, applications must then be lodged by 31 May, 2006. For details of the procedures involved, and for an application form, please visit our web-site at: www.zerowaste.co.nz/default.685.sm, and don't forget to see the required procedures, no's 1 - 5.

Funding of waste reduction initiatives

For the past nine years, the Zero Waste Trust has been making grants to help promote sustainable community activities in the area of waste minimisation. Over this period the Trust has distributed more than \$7M in support of its objectives, which of course, are particularly to promote the implementation of measures directed towards zero waste to landfills. This funding has been provided from the Tindall Foundation, CEG funding, the Vodafone NZ Foundation, and the Sustainable Management Fund. Unfortunately, we have to advise that after this final round of applications, our funds for this will be exhausted. SMF has decided that from July this year applications will go directly to them, and our application to continue processing these applications was turned down, so this avenue of funding via the Trust will also cease after this last round. We believe that sending all applications to SMF is a retrograde step; they have a long and involved process which is not suited to the nature of these applications. With the demise of CEG funding and now SMF funding, we believe there is a dearth of opportunity for community waste initiatives. Here at Zero Waste, in the previous funding round we saw applications for \$259,000 chasing available funds of only \$35,000. For information regarding the future of funding for community waste reduction initiatives, please contact the MfE.

" 3 - 2 - 1 - ZERO" - Go Timaru!!

A major challenge facing New Zealand is in maintaining its image of being "clean and green".

It's great then to see Timaru District Council achieving a milestone in this area, with the forthcoming introduction of its '3 - 2 - 1 - ZERO' waste programme. Their 3-bin collection system will provide for recycleables, compostables, and wastes. The system has been introduced to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill through recycling and composting, thereby lengthening the life of the landfill. In fact, District Service Manager Ashley Harper says that the ultimate goal is to create an environmentally sustainable management system, where products are made so they can be repaired, re-used and recycled - a system that eventually eliminates waste. Exactly what we all want to hear!

A major concern of all zerowasters is the general lack of provision for the collection of food wastes, which can readily be combined with green wastes and cooked up into a high quality compost. Along with an increasing number of other Councils, Timaru has addressed this issue, and we congratulate them for it.

Compact Energy-saving light bulbs

With winter fast approaching, and the push for energy savings, many people in our communities are replacing the traditional incandescent light bulbs with new, long-lasting, compact, energy-efficient, mini bulbs. Accordingly, it is an appropriate time to remind ourselves that these are in fact a compact form of fluorescent light bulb, and in common with the well-known 5 & 6 foot fluorescent tubes, they contain significant quantities of mercury - a very toxic heavy metal. "The mercury from one fluorescent tube can pollute 30,000 litres of water beyond a safe level for drinking." Please ensure that your used fluorescent lamps all go into a hazardous waste collection, such as, e.g.: www.hazmobile.govt.nz/ .

Recycling fluorescent tubes is the business of Medi-Chem, a company which fully recycles all components of the lamps, and has collection agents across much of New Zealand. For further information, please go to: www.medicchem.co.nz

P.S.

Hunter Lovins to visit New Zealand, 2-10 July, 2006

World-renowned author and sustainability expert, Hunter Lovins, is to make a visit to New Zealand. Co-author of "Natural Capitalism", she will be addressing and participating in a number of forums across the country. For details of her visit, please go to: www.kaitiakitanga.net/hunterlovins/

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