



Zero Waste Update

November 2005 Issue 49

Mission Statement: "To encourage and motivate all sectors of New Zealand society to work towards a target of zero waste."

Study tour inspires Tongan visitors

A delegation from Tonga has just completed a successful study tour of New Zealand recycling and salvage operations.

The tour was led by Penny Dutton, the Community Development Advisor for AusAid Tonga Solid Waste Management Project, and organised for the group by the Zero Waste New Zealand Trust.

The focus of the tour was small scale and low technology innovative approaches, especially organisations that have an end-use for their resources.

The aim of the study tour was to provide inspiration, hands on practical ideas and to gain industry contacts, said Ms Dutton.

Among the sites visited were Rakaia Community Recyclers, Ashburton's Wastebusters Trust, Innovative Waste Kaikoura, TerraNova (formerly the

Recovered Materials Foundation) in Christchurch, Ohiwa Holiday Park and Opotiki Resource Recovery Centre, Paper Reclaim at Penrose, Scrap Steel Recyclers at Onehunga, and the Waiheke Island Waste Resource Trust.

"It was fantastic," she said. It would have been better for the group if the tour had been about nine months ago, as it would have been able to influence some the operations at their new recycling site, particularly in regard to a sorting system and the need for careful traffic flow design

The group saw many systems in common at places that they visited including; that a conveyor belt was essential; a good baler and a compactor were required; a fork lift to carry the baled or compacted material; and a concrete floor to operate the fork lift (manual or motorised) on.

The most successful sites were close to town for convenience, had a large covered area, had weighbridges,

and had shops to re-sell goods dropped off. They also noted that much of the machinery was second-hand.

During the tour, they met some very enthusiastic managers, inspirational people who were involved in constant change and development, said Ms Dutton.

Earlier in the month, Ms Dutton with project information officer Talita Helu, presented a paper to the WasteMINZ Conference on "Challenges to Sustainable Waste Management in Tonga."

She outlined the four year Solid Waste Management Project operating in Tonga which aims to improve the environment and public health of Tongans by establishing a solid waste management system in Tongatapu, the largest island in Tonga situated at the southern end of the 171 island group. The island has a population of 60,000

people, half of whom live in the capital, Nuku'alofa.

The A\$9 million project is funded by the Australian Government and the Government of Tonga, and began in March 2004.

Geographic isolation, high freight costs, traditional waste practices, new waste types, and a complex set of laws were some of the challenges faced by the Project.

There was also fragmented and unclear leadership and responsibility on waste management at the national level, difficult communications in a 'top-down' structured society, difficulties charging for the services, and cultural complications such as traditional funerals.

In her presentation, Ms Dutton outlined some of the solutions used by the project.



The Tongan delegation visited Zero Waste at the conclusion of their recent study tour. Members of the delegation included Penny Hutton (standing third right) and Talita Helu (seated right), who presented Zero Waste's Jo Knight (centre) with a recycling plaque (held by Administrator Hisayo Takada).

Continued on page 4



Zero Waste Update

is the newsletter of
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Next Zero Waste community funding round

The next round of funding for the "Growing Zero Waste Communities" project initiatives closes on 28 February 2006.

This is the deadline for proposals, and successful applications will receive the grants in April 2006.

The Zero Waste New Zealand Trust is calling for funding applications from community groups and non-profit organisations for waste minimisation project proposals.

Priority areas for funding remain the same. These are; community glass reprocessing projects; marae waste minimisation projects; agricultural waste projects; Zero Waste education in schools projects; and projects that focus on community waste reduction in an urban context. The Zero Waste NZ Trust distributes and administers the funding for the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund.

The 'Growing Zero Waste Communities' fund aims to support community action in the waste sector with both financial support and advice, focusing on community initiatives that will develop capacity and create employment. It also aims to help develop these community initiatives and activities in waste minimisation to become self-sustaining.

For more detail on eligible project criteria see the Zero Waste NZ and Trust website at www.zerowaste.co.nz and follow the funding link from the home page.

The application process has four main steps. The first is a preliminary assessment form that can be downloaded from the funding page on the website. This is completed by applicants and sent to the Trust Board for consideration by its funding sub-committee.

If successful, the applicant will then be invited to submit a full application. Following the return of the full application, a staff member will contact the applicant and prepare an evaluation of the proposal (including measurable outcomes), for Zero Waste's trustees who determine whether the application will be accepted or declined. Successful proposals are sent to MfE for its final approval.

Successful applicants are sent a contract to sign regarding their obligations, before being sent their grant cheque. The process may take up to three months. One of the main obligations of successful applicants is to ensure that a report is sent to the Trust six months after funding is granted.

The subsequent funding round closes on 31 May 2006 for grants available in July.

Recycling industry growth

A recently published Recycling Industry Study of the Auckland region shows that while the recycling industry is growing, the second hand industry is in decline.

The study report documents a survey conducted by Envision New Zealand in 2004/2005 to assess the condition of the recycling and second hand industries in Auckland, and to identify the critical issues that they face.

The 'Auckland Recycling Industry Study' looks at survey responses from 101 recycling businesses and 156 second hand businesses.

Key findings for the recycling Industry included that; most were in growth mode; their collective annual turnover was \$147 million; they employed nearly 2000 people; most paid staff more than \$15 per hour; and the key barriers to growth were limited access to capital, and lack of stable markets. In the second hand industry, the key findings of the study included that; half expected their turnover to decline over the next three years; the average annual turnover was between \$100,000 and \$500,000, they employed about 300 people; most paid staff between \$9 and \$15 an hour; and the main barriers to growth included limited access to capital, lack of consumer awareness about the value of buying second hand goods, and increased competition from cheap imported goods.

The full report can be downloaded from the Envision website at www.envision-nz.com.

Steel can recycling

The Steel Can Association of NZ has launched a new name for its recycling operation – CANZBAC. The new entity replaces Steel Can Recycling as the face of a non-profit partnership involving Bluescope Steel and local can makers NCI, Canpac, and AMCOR.

Sustainability model applied to waste

A sustainability assessment model that can measure the sustainability of waste management systems was outlined by Landcare Research scientist, Dr Jo Cavanagh at the WasteMinz Conference recently.

Conventional accounting methods do not give a complete picture of organisations' impact on the environment as all business decisions have economic, resource, environmental and social impacts.

The Sustainability Assessment Model (SAM) is one way to take account of externalities through a full cost accounting methodology, said Dr Cavanagh.

SAM, was developed for the UK oil and gas industry by BP, Genesis Oil and Gas Consultants, and the University of Aberdeen.

It measures the social, environmental, economic, and resource usage impacts over the full life cycle and addresses possible remediation and restoration options using 22 fields.

The SAM approach is unique in that it monetises all these performance indicators, allowing for comparisons on a like-for-like basis. This also allows the impacts to be combined into a single measure, the Sustainability Assessment Model indicator (SAMi).

SAM has been developed by Landcare Research for use in New Zealand to assess infrastructure developments.

Pilot studies for Christchurch City Council on a resource centre and organic waste composting options suggest that it will be of particular use to local authorities as they seek to implement their Local Government Act (2002) requirements.

Its value is as a tool for modelling and evaluating sustainable development profiles of projects/project ranking and to engage sustainable development thinking within organisations.

The model identifies major resource flows used in a project (eg water, energy, infrastructure, people) and provides a measure of the 'value' of the resources (using macro-economic data such as resource rent).

Project activity generates a range of environmental pollution impacts, (such as air emissions, nuisance, footprint and waste), and the model identifies damage costs used to translate impacts to monetary measures.

Social flows are also taken into account, including the financial value of jobs in a local community, (including the multiplier effect, and the negative impact of deaths and lost time due to accidents), and the link between the project and a sustainable society. This is based on the UK governmental sustainable development strategies and the linking mechanism of taxation.

Case studies outlined included an assessment of waste disposal versus resource recovery done for Environment Waikato. This created scenarios, such as disposal to landfill, small-scale community based recycling, commercial scale community based recycling, commercial recycling operation and separate collection of materials.

This study involved interviewing case study participants to get details of the activities and cost break-downs. From this the scenarios of representative types of waste management options were devised.

The sustainability assessment took into account taxes, operational costs, capital costs, human capital, infrastructure, air emissions, footprint, environmental spending, the social benefit of taxes, and direct and indirect jobs.

The small scale community based operation showed the highest per tonne cost at \$270/tonne, but also produced the greatest social benefit of \$1.70 for every \$1 spent.

Excluded from the study were, processing of recyclables, employment of disadvantaged groups, the need for long term landfill remediation, benefit and costs of reusing recovered materials, and extending the life of landfill by diversion.

The Landfill scenario was based on 30,000 tonnes of solid waste received at a Refuse Transfer Station with 20,000 tonnes going to the landfill, and included accounting for transport of waste from the transfer station to the landfill, and 20 employees.

It showed that \$4.5 million would be spent annually yielding \$1.5 million in social benefit. Resources required totalled \$1.2 million with \$600,000 spent on mitigating environmental damage or as a result of damage. For every \$1 spent, there was 25c social benefit, 27c of resources used, and 9c environmental impact.

The small-scale community-based operation scenario was based on 1700 tonnes of recyclable or reusable materials received at a resource recovery park. It involved sorting and baling of recyclables, the sale of reusable items, transport of recyclables, running education and awareness programmes, and a waste exchange. It employed 17 full time equivalents, including the long-term unemployed and intellectually challenged people in the operation.

The results were \$560,000 spent annually yielding \$770,000 in social benefits, requiring \$55,000 of resources, and with an environmental impact assessed at \$2000.

For every \$1 spent, there was \$1.70 of social benefit, 12c of resources used and .004 of environmental impact.

The commercial-scale community based operation scenario was characterised as handling 12,300 tonnes of recyclable or reusable materials at a Resource Recovery Park with sorting and baling of recyclables and sale of the reusable items, education and awareness programmes, and a waste exchange. Employment and transport were also taken into account. This resulted in \$1.7 million spent annually yielding \$700,000 in social benefit, \$150,000 of resources required, and \$25,000 of environmental impact. For every \$1 spent there was 36c social benefit, 6c resources used, and .004c environmental impact.

The commercial operation had 10,000 tonnes of recyclables received at a sorting plant, sorted, baled, and transported, employing five people as full-time equivalents. The result was \$1.4 million spent annually, yielding \$400,000 in social benefit, requiring \$120,000 of resources and costing \$25,000 in environmental impact. For every \$1 spent there were 26c in social benefits, 5c of resources used, and .005c environmental impact. The results showed that the landfill scenario produced the highest resource and environmental costs for the lowest per tonne cost of \$88/tonne.

Waste management challenges in Tonga – continued from Page 1

“There are positive signs that things are improving in Tonga and the challenges can be overcome,” she said. “A demonstration of this was the recent “Clean up the World” event in Tonga. Despite no formal waste collection system, a huge litter problem and low environmental awareness, more than 3000 people from 80 groups across Tonga took part in picking up rubbish from beaches, roadways and public areas.

The event was positively and practically supported by a wide cross-section of the community and proved that co-ordination, altruism, innovation and enthusiasm for this work was possible, she said.

Some of the solutions outlined for the project included supporting opportunities for regional Pacific co-operation, and sharing information and developing policy to cost effectively handle waste.

Changing traditional waste practices takes time and patience, said Ms Dutton. It is critical that information on waste is tailored to the Tongan situation and wherever possible, delivered by Tongans themselves.

The information produced by the project needs to give people an understanding of why certain wastes such as plastic, and disposal methods such as burning, are harmful to health and the environment.

A new Waste Management Bill is now before Parliament which will bring solid waste management under one piece of legislation and establish a new Waste Management Authority for Tonga.

The new Authority will have responsibility for management of all solid waste and there will be a compulsory charge for household waste collection and disposal that underpins the need for a self-financing service.

“Making household waste collection compulsory has strong support from community change champions who see this as a leap forward in cleaning up Tongatapu,” said Ms Dutton. An innovative response to the challenge of fee collection is the possible use of village women’s committees to issue bills and collect fees.

These women can exert social pressure to ensure that those who can pay do and those who cannot are looked after by wealthier members of their community.

As work is progressing on the construction of the landfill, it is becoming easier for people to see that the new disposal service will be different to the present one, she said.

The project will soon increase the number of public rubbish bins, implement a recycling system, and introduce a full-scale household waste collection system.

Despite some of the institutional challenges, the Project has had a high level of support from both government and the community.

“There appears to be genuine concern by some and a strong desire to improve the current waste situation,” said Ms Dutton. “An example of this is the hard work that government workers and Ministers put into advancing the Waste Management Bill despite the prolonged strike and the possibility the legislation would be delayed this year.”

Food scrap composting trial success

A food scrap composting trial in Ashburton organised by Wastebusters Trust Canterbury is being hailed as a success.

The trial was funded by Ashburton District Council and a grant from the Zero Waste New Zealand Trust.

In the trial, each household was provided with cornstarch bags and compost baskets for food waste and this was collected weekly, taken to the Wastebusters’ site and composted there.

This involved mixing the food scraps with green waste in a large revolving composter and then ‘cooking’ it at a high temperature.

Wastebusters general manager, Sheryl Stivens, said she was delighted with the response to the trial and the feedback received from the people involved.

“Well over two tonnes of food waste has been collected and fed into the Rotocom invessel composter and now its time to evaluate the results,” she said.

What happened once trial results were evaluated would be up to the Council, she said. The Council will decide whether or not to proceed with a long term kerbside foodwaste pick up using the cornstarch bags.

For the trial to progress to becoming part of Ashburton’s recycling efforts, a large permanent invessel composter would need to be purchased. This is the key factor in processing the food waste into compost, she said.

While the food collection trial would now end, households in the trial were encouraged to continue to use any



cornstarch bags they had as these could be put into compost bins with garden waste at home. They could also be used to feed worm farms.

To encourage more people to become involved in composting, Mrs Stivens said the cornstarch bags and basket could be bought from Wastebusters to encourage home composting.

The cornstarch bags and compost baskets are a system used in Norway where it has resulted in reducing food waste to landfill by 93 per cent over three years.

The Rotocom composter will remain at Wastebusters site for some time and will be used to carry out commercial composting trials. **Ashburton Guardian.**

Community Recycling Success in Penang

An environmental group in Penang has successfully introduced a recycling programme to their local communities and a hospital.

On her way to speak at conferences in Malaysia and Ireland recently, Zero Waste New Zealand Trust chief executive, Jo Knight, had an opportunity to meet the Penang Environment Working Group, a state advisory group, led by 'Dato Dr Ong Heen Tee.

Dr Ong is a former Minister in the State government and now an advisor to a landfill company.

The group was set up five years ago by the local government as a forum for discussion on environmental issues affecting Penang, and Malaysia. They have dealt with solid waste management and are now looking at marine pollution and climate change issues.

"This group successfully established a community recycling programme, using an established community structure," says Ms Knight. "A pilot programme of 20 communities was started in 2001/2002 and 10 are still operative

Community groups were approached and asked if they would take on recycling activities, and were given a five-step programme that included a motivation training workshop, a community awareness programme, a ceremonial launching, monthly recycle days, and a motivation and evaluation workshop.

A commercial recycling agent is linked to the community group, and the community can collect recyclables for free, or buy the recyclables for resale to the agent.

New initiatives about to be launched by the PEWOG include a hazardous waste collection for safe storage, a household composting programme, a computer recycling programme and an e-waste recycling programme.

The visit to Penang included a presentation and tour of an independent charitable hospital, Lam Wah EE, which operates a recycling project that aims to protect the environment and generate funds for staff welfare.

A committee of 22 employees runs the project that recycles hospital items, and encourages staff to bring recyclables from home.

"This is strictly controlled to the extent that at least two



The Penang Environment Working Group welcome Zero Waste CEO, Jo Knight. They are from left to right, (at rear), Colin Soo, Khor Hung Teik, 'Dato Dr Ong, (and seated) Daphne Goh Tai Hoon, Rose Ng, Jo Knight, Kanda Kumar and Lam Kok Heng.

areas of the hospital weigh individual contributions and record them in ledgers with some areas having a minimum contribution weight per year for each employee," says Ms Knight.

The collection includes newspaper, cardboard, PET bottles, drip bottles, glass, tin, aluminium, plastic bags, wearable old clothes and used car batteries which are sold to recycling operators.

"Each Tuesday evening, in their own time, three rostered committee members and five student nurses, sort the week's recyclables."

"In the cafeteria staff bring their own plates and receipts if not required by the customer are recycled. It is simple, thorough, enthusiastic, and effective for the hospital and what a great example"

There are trophies for best management, best weight and best performance which are presented as part of an on-going campaign. The campaign includes tours, competitions and events such as singing.

Since July 2002, the hospital has diverted 160,531 kilograms from landfill and sold the recyclables for more than 35,000 RM (about NZ\$13,500).

Profits have been used to make 14 staff donations in cases of hardship, as well as donating 2000RM for tsunami victims.



A recycling depot in Penang where recyclable materials are stored for collection.



Waste minimisation team members at Lam Wah EE Hospital are, Sister Lam, (left), Hospital Executive Housekeeper Danny Lee (centre) and Welfare Executive Cheow Mooy Chew (right) beside a recycling poster at the Hospital.

National waste levy can generate change

A national waste levy can create a pool of money for use in waste education and investment to generate change, says Jon Ward from Sustainability Victoria. He spoke at the recent WasteMINZ conference on 'Influencing waste practices for a sustainable state'. "The real question is not whether or not to have a landfill levy. The question should be, 'what is the economic value of doing something about waste management'."

The value of the current level of recycling in Victoria was about \$500 million to the economy and that meant it was worth doing, said Mr Ward who is the manager of Business and Industry Programs for Sustainability Victoria.

"The next question is what is the best way to do it. The simplest methods are a waste tax or a landfill levy. The key question is whether doing this is enough by itself."

The levy in Victoria was not at a high enough level to make people want to reduce waste and recycle more. It equated to about 9c a week for households and was less than one percent of manufacturing costs to industry, he said.

"At that level, it is not noticed and will not change behaviour. But we have a lower level levy than New South Wales and better recycling outcomes.

The levy does create a pool of money that can influence outcomes and that is what generates change."

The difference was how the money was used to influence outcomes and behaviours in things like investment in infrastructure and education programmes to create change. Victoria has the best recycling facilities in Australia, said Mr Ward.

"An hypothecated (targeted) levy is a very simple way to get a good pool of money for investment, and a levy at the state or national level is better co-ordinated to a single outcome and gives a broader strategic overview. You can lobby government for a pool of money like \$15-20 million, but it will have to come from some other sector like education or health," he said.

"If you make the user pay and collect from waste to reinvest in waste, that is a much better strategy. A 10-20 per cent return on investment means it is

Government funding for waste

We need funding in the waste sector in New Zealand. Does it have to be sourced from a levy ?, asks Zero Waste NZ Trust CEO, Jo Knight.

"I think we would all agree the waste sector needs support for many areas including national education, supporting secondary industry using the resources that are often considered waste.

"Instead of getting entangled in the local and national levies debate, which could take years, lets cut to the chase and ask for central government funding for waste initiatives in the same way as there is considerable funding for energy projects.

"The level of the levy is such a small percentage of the cost of landfill, it is debatable whether the levy itself will tip the balance between recycling and landfill as a destination for our recyclables and residual rubbish. Perhaps it would be simpler to legislate for no recyclables in the landfill, as they have in other places.

"We now have 68 percent of councils working towards Zero Waste, but the area is seriously under-funded. Money is needed for capital loans and small business support, particularly secondary industry using waste as a resource."

also good value."

"If you have local government collecting the levy and only spending it in the local area, the outcomes will be limited. You need to be able to take a broad strategic view and a national levy is a much better tool to do this. This results in consistent state-wide education programmes, and infrastructure investment directed to where it can do the most good."

To get financial outcomes, it takes seed funding and co-ordinated programmes. The market needs investment, and the levy gives an opportunity to influence towards better outcomes, he said.

Over nine years, Victoria had \$105 million from levies and this investment funding had resulted in increasing recycling from 26 per cent to 53 per cent, and \$150 to \$200 million income which was a very good return on investment.

Otago Waitaki Glass Recycling

Local initiatives for increased glass diversion from landfill in the Otago and Waitaki regions is the aim of a project funded recently by Zero Waste.

The Zero Waste New Zealand Trust is funding the \$4000 glass recovery project from money allocated by the Sustainable Management Fund (Ministry for the Environment). The project was proposed by Community Recyclers of Otago – a partnership of the Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust, Wanaka Wastebusters, and Central Otago Wastebusters with support and seed funding from the Otago Regional Council. There was a huge need in the South Island to establish creative solutions for the glass problem, said Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust manager, Marian Shore in the proposal application. Freight costs would continue to be an incentive to lessen the transportation of recovered materials with the need to create businesses as close to the source material as possible. The partnership will use existing research to develop clear strategic options for glass recovery and the associated costs, and identify likely funding opportunities for these projects. It hopes to establish operations to process glass with the possibility of different systems operating in the different areas. Public meetings will be held in all the areas, (Waitaki, Dunedin, Wanaka, Queenstown and Clutha) to consult and gain ideas and feedback from interested parties and the general community with the intention of optimising information and resources available. The project is facilitated by Wayne Scott from the Otago Regional Council and will be managed by Community Recyclers of Otago involving the managers of the three resource recovery groups, Sue Coutts (Wanaka), Clair Higginson (Central Otago) and Marian Shore (Waitaki).



New concept in Mobile Materials Recycling

A new concept in mobile recycling, that is ideal for remote locations, is being launched for sale by Zero Waste Limited.

The Mobile Materials Recycling Facility (or MMRF, patent pending), is a self-contained waste management unit housed in a transportable 20 or 40 foot container. MMRFs can reduce transport and handling costs by up to 90 per cent and landfill waste volume by up to 80 per cent.

On site, the MMRF will occupy less space than a conventional waste handling station.

Each MMRF can be customised to contain all the necessary equipment and services for a specific purpose, and is self-powered and water-proof.

Any layout and almost any type of equipment can be incorporated, such as crushing and baling machines, light bulb/strip light crusher, drum crusher, can crushers and compressors, glass crusher, aerosol piercer, waste food processor, jet washer, waste oil tank, pallet truck, collection bins etc

All equipment is supplied bolted to the container floor and additional fixed and temporary fastenings are provided to allow safe transport.

All of the internal equipment may be built at a single place and simply transported to a new site ready for use.

For more information contact Lisa Davis at Zero Waste Ltd, sales@zerowaste.co.nz or 09-486-0734.

Proceeds from sales in New Zealand go to the Zero Waste New Zealand Trust.

Wrapped balefill better option for landfills

A new wrapped balefill process can reduce soil cover requirements and increase the lifespan of balefill sites by up to 62 per cent.

The bale-wrapping process halts the short-term biological activity and emission of gases and leachates, says Danny Glennon from New Waste Solutions in Queensland.

Early results prove that a wrapped balefill process can be considered as an alternative to conventional landfill methods with the introduction of Enviro Wrap's oxo-degradable plastic stretch bale wrap.

This wrap has been tested and developed to encapsulate the bale temporarily and degrades in the heat of a landfill environment. The wrap also improves handling of the refuse and significantly reduces the main environmental impacts of a conventional landfill.

The cost of operating the wrapped balefill process makes it a viable option and improves a landfill's ability to attain compliance. Other operational and environmental benefits of the process include improved gas extraction and leachate

collection, he says. A conventional landfill has waste delivered by general waste trucks, that is then compacted using man-powered machinery with steel wheels and covered by soil nightly to reduce the environmental impact and to meet compliance.

This has been seen to date as the most economical means of handling waste treatment and burial, and is the predominant form of waste treatment.

The wrapped balefill process includes the automatic square baling of waste in a controlled environment using an oxo-degradable landfill bale wrap. Balers compress the refuse into dense, self contained degradable wrapped bales.

Wrapped and temporarily treated bales are then transported to the landfill working face by flat deck trucks and fork-lifted into place.

There is no exposed workface, so lift heights for the waste can be up to 10m high before the requirement of the 300mm soil floor layer. The wrapped bales mean there is no working face or batter soil cover requirements, he says.

Zero Waste Zone finalist in Sponsorship awards

Television One's Zero Waste Zone "Make a Video Competition" is a finalist in the 2005 New Zealand Sponsorship Awards.

The awards will be judged in Auckland and announced on November 25.

The Zero Waste New Zealand Trust has collaborated with TV One on the Zero Waste promotion that has more than 100 schools involved in the "Make a Video Competition". More than \$20,000 in prizes are up for grabs in this fun competition for year 7 and 8 classes or groups, that involves submitting a short video on their Zero-Waste activities. One of the attractions for the students is the prospect that their video could be chosen to play during ZONE, and feature on TV ONE's website.

The videos are be 2-5 minutes long and students choose one of three Zero-Waste categories:

- ? The best Zero Waste practices within the classroom or school.
- ? Most creative and original Zero Waste idea.
- ? The best video based on content, pace, presenters, use of graphics, editing, and music.

ZONE on TV ONE is aimed at children aged 8 - 14 years, and runs every weekday after school. It has a

range of safe, fun, quality programming that aims to assist this age group's development.

This is proving to be the perfect vehicle to get the Zero-Waste message into the classroom. Many schools already have Zero-Waste practices in place and TV ONE wants to help kids and teachers to build on this activity, do something to celebrate their achievements, and help to emphasise the importance of zero-waste practices.

"This is a great way to hook kids into considering their role in making the world a better place to live. We want all people to do what they can with an understanding that if we all work together we can achieve great things," says Chris Arcus, from the Ministry of Education.

Intermediate children are an influential, self-aware age-group that is ready to develop life-changing practices and an increased awareness of the zero-waste philosophy.

TV ONE wants to influence their habits and environmental consciousness which will continue through their future classrooms, home life and communities. TV ONE is working with the Zero-Waste New Zealand **Trust** that is assisting with resources and appropriate content (visit <http://www.zerowaste.co.nz> for further information).

Turning Point for Environmental Education

Registrations are open for 'Turning Point', the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education's Conference in Auckland in January 2006.

The conference theme, 'Turning Point – Taka huri haere mai te wa' embodies the Maori world view of the evolution of time where Maori move into the future, look back and be guided by the wairua.

It reflects the need for environmental educators to share the experience of the past in order to create a new era of sustainability.

The conference will explore environmental education experiences that create real change for individuals, organisations, communities and society.

There will be a strong focus on cultural diversity, and the

conference will also explore the turning points for the future of education for sustainability.

The Conference combines speakers and workshops under the themes "Where are we now?" "Where do we want to be?" and "How are we going to get there?"

The conference is aimed at staff from local and central government, teachers, youth, NGOs, the voluntary sector and businesses.

It will be held in **Auckland from January 22 to 25**, and more information on the programme and registration is available from its website at; <http://www.cce.auckland.ac.nz/conferences/index.cfm?P=7716>

(There is an early registration discount available until 30 November 2005).

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