

Zero Waste Update

Please pass on

December 2001, Issue 21

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

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Zero Waste at WasteMINZ

This year's Waste Management Institute of New Zealand (WasteMINZ) Conference in Christchurch was a huge success. The conference attracted a record crowd of over 350 people.

Notable in this year's conference was the large number of Zero Waste presentations and the strong emphasis on waste minimisation and resource recovery.

One of the keynote speakers was Dr Dominic Hogg, Director of Eunomia Research and Consulting in the UK who was sponsored by Zero Waste New Zealand Trust and the British Council.



Dominic is a European expert in environmental policy and provided an authoritative overview of recycling and waste minimisation legislation and initiatives from the UK and the EU. One of the key points he made was that waste levies charged in Europe (up to New Zealand \$120/tonne) are effective at disincentivising waste disposal yet have proved to have little effect on business competitiveness. After WasteMINZ Dominic also made a special presentation to MfE staff, Treasury, Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Development staff in Wellington, expanding on this theme and explaining a number of other economic instruments used in Europe to minimise waste.

Also sponsored by Zero Waste New Zealand Trust was Graham Mannall, the Policy and Planning Manager of Canberra's 'ACT NOWaste by 2010' strategy.

Graham has been involved right from the beginning in the plan-

ning and implementation of Canberra's 'No Waste by 2010' policy, which has so far resulted in a 60% reduction of waste to landfill. Graham also made a presentation during a Zero Waste workshop at the conference, concentrating more on the specific initiatives that Canberra has put in place to achieve its impressive result.

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust also ran a Zero Waste Workshop at the conference with presentations from a number of Zero Waste Councils and community groups. Notes from these presentations are available on the Zero Waste website under "National Campaign"/ "Conferences".

Recycling Directory

The Recycling Operators of New Zealand have just released the brand new "2001/2002 New Zealand



Recycling Directory". The Directory is a guide to companies; organisations and operators involved in the recycling and recovered materials industries.

The directory contains contact details for recyclers throughout the country, listed in geographical location. Also included is a list of Consultants, Waste Exchanges, Local Authorities, National Organisations and Associations and a selection of the new Recycling Symbols.

This is the first Recycling Directory to be published since 1996 and will be sent out to all RONZ members. It is also available for purchase through the RONZ office. Contact Karuna Douglas at 09 488 9449 or ronz@pl.net



Zero Waste Website

www.zerowaste.co.nz

■ New report on Product Stewardship Programmes in Canada under "Resources and Links" / "Reports and Information" / "Stewardship Programmes"

■ New Guest Editorial "Confessions of a Landfill Apologist", under "Latest News and Events"/"Guest Editorial"

■ A selection of current news clippings on Zero Waste in New Zealand is now available under "Latest News and Events"

■ New "Facts and Figures" on site under "Resources and Links" / "Reports and Information"



New Recycling Symbols

The Recycling Operators of New Zealand (RONZ) launched the New Zealand Recycling Symbols at the 2001 WasteMINZ Annual Conference. These symbols are to become standard symbols for the recycling industry in New Zealand.

The symbols are designed for a variety of applications including recycling bins, drop off centres, inhouse recycling systems and educational material. There are 39 symbols developed to date and they will be freely available to download (in a variety of file formats) from the RONZ website www.ronz.org.nz within the next 2 weeks. For ease of use, a CD-ROM with all the symbols and information is available from the RONZ office for \$19.95 (+gst) + P&P. The symbols have been developed in conjunction with Waste Not Ltd and with grants from Zero Waste New Zealand Trust and the Ministry for the Environment. For more information or to view the symbols, check out the new RONZ website, or call RONZ on 09 488 9449.



Work Sought

Alexis Petru, a Student at the University of California, Berkeley, would like the opportunity to gain more experience in the waste minimisation field, through short-term employment in New Zealand's Zero Waste programme in June and July 2002. Alexis is currently Programme Developer for the Campus Re-Used Stuff Emporium and has worked as an Editorial Intern for a quarterly environmental magazine (Terrain Magazine). Alexis has also been involved in teaching a student run class on waste management at the university. Email Alexis at lexyloo@uclink4.berkeley.edu

Ahuriri Resource Trust

The Ahuriri Resource Trust (ART) was established in March 2000 and began a kerbside pick-up service in September 2000 for the townships of Omarama, Otematata and Kurow. Through the Annual Plan process the ART model has been adopted as a Pilot Project for the Waitaki District Council (WDC), a Zero Waste Council.



Ahuriri Resource Trust Team

In their first year of operations ART diverted 5% of resources from landfill. Having now received Resource Consent from Environment Canterbury to compost greenwaste (29% of the resource stream) ART is about to begin this part of the operation. Currently worm farms are being set-up behind local businesses to deal with kitchen scraps.

The major benefit to the Community will be when ART can take the savings from transport and landfill back into community management and base the model on money for jobs rather than volunteerism.

Through funding from the Community Employment Group, ART now employ a facilitator for waste minimisation on a district-wide basis two days a week, with the main emphasis remaining within the Ahuriri Ward. Recently the Waitaki Resource Team (WRT) was established in Oamaru with an initial focus on education.

With funding from the Waitaki District Council an education program is to begin in the local schools of the Ahuriri Ward, at the start of the next school year. ART will soon be tendering for the management of the local Transfer Stations, aiming to turn them into Resource Recovery Parks. They will also tender for the black-bag collection with the desire to bring all aspects of resource recov-

ery under one community owned and operated umbrella.

ART's main aim is to foster self-responsibility in the community and to help create a greater environmental awareness. For further information contact Pam Firman on 03 438 7774 or pamfirman@xtra.co.nz

Dunedin Zero Waste Strategy

The Dunedin City Council's Zero Waste Strategy was presented at the WasteMINZ Conference. The strategy will be genericised to become a tool for other Councils to plan and implement their Zero Waste strategies.

The strategy is the brainchild of Julian Doorey, Solid Waste Engineer at Dunedin City Council and consultants Waste Not Ltd and Meritec Ltd.

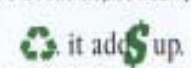
The next step in developing the strategy will involve Waste Not and Meritec working with up to five additional Zero Waste Councils. If your Council is interested in being involved in this project, contact Julie Dickinson at julie@zerowaste.co.nz

The presentation from WasteMINZ is available on the Zero Waste website under "National Campaign" / "Conferences"

Canadian Industry Stewardship Programmes

Industry Stewardship initiatives have a prominent place on the roadmap to Zero Waste and, taking Canada as an example, such programmes perform a conspicuous part in reducing waste going to landfill. Two new reports by Michael Jessen outlining Industry Stewardship and Producer Responsibility in Canada are



Now paying at a bottle depot near you.  *Poster from the "Beverage Manufacturers of Alberta"*

Maraetai School Best in Parade

Judges of the Howick Christmas parade declared Maraetai Beach School's entry the overall best float in the 2001 parade. The float featured the school's environmental culture showing worm farming, Zero Waste, recycling, organic gardening, and Trees for Survival programmes.

Sixty representatives of the school community from pre-schoolers to grand-parents were on the float or walking with it. All participants wore costumes made of recycled materials. Some were simple decorated rubbish bags while others were more elaborate.

Many of the resources used in the float came from the Beachlands Resource Centre who have worked closely with local schools to promote the Zero Waste and environmental care message. The Auckland Regional Council loaned trees to decorate the truck.

A spontaneous chant of "Wash it, Squash it, Put it in the Bin" provided some impromptu music as the float went along.

Deputy Principal Dulcie Bignell who has been responsible for instigating the Zero Waste programme in the school said she was very proud of the achievement of the Christmas Parade team and looks forward to seeing what they will dream up next year to defend their title.

For further information on the school's Zero Waste achievements contact Duclie Bignell on 09 536 6570 or maraetai@ihug.co.nz



Maraetai School Float

Green Globe 21

Kirsty Quickfall, formerly Environmental Planner at Kaikoura District Council, has recently accepted the position of National Coordinator of Green Globe 21. Green Globe 21 is a global environmental benchmarking, certification and improvement system for sustainable Travel and Tourism (this has recently been expanded to include whole communities).



Certification involves consideration of a company's environmental impacts in 10 key areas including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, ecosystem conservation, air quality protection and waste reduction. So far over 200 New Zealand organisations have signed up for Green Globe Accreditation and Kaikoura District Council has become the first community in New Zealand to work towards Green Globe Accreditation.

The National Coordinator position has become available with funding assistance from Zero Waste New Zealand Trust. For further information contact Kirsty Quickfall on kirsty@tianz.org.nz

Robbie Williams Concert

The morning after the Robbie Williams' concert in Wellington, a team of youngsters from a local community youth group got together to clean up the mess.

Hired by Streetwise Manager Tim Ryan, the youth group collected litter from the streets - bottles, cans, plastics and cardboard - for recycling. 20 x 240litre wheelie bins were filled and transported to a local recycling plant. Tim Ryan plans to use this system again for the Thorndon Fair in December and the Cuba St Carnival in February. For these street events he will also ask people to recycle at source. "We are proud of this small beginning as we think this demonstrates that with some planning and commitment one can start to divert street litter away from landfills in an innovative way".

Zero Waste Sweeps Across the World

California Adopts Zero Waste

On the 13th of November, the Californian Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) adopted Zero Waste as one of its seven goals in its Strategic Plan. The plan states its goal as:

"Promote a "zero-waste California" where the public, industry, and government strive to reduce, reuse, or recycle all municipal solid waste materials back into nature or the marketplace in a manner that protects human health and the environment and honors the principles of California's Integrated Waste Management Act."

To view the Draft Strategic Plan go to (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/agendas/mtgdocs/2001/11/00006552.doc)

South Africa Adopts Zero Waste Plan

A goal of Zero Waste by 2022 was adopted during South Africa's first National Waste Summit. The Conference brought together representatives of government at national, provincial and local level, civil society and the business community. The following goals was agreed upon and adopted:

GOAL: Stabilize waste generation and reduce the waste disposal by 50% by 2012 and develop a plan for ZERO WASTE by 2022. More information is available on the Zero Waste website under "International".

First UK Council to Adopt Zero Waste

Bath and North East Somerset Council has become the first local authority in the UK to adopt Zero Waste as a long term goal in a recent revision of its waste strategy.

Resources

U.S. Recycling Economic Information (REI) Study

A U.S. Recycling Economic Information (REI) Study has just been released. This study is a multi-year project commissioned by the US EPA to assess the economic impact of reuse and recycling on the United State's economy. The results of this study show that the U.S. reuse and recycling industry supports more than 56,000 establishments, employs over 1.1 million people, and grosses over US\$236 billion in annual revenues. The US (REI) Study is available at www.epa.gov/jtr by clicking on "Recycling is Working."

Waste Management and Energy Savings: Benefits by the Numbers

A report published by the US EPA examines the energy savings available through waste reduction and recycling, as compared to landfilling and incineration.

The paper finds that in 1997 U.S. communities recycled an estimated 28 percent of total municipal solid waste. Using the energy factors in this report, it is estimated that those recycling activities account for roughly 633 trillion Btu in energy savings—an amount equivalent to the consumption of 109 million barrels of oil. If the U.S. recycling rate were to increase to 35 percent, energy savings would increase to an estimated 907 trillion Btu—an amount equivalent to the consumption of 156 million barrels of oil.

A PDF version of this report is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/publications/waste/energy.pdf>.

Events

BusinessCare Workshop

BusinessCare, in association with Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, is holding a workshop in Tauranga on the 11th of December for Councils

and community groups in the Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Auckland regions. The workshop aims to introduce the cleaner production model, show how BusinessCare can assist, allow participants to review their own waste minimisation strategies and promote local support networks. For further information contact Peter Crosland on 04 801 9162 or peterc@businesscare.org.nz

"Winning Through Global Stewardship"

"Winning Through Global Stewardship" will be the theme of the next "Take It Back!" conference, to be held March 6-7, 2002 in Las Vegas. The "Take It Back!" conference has become the premiere event for global "producer responsibility" issues, helping companies understand "takeback" laws in 30 countries.

For information visit the Raymond website at <http://www.raymond.com>

International Environmental Conferences For Students Youth Environment Summit 2002

Two Youth Environment Summits will be held in Switzerland in July and August 2002. Focus of the summits: sustainable development and Agenda 21. The deadline for all applications is April 15, 2002. The Alliance for Global Sustainability (AGS) organises these summits. For more information visit: <http://globalsustainability.org/Education/YES2001/>

AGS World Student Community Sustainable Development Conference

2002 Annual Meeting of the Alliance for Global Sustainability World Student Community in San Jose, Costa Rica - March 2002
Deadline for submissions: 16 December 2001. Academic quality papers on the topic of Sustainable Development are being sought to be presented at the Annual Meeting. All undergraduates, graduate students, and persons in post-

doctoral appointments are encouraged to apply. For more information visit <http://agswsc.org/am/2002AM.html>

International News

Zero Waste Music Festival

A large Australian music festival at Majors Creek, has just been held as a Zero Waste event.

Gerard Gillespie, formerly Manager of Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, organised the event recycling, which included food waste and packaging waste composting on site in a fenced-off windrow, commodities separated out for market and remaining plastics and bottle tops used as aggregate in a new concrete slab under one of the rain water tanks.

Gerard also used Russ Loudon's new recycling bin lids around the event, (see the Zero Waste website under "Zero Waste Solutions"/"Recycling"/"Events") and these assisted in effective separation of waste by the public. For further information contact Gerard Gillespie on sewb@bigpond.com

South Africa Bans Plastic Bags

South Africa is to ban the use of plastic bags in a bid to rid the country of litter. The ban on the bags, handed out free to shoppers at all major stores, will be phased out over the upcoming months after the South African cabinet agreed in principle to regulations to prohibit them. *From the NZ Herald, Friday 23rd November 2001.*

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