

Zero Waste Update

Please pass on

December 2002, Issue 29

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 Academy Launch

The Zero Waste Academy was officially launched in Palmerston North on 11th December. A small ceremony was held at the Ferguson St Community Leisure Centre, near the recycling centre. Short speeches were made by the Mayor of Palmerston North City, Mark Bell-Booth, Principal of Massey University, Professor Rao Bhamidimarri and former Trustee and co-founder of Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, Warren Snow.

The Zero Waste Academy has been a vision of Zero Waste New Zealand Trust for over two years and is finally coming to fruition as a three way venture between Massey University, Palmerston North City Council and Zero Waste New Zealand Trust.

Jonathon Hannon has been appointed as Coordinator of the Zero Waste Academy. Jonathon has been involved in the waste minimisation industry for a number of years, in the public and private sectors. He will be based at Massey University, in Palmerston North.

Mark Bell-Booth also announced the establishment of the Waste Plaza, a large resource recovery centre in the city, in 2004/2005 which will help to establish the city as a leader in resource recovery.



L to R: Mark Bell-Booth, Warren Snow, Jonathon Hannon, Rao Bhamidimarri and Julie Dickinson

One course for managers of resource recovery initiatives has already been developed and run by John Ransley and Josie Uren of Innovative Waste Kaikoura (IWK). A new training room was built with support from Zero Waste New Zealand

Trust and was recently opened by the Hon. Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment.

This course will be repeated in the new year. For more information please contact Jill Norman at jill@zerowaste.co.nz.

More information on the development of the Zero Waste Academy and courses will feature in the Zero Waste Update in the new year.



Marian Hobbs opening the new Zero Waste Academy training room with Josie Uren and John Ransley from IWK.

Zero Waste Community Enterprise Network

ZWCEN recently held its second meeting to discuss the formation of this new community group network. A purpose, vision, mission statement and structure for the network were developed. The purposes of the ZWCEN are to provide a collective representative voice for the sector, to establish and foster partnerships between both the private and public sectors and ZWCEN. The vision is 'sustainable economic development of communities', and the mission statement is to 'foster the growth of the community enterprise and resource recovery sector to ensure a stronger voice for communities'. The board of ZWCEN will initially be comprised of a representative from each of the following groups: CBEC, IWK, Clean Stream Waiheke, Wastebusters Trust Canterbury and Xtreme Waste. ZWCEN will exist under the umbrella of the Zero Waste NZ Trust

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Best wishes from us all at the Zero Waste office for a great Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2003.

We will be closed for the Christmas break from 24 December until 13 January.

Have a good rest!

ZWCEN continued from page 1. for the first year. Key objectives over the next year include regular meetings of ZWCEN, a brief economic study of ZWCEN members, development of a quarterly recovered resources market update, a ZWCEN hui in mid 2003 and development of a positive relationship with the Ministry for the Environment to assist with the waste minimisation goals of the New Zealand Waste Strategy. Gary Kelk has been nominated as the Coordinator of the group. For more information, contact Lu at lucy@zerowaste.co.nz

Ministry for the Environment

Waste Levy Report

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has completed a discussion paper on waste levies. The Government is proposing to release the paper early in the new year. Submissions will be invited and it is expected that the MfE will also provide an opportunity for direct discussions with groups during February on the issues raised in the paper. We will keep you informed.

National Waste Campaign

Following on from the release of the New Zealand Waste Strategy a workshop was held in September by a number of groups from the waste community to develop a national waste campaign pilot. Over the last few months there has been an opportunity for individuals to comment on ideas from the national advertising campaign. The creative concepts have now been developed and approved and will be posted onto Wasteline, a new section on the MfE website (www.mfe.govt.nz). TV ads will run in April and May, focusing on a 'reduce your rubbish theme'. This will be supported by an 0800 number, a website and a PR campaign.

Community News

Ashburton's Recycled Beach

Wastebusters Trust Canterbury has devised a project that will see tonnes of finely crushed and polished recycled glass delivered to Lake Hood (a man-made lake) in Ashburton to create a beautiful crystal beach. An Australian scul-

tor will lead a free sand sculpting workshop at the AquaFest celebration (on January 25th) where people of all ages can help create sand sculptures. For more information contact Wastebusters on 03 308 9998 or email mcwastebusters@clear.net.nz.

Wanaka Wastebusters and Central Otago Wastebusters

are to be presented with an environmental award on 19 December by Central Otago District Council in recognition of their contribution to waste reduction in the area.

Recycling Whaingaroa

Not only is Xtreme Waste's Annual Report the easiest annual report to understand but it is also the most fun.

Instead of listing all the challenges and successes faced by the team they decided to share the tricky business of waste minimisation and recycling by building them into a board game. Play it and you will see exactly what they have to deal with on a daily basis.



Front cover of annual report

Raglan based Xtreme Waste successes for 2001-02 includes injecting more than \$225,000 into the local community through wages, contracts and spending in local shops. They also show comparative figures of waste in Raglan and the rest of the Waikato District. Houses in the rest of the Waikato District Council area produce around 4.5 times as much waste compared to those in Raglan.

For more information contact Rick Thorpe at lizrick@raglan.net.nz.

Computer Access NZ Trust CANZ is dedicated to recycling business computers for schools and the community. It was set up in early 1999 as an initiative of 2020 Communications

Trust and is supported by the Ministry for Education. The Trust uses accredited computer recycling companies who carry the CANZ quality brand.

Cast-off computers can be donated to the CANZ accredited recycling programme. The refurbished and upgraded PC's are sold at low prices to schools, community groups and those on low incomes. They run modern, fully licensed software, access the internet and connect to local area networks.

For more information on this programme go to www.canz.org.nz.

Molten Media Community Trust

Canterbury's computer recycler, is this year's joint winner of the Landcare Research Special Award for Sustainable Management of Land Resources. The award was given in recognition of their effectiveness in recycling redundant computers and operating as an environmentally, socially and economically responsible business.

Trash Palace a smash hit!

Trash Palace resource recovery centre, a partnership project between Mana Community Enterprises and Porirua City Council was officially opened at the end of November.

The Palace provides locals with a place to drop off reusable items and to purchase other people's discards. Alison Lewin of Mana Community Enterprises has already received much positive feedback about the building from the public. The Palace was designed by eco-architects Melling Morse and constructed mostly from salvaged or environmentally friendly building materials.

While the building is not 100% completed they are open for business. Plans for the Palace include an educational workshop space, a cafe and a composting toilet.

For more information contact Alison Lewin on 04 237 6440 or wwise@xtra.co.nz.



Stunning views from the new Trash Palace

Zero Waste Council News in Brief

Rodney District Council

Julie Harrison, formally Slash Trash Coordinator for Manukau, has recently taken over the role of Zero Waste Coordinator at Rodney DC from Sheryl Mai. Sheryl has now shifted her energy to Whangarei where she has taken on the job as Slash Trash Education Officer for CBEC.

North Shore City Council, together with the Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ) and the Recycling Operators of New Zealand (RONZ), is involved in setting up a programme for construction materials recovery. The new project called BusinessCare Construction looks at working closely with up to four construction developments in North Shore City and assisting those building sites to separate waste materials to ultimately reduce the amount of recovered resources, such as waste wood, going to landfill or cleanfill. Council has had a very busy and successful year in terms of waste reduction programmes and is working on a variety of projects with businesses, schools and the wider community, towards achieving zero waste. For more information contact Kevin Crutchley at crutchleyk@NthShore.govt.nz

Plastic Bag Update

Countries in the third world are leading a resistance movement against the use of plastic bags due to the phenomenal environmental problems they create - killing marine life, spreading air pollution through incineration and clogging drainage systems. Bhutan and Bangladesh have banned them outright and Taiwan is soon to follow although their ban has a loophole allowing plastic bags to be used for takeout food. So far, Ireland is the only country in the West to have taken legislative action. However, in the Antipodes, Australia is beginning to stir.

Australia

The Australian Minister for the Environment, Dr David Kemp, has welcomed progress being made to develop a national response to plastic bag waste. Working

groups are investigating the issue and a series of reports have been presented to them. These reports range from work on a national retailers code of practice for carrier bags, costs and benefits associated with the use of alternative bags, examination of the impacts of degradable bags on the environment, identification of all levy and policy options (and their costs and benefits), as well as recycling issues surrounding plastic bags. The National Covenant Council will be presenting a package of recommendations to government in December 2002.

New Zealand - 'Say No to Plastic Bags'

As part of the national waste campaign to reduce household waste, the Ministry for the Environment is encouraging the reduction in use of plastic bags. Aside from this, local grassroot campaigns are raising awareness of the plastic bag issue within their own communities.

Wanaka Wastebusters recently held a week long campaign, 'Operation Bag It', to encourage people to take their own reusable bags to the supermarket when they shop. Wastebusters currently collect supermarket bags at the recycling centre but due to limited markets for this material they continue mostly as a community service. Wastebusters bought 130 jute bags through Trade Aid to sell outside the supermarket and through the local fruit and veg store. With minimal publicity and a great story from the local newspaper, the community responded well. Supportive shoppers loved the idea so much that half the bags were sold outside the supermarket within two hours (at \$4 each). For more information contact Maree Horlor at wastebusters@actrix.co.nz.

Christchurch Update

20,000 hessian bags are being provided by Trade Aid for a trial run in supermarkets in Christchurch. They will be available free of charge to shoppers as an alternative to plastic shopping bags. The trial will be sponsored by Christchurch City Council, Trade Aid and Foodstuffs. Christchurch City Council has also written a report about waste minimisation for the Christchurch supermarkets. For more information on this campaign, contact Annelies Pikelharing at anneliesp@xtra.co.nz.

Plastic bag recycling in Boulder, Colorado, USA.....

Eco-cycle, a community based recycling group, run by Eric Lombardi, has long struggled with the notion of accepting plastic bags because of the many associated contamination issues. Whilst encouraging reuse above recycling, the group now accept clean bags for reprocessing into plastic lumber. This alternative to wood decking is made from recycled plastic bags, stretch wrap from businesses and wood waste such as wood chips, shavings and sawdust. For more information go to www.ecocycle.org.

Hooked on Rubbish!



British textile artist, Eyv Saunders, recently spent 10 days in New Zealand, starting with the opening of the *Reclaimed* Exhibition, which was supported by the British Council and Zero Waste New Zealand Trust. Eyv's talent lies in fashioning quirky but practical items from everyday items of household rubbish including colourful plastic bags and bin liners. She uses traditional hand-hooking methods to weave wonders such as handbags, bathmats and rugs. Eyv spent her time weaving with the Waitakere Pacifica group as well as leading workshops for children and adults.

Her work is on display alongside other British designers who make art out of rubbish in *Reclaimed: Recycling in Contemporary British Craft and Design*. *Reclaimed* is currently on display at the Auckland Museum until 21 January 2003. It is touring around New Zealand until May 2003. Go to www.junktogems.org.nz for more details.

EMAIL YOUR NEWS
AND VIEWS TO

lucy@zerowaste.co.nz

Resources

◆ www.swapitbathnes.org - 'Why bin it when you can swap it? Exchange your unwanted items - free!'

An internet swap site set up in the UK by a partnership between Zero Waste council, Bath & North East Somerset, and a not-for-profit organisation promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

◆ **Environment Canterbury** has produced a new interactive web-based resource for kids exploring a variety of waste topics. Go to www.ecan.govt.nz/Waste/waste-wastenotwantnot.html.

◆ The **Deluxe Recycling India Company** manufactures recycled chipboard from production waste and used empty cartons of Tetra Pak. The chipboard can be used for all kinds of furniture, building and construction material, flooring, ceilings and a wide range of accessories. Go to www.ecolinkindia.com.

◆ www.wasteonline.org.uk - a brilliant and comprehensive new website providing information and reports on a large variety of waste issues. Information is collected from many UK and European sources in an easily accessible and searchable format. The website has been developed by a UK partnership between Waste Watch, the Chartered Institute of Waste Management and the National Waste Awareness Initiative.

◆ www.remarkable.co.uk - UK company, Remarkable, takes everyday waste products and replaces them with more eco-efficient equivalents, made out of recyclable items, such as polystyrene vending cups, rubber tyres and plastic food and drinks containers. Their flagship product is The Remarkable Recycled Pencil, made from one vending cup!

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International news

UK

Landfill Tax set to rise

The UK Chancellor has announced that the Landfill Tax (levy) will rise by £3 per tonne each year from 2005-6. The tax is currently at £13 per tonne (equivalent to \$40NZ). The Chancellor has said that the medium to long term aim is for the Landfill Tax to reach £35 per tonne.

Government's Strategy Unit report

The UK Prime Minister's Strategy Unit has just released a report on waste management in the UK. The report, titled 'Waste Not, Want Not - a strategy for tackling the waste problem in England', highlights the economic as well as the environmental benefits of acting now: waste volume will double by 2020 and disposal costs will increase by £1.6bn per year, unless action is taken. The document contains a foreword by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who comments that the strategy must contain reformed incentives and regulations to work effectively. Key points in the strategy include creating a robust and long term economic and regulatory framework (which should include significant increases in landfill tax and incentives for households to reduce and recycle waste), investing in recycling infrastructure and making additional funding available to ensure the overall aim is realised.

To view a copy of the report go to www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/innovation/2002/waste/downloads/report.pdf. (The report is large at 150+ pages - 1.9MB)

Did you know the UK produces enough waste in one hour to fill the Albert Hall.

USA

California - Hewlett Packard has announced that it will support state legislation requiring PC manufacturers to bear the cost of computer disposal. If adopted, such a law could pave the way for federal regulations on computer recycling and prevent hazardous

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material from being dumped in landfills or exported to developing countries such as China.

Nationally, throughout the USA, delicate negotiations between government, industry and environmental interests in electronics recycling may soon lead to an agreement on a nationwide recovery system for obsolete computers, monitors and televisions. A recommendation will be delivered to a larger alliance of interests in the new year as part of the National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative. (Source SilicaValley.com)

Nappy Recycling

The city of Santa Clarita, California, has launched the nation's first nappy recycling programme, which will turn the plastic from soiled nappies into building materials and other products. A pilot programme will involve 200- 500 residents who will place the used nappies in special containers to be picked up on the kerbside. The primary components of the nappies will be recycled in a process developed by Knowaste LLC. The recycled plastic can be used in the production of plastic wood, roof shingles and vinyl wood siding. (Source Green Yes Listserve.)

Seeking Employment

Emma Brunton is currently studying for a Master of Commerce degree in Environmental Economics at The University of New South Wales, Sydney. She is seeking employment from 4th December 2002 until 28 February 2003, looking to link a major Masters project with a job in the field. This is an academic project and would bear no cost to the employer. If you can help Emma please email emma.brunton12@hotmail.com.

And Finally.....

Tired of hearing about tyre mountains? Well, here's an option for reuse ...

Earthships are made from natural and recycled materials including earth-rammed tyres and aluminium cans. It is a concept rather than a set design and can be adapted for any climate worldwide. It offers people the opportunity to build their own homes and make a conscious decision to live lightly on the earth.

For more information go to www.wascot.org.uk, links, sustainable communities initiative, earthships.