

February 2004, Issue 37

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

Inside this issue

- Page 1....** Zero Waste Trust news
- Page 2....** Community News
- Page 3....** Zero Waste Academy & Council News
- Page 4....** Zero Waste Resources, Jobs, Funding

Zero Waste Display Kits

Wastebusters Trust Canterbury have put together an excellent educational tool for zero waste presentations to schools, businesses and communities.



The Zero Waste display kits contain:

- Samples of recycled products largely made in New Zealand
- Contact details and fact sheets regarding manufacturers of recycled products & composting solutions
- A number of useful publications
- Presentation notes for using the Zero Waste display kit

Cost: \$85 + GST (in cardboard box), \$95 + GST (in kerbside recycling bin)
 For more information phone 03 308 9998 or email mcwastebusters@clear.net.nz.

Zero Waste NZ Trust

2004 is shaping up to be a busy and productive year for the Zero Waste Trust.

Zero Waste Bus Tour

We are continuing to consolidate our communication campaign with Councils particularly throughout the South Island. The big drive in 1999 to encourage Councils to adopt Zero Waste resulted in just under 50% of New Zealand's local authorities engaging in some forward thinking waste minimisation and recycling practices. More recently in 2003, Marlborough, Waimakariri and Queenstown-Lakes District Councils have moved in this direction. The South Island is already home to some exemplary Council and community initiatives and there are only six Councils who have not yet adopted Zero Waste.

With support from the MfE we are organising a bus tour from March 22-26 for South Island Councillors to visit successful and innovative waste minimisation and recycling initiatives around the South Island. The purpose of the tour is to demonstrate the waste reduction possibilities that exist for Councils - not only will these examples highlight how targets set in the National Waste Strategy can be achieved but it also shows how Zero Waste is a vital component in preserving our Clean & Green Image and therefore protecting the tourism industry of New Zealand.

The tour will take in a number of unique resource recovery operations, including Innovative Waste Kaikoura who have developed a 'landbanking' system for residual waste, Wastebusters Trust Canterbury's kerbside recycling collection methods, a large scale worm farm in Alexandra and Christchurch's Recovered Materials Foundation methods for reusing and reprocessing the number one problem material in the South Island- glass.

Councillors interested in joining us on the bus tour please contact either Lindsey or Lu from the Zero Waste Office on 09 486 0734. More detailed information about the trip is available from the office or website.

Community Grants programme

Last year **Vodafone** launched a nationwide mobile phone recycling programme. The Zero Waste network has played a huge part in promoting this scheme and as a result 23,662 items have been recycled (this includes phones, batteries and chargers). This figure equals the prevention of 1.9 tonnes of waste being sent to landfill. It also means great news for our grants programme- for the first time in a year we now have a limited amount of money available (from the Vodafone Foundation) to community groups to apply for capital items. For more information about applying for grants please contact Lindsey du Preez on 09 486 0734 or email lindsey@zerowaste.co.nz.

Board of Trustees

Progress is being made with expanding the number of Zero Waste Trustees. Applications will be assessed shortly by an independent panel and announced in March.

The University of Auckland's School of Engineering

is working with the Zero Waste Trust to help find technological and engineering solutions for community groups working in resource recovery. This is an exciting project which we hope will have wide ramifications for the reuse of secondary materials throughout New Zealand. Two senior students from the School are taking on a composite materials project. Visits to Clean Stream Waiheke are being arranged to gain a better idea of how a community resource recovery operation works and further projects for a range of students will be discussed at a later date for programme administrators.

Other News

It's great to see awareness progressing towards the reduction in the use of disposable plastic bags. A number of reusable bags are entering the market; the Green Bag Foundation is distributing Green Bags, particularly to community groups and some major supermarkets are now stocking a variety of bags including Green Bags and cloth bags.

Community News

WasteBusters Trust Canterbury

WasteBusters Trust Canterbury in Ashburton has taken another step forward in capturing even more of the local community's waste stream.

On 01-01-04 WasteBusters Trust took over the composting contract and the management of the construction and demolition materials previously all destined for cleanfill at the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park.

The District Council had been experiencing problems last year with a growing stockpile of compost that it was unable to sell due to contamination from lawnclippings sprayed with Versatill and plastic and other rubbish hidden in the greenwaste at the unsupervised drop-off point. WasteBusters trained staff will now oversee the drop off of all materials to ensure that lawnclippings are kept separate and quality control is maintained. This will also provide an additional educational opportunity to talk to people about composting and how important it is to return these materials to the earth as we work towards Zero Waste.

The Trust not only hopes to produce a range of composts (including certified organic) but will also embark on a pioneering venture to recycle plant material such as bedding plants, shrubs and trees which could be replanted if material was recovered within 24 hours of being dumped. Construction & demolition materials will be sorted and markets found for building materials to minimise volumes sent to cleanfill.

For more information please contact WasteBusters on 03 308 9998, email mcwastebusters@clear.net.nz or go to www.wastebusters.orcon.net.nz

Oamaru opens recycling gates

Congratulations to the Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust who opened the gates to a new resource recovery park in Oamaru at the beginning of January.

The Trust was formed in July 2001 by a group of local people concerned about waste going to landfill in the area. Since then they have secured funding and support from Council and other agencies to enable the development of this facility.

Materials accepted include plastics 1 & 2, cardboard, aluminium and steel cans and any reuseable items. The Park is open every Sunday but opening hours will increase over time. For more information please contact Marion Shore on 03 434 0999 or email info@resource-waitaki.org.

These gates were made by local artists using recycled materials to convey the recycling message.



The RetroShed

The Recovered Materials Foundation in Christchurch has opened a second reuse shed in the city on Montreal St. The RetroShed will run in conjunction with the SuperShed which has been operating for three years. This facility employs 37 people and turns over nearly \$1million per year. The RetroShed will focus on antique and collectable material that would otherwise go to landfill. It is located next to a salvage yard for construction and demolition waste, offering people a one-stop shop for a wide range of recycled materials. For more information contact Sarah Gordon, 03 348 0595 or email SGordon@rmfchch.co.nz.

Wonder Worm-an

Louise de Varga, of Composting for Shore based on the North Shore of Auckland, has transformed the room under her house into a composting classroom. She is helping North Shore City Council deliver their Zero Waste strategy through teaching compost making and worm farming to local residents.

Louise plays a big part in helping to educate residents of the North Shore about how they can reduce waste going to landfill while creating a resource to be used in their garden. She runs two- hour courses two to three times a month and every Sunday afternoon opens up her garden to people interested in seeing compost and worm bin demonstrations and her garden which has been planted with native trees.

Go to www.compostingforshore.co.nz to see more details about this inspirational urban community composting project.



Xtreme Waste

As a follow on to last year's fun and funky annual report (the fold out paper board game) Xtreme Waste is this year communicating Raglan's Zero Waste project through a 'newspaper' format.

The paper is full of colour, fun stories and of course the vital statistics. While there has been an overall increase in waste to landfill due to a building boom (and therefore increase in construction and demolition waste) Xtreme Waste are continuing to divert 65% by loose volume. For more information and copies of the annual report, please contact Susa Kupa on 07 825 6503 or susa@xtremewaste.org.nz

Council News

Green Globe 21

Green Globe 21 is holding its first Sustainable Tourism Conference in Kaikoura from March 3-5, 2004. This is an excellent opportunity for those interested in or involved in sustainable tourism to gain more understanding of achieving sustainable tourism and the GREEN GLOBE 21 process.

Engage in issues such as success stories from communities, operators and others in the sustainable tourism industry, listen to the lessons learned and barriers faced. On a more technical note, hear how your organisation or community can become sustainable with sessions from organisations providing practical solutions to environmental problems. The aim is to establish a worldwide sustainable tourism network. For more information please contact Ian Challenger, Kaikoura District Council, on 03 319 5026 or email kdc@kaikoura.govt.nz.

Palmerston North City Council

Polystyrene and timber recycling are high on the agenda for Palmerston North City Council. Council has developed several joint ventures with community groups to help recover waste from landfill. The Mash Trust collects polystyrene packaging from businesses such as whiteware

dealers. This material is then sent to a local industry which processes it into pods for underfloor insulation in buildings. The Salvation Army collects wood that would otherwise go to landfill and employs a cabinet-maker to produce furniture from re-usable wood. Otherwise it is chopped up for firewood. For more details contact Alan Fielding on 06 356 8199 or email alan.fielding@pncc.govt.nz

Hastings District Council

The first hazmobile collection for the Hastings District took place last November. Nearly 7000 litres of paint and oil were collected. Of that, 2875 litres of paint were recycled to produce Enviropaints which are sold through the Warehouse (this equates to 575 litre paint pots being returned to the shelves). 2005 litres of contaminated oil and 2050 litres of used engine oil were collected. Waste oil and petrol is distilled or used as a fuel source for a large cement kiln while contaminated oil is distilled and separated into materials ranging from marine fuel to bitumen. Over 80% of each of the 140 car batteries collected are sent to Christchurch where the acid is recovered, plastic casing smashed and recycled and about 6kg of lead per battery resmelted.

For more information contact Dominic Salmon, Waste Minimisation Officer, on 06 878 0500 or email dominics@hdc.govt.nz



2003 was an incredibly busy first year for the Zero Waste Academy. As Coordinator, Jonathon Hannon has put a lot of energy into ensuring that the Zero Waste network, as well as other key stakeholders in the wider waste minimisation industry will continue to be consulted as the Academy develops.

With the Academy now a permanent feature within Massey University and the Palmerston North Community we can look forward to developing the strategic vision. The scope for building an educational establishment which meets the needs of a wide range of people involved in delivering the New Zealand Waste Strategy and helping New Zealand ultimately achieve Zero Waste is enormous yet exciting and progress is being made.

The first Zero Waste Academy (ZWA) board meeting this year has been set aside for a review and relationship building process between the ZWA board members, the two established training providers, (Innovative Waste Kaikoura and WasteBusters) and Julie Dickinson, who was instrumental in the early development of the Academy. We believe it is important to evaluate progress to date in-line with the original vision.

The ZWA will be convening a Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) Zero Waste forum in early March. An open invitation is extended to all Zero Waste enthusiasts residing in the region. There will be a great line up of speakers covering a range of Zero Waste related topics. The aim is to support the PNCC and the local community

as they interact over this aspect of the City's environmental planning.

It appears that positive moves are underway towards the confirmation of Exito as the ITO for the whole Zero Waste industry. A Sector Advisory Group (SAG) will be formed which will begin the task of developing unit standards and qualifications relevant to Zero Waste. These will have NZQA accreditation and will be registered upon the National Qualifications Framework.

The inaugural meeting of the Academic Advisory and Community / Industry Liaison Group is envisaged for early this year. This group will perform a vital function in the communication and planning of the detailed training, qualification and research needs of Zero Waste as a whole.

The internal Zero Waste Academy Advisory Group (ZWAAG) recently completed an examination of Massey University's entire programme and has identified areas of study where Zero Waste can potentially be incorporated. The next stage is to communicate directly with course controllers and to plan and prioritise how this development can take place.

And last but by no means least, a website is being developed and aims to be a user friendly and interesting venue for people wanting to find out more about the Zero Waste Academy.

The New Year is shaping up to be busy and very exciting. It is great to have the enthusiasm and energy of so many people positively focused on these and other key initiatives relating to the professional development of those committed to Zero Waste.

For more information contact Jonathon on jonathon@zerowasteacademy.ac.nz or call 06 350 5016.

Zero Waste Resources

Job Vacancies

Cleanstream Waiheke is currently seeking a responsible, practical person to play an important role in the management team of the organisation.

This person will be responsible for operation and maintenance of vehicles (light trucks) and site equipment (forklift and loader), green waste systems and constantly improving our operational systems.

Suit person with practical background and some mechanical and operational skills. Essential that applicant enjoys working as part of a team.

For more information go to <http://www.netcheck.co.nz/general/extended.asp?jobID=126120>.

WasteMINZ is looking for a full time Administration Officer with the following administrative skills:

- Secretarial and basic accounts knowledge along with computer experience in Word, Excel, and Outlook and possibly databases

- A high level of oral and written communication skills

- Shorthand would be an advantage for minute-taking

- Good interactive skills as you will be dealing with members from local government and the private sector

- Good organization and willingness to learn

- A good sense of humour

A copy of the job description and more information is available on request.

Please email your cv to carole@wasteminz.org.nz or post to: Executive Officer, WasteMINZ, PO Box 31580, Milford Auckland

The **Ministry for the Environment** has 12 full time vacancies open in the Corporate & Community Group, Community Relations, Sustainable Industry Group and Working with Local Government Group. All positions are based in Wellington.

All applications must be received by February 13th.

For more information go to <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/about/jobs/bulk-vacancies/index.html>

Funding

The **Zero Waste Trust's** grants programme now has a limited amount of money available to fund capital items. This is in addition to the MfE money recently administered. We are keen to fund community projects where there will be a visible benefit to the wider community.

For more information please contact Lindsey du Preez on 09 486 0734.

The **Community Employment Group** is liaising with Microsoft about a new grants scheme - Unlimited Potential. This is a global initiative that focuses on providing technology skills to underserved young people and adults through community-based technology learning centres (CTLC's). Non-profit and non-governmental organisations that hold charitable status, school-based CTLC's and government funded and operated CTLC's are eligible to apply.

Microsoft does not have an on the ground coordinator for this project at present, so for further information please contact Jan Symington from the CEG on 04 915 4294.

Auckland Regional Council's Environmental Initiative Fund is targeted at groups and individuals undertaking not-for-profit practical environmental projects in the Auckland region. Applicants can apply for up to \$5000 and the closing date is February 26th.

Application packs and guidelines are available from the ARC, phone 09 366 2000 or go to www.arc.govt.nz

RONZ 'Tools & Resources' Project

RONZ is developing a national database (for the RONZ website) and accompanying library which will identify tools & resources that are used by recycling and waste minimisation practitioners.

Some examples include:

- Schools & public education programmes & resource material

- Business waste minimisation material, resources & guidelines

- Reports, instructional manuals, promotional material and best practice guidelines.

If you have any materials that would be suitable to include in the database or library, please either contact Karuna Douglas (karuna@ronz.org.nz or 09 488 9449) or post your material to: Tools & Resources Project, RONZ, PO Box 33 183, Takapuna, Auckland

New Report

'See Change: Learning & Education for Sustainability' is the latest report from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

The report aims to raise the level of debate about education for sustainability and stimulate effective action so that New Zealanders can learn to live in sustainable ways.

The report contains findings such as:

- 86% of New Zealanders now live in urban centres (and are therefore isolated from the impacts their actions have on the environment).

- Over the past 20 years the amount of solid waste produced in the Auckland area has grown six times faster than the rate of population increase.

- New Zealand's ecological footprint is 25% larger than that of people living in other developed countries such as Germany, the UK and Japan.

One chapter of the report focuses on waste, and emphasises how education is needed in order to address the underlying causes and not just deal with their symptoms. It raises questions about consumption and the growth of the consumer society, making the point that New Zealand's economic system (and emphasis on economic growth) has become based on high levels of material consumption. To address these issues and to reduce the size of New Zealand's ecological footprint it will be necessary to redesign many of our current social and economic systems.

This chapter concludes that if consumers have learnt how to consume through methods such as intense media advertising campaigns then surely they can also learn to resolve unsustainable practices and develop more sustainable ways of living.

Lastly, the final chapter outlines areas for focus and action such as quality of life issues, learning across society, social marketing efforts and being responsive to cultural diversity. For example, Central Government is signed up to a number of international agreements on sustainable development, the Local Government Act 2002 provides a useful opportunity to launch a new era of education for sustainability in local government and the TVNZ Charter of 2003 requires TVNZ to stimulate critical thinking and to feature programmes about the New Zealand environment.

The report can be downloaded from www.pce.govt.nz and printed copies are available from Nick Potter, 04 495 8351.

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