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

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### National Strategy

The National Waste Minimisation Strategy will be officially launched on the 1st of March by Minister for the Environment, Marian Hobbs, and Basil Morrison, the President of Local Government New Zealand. Prior to the launch, the Ministry for the Environment will be holding a series of pre-launch briefings for Local Government and key industry groups. For more information on these, contact Paddy Gresham on 04 917 7400 or [paddy.gresham@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:paddy.gresham@mfe.govt.nz)

through his business, Envision New Zealand Ltd and Stephen through the Tindall Foundation. Governance of the Trust is now in the very capable hands of Don Riesterer - former Mayor of Opotiki District Council, Mike Morris - Managing Director of Gamma Corporation and Guy Salmon - Director of the Ecologic Foundation. Don, Mike and Guy came on board as Trustees in 2001, bringing with them a wealth of experience in the local government, environmental and business sectors – and a determination to see Zero Waste established in New Zealand. We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

### Changes at Zero Waste New Zealand Trust

#### Bon Voyage to Sunshine

2002 starts off with a farewell to Sunshine Yates, our Network Coordinator, who leaves at the end of January. For two years Sunshine has done a fantastic job of looking after the Zero Waste website, compiling the Update and keeping the network up to date with news and information. She leaves us to sail the Pacific for a year - starting off in the Bahamas. Sunshine will be very much missed at the Zero Waste office - and by the whole Zero Waste Network. We know you'll join with us in wishing her well on her exciting journey. We will be filling Sunshine's role but in the meantime please send enquiries to [mailbox@zerowaste.co.nz](mailto:mailbox@zerowaste.co.nz)

#### Co-founders Step Down

After five years' service on the Board, co-founders Warren Snow and Stephen Tindall are stepping down as Trustees of Zero Waste New Zealand. Both will continue supporting Zero Waste, Warren

### Zero Hero

Zero Hero of the month, Ro Piekarski, from the Golden Bay Environment Centre.



"Ro Piekarski leads by example by living a permaculture lifestyle and by being a catalyst for raising community awareness to innovative Zero Waste opportunities. His enthusiasm is infectious, inspiring people with a range of skills to become involved in projects such as Papercrete. Ro is tenacious in research, funding and advocacy." (From Joe Bell)

### Zero Waste Website

[www.zerowaste.co.nz](http://www.zerowaste.co.nz)

- New Vacancies on site under "Latest News and Events"/ "Employment"
- Don't forget to use the Zero Waste Bulletin Board if you have questions or information for the network

New logo developed for the Porirua City's Zero Waste campaign.



## Zero Waste Council Profile: Waimate District

Waimate District Council adopted a target of Zero Waste by 2015 in August 2001, joining eight other Canterbury Councils in their journey towards Zero Waste.

Waste reduction initiatives began the preceding year however, with the separation and mulching of greenwaste at the transfer station. A drop-off centre was established in 2000, for paper, cardboard and aluminium cans. These two initiatives saw waste volumes reduce from up to 3,500 tonnes a year to 2,327 tonnes. At the same time as adopting a Zero Waste target, a community group (Whitehorse Recovery) was established to further recycling in Waimate, in consultation with Council. In November 2001 the construction of a Resource Recovery Park was begun on the transfer station site and in December a drop-off centre was established by the Ratepayers' Association, with support from Council.

So far recovery at the Resource Recovery Park is limited to greenwaste, paper, cardboard and scrap metal, including cars and appliances. However it is intended that Whitehorse Recovery will utilise this site for processing and storage of materials once they are operational. Completion is expected in February 2002.

The Resource Recovery Park design was undertaken by Montgomery Watson Harza. Council staff subsequently invited Russ Loudon, a Zero Waste Advisor, to comment on the design. Russ endorsed the proposed traffic flow design: firstly a recycling area (2250 sq.m), then a greenwaste area (1800 sq.m) leaving residual disposal last, with recirculation allowable. Other features include a new Portacom kiosk building, sealed driveways and litter control as well as perimeter fencing. For more information contact Brian Purcell at [brian@waimatedc.govt.nz](mailto:brian@waimatedc.govt.nz)

## Palmers Recycle Pots and Punnets

In October 2001, Palmers Garden Centres launched a new recycling scheme - the first of its kind in New Zealand. Forty-two purpose built recycling bins were installed in gardening centres around the North Island to collect used plastic punnets and plant pots.

Palmers planters have always been manufactured from recycled plastic for economic reasons. However, difficulties were encountered sourcing enough of the material for their processing plant. To solve this problem Palmers decided to start collecting used planters from their customers. The planters are collected instore and trucked to Mt Wellington Nurseries where they are chipped and reprocessed into new punnets - true closed loop recycling.

Since the project was launched, several hundred thousand pot and punnets have been collected. Paul Nielsen, Category Manager for Palmers/ Miter10, said that the initiative was motivated not only by the need to collect the plastic but also to provide the extra service to customers and to anticipate any future recycling regulations that may come into existence.

For further information contact Paul Nielsen on [pauln@mitre10.co.nz](mailto:pauln@mitre10.co.nz) or 09 441 6741.



*Palmers Inhouse Recycling*

## New RONZ Chairperson

Peter Fredricsen, the Managing Director of Materials Processing Ltd in Hamilton, has recently been appointed as the new Chair of the Recycling Operators of New Zealand. Peter has been involved in recycling for a number of years, running recycling operations throughout the Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

Peter is replacing Melissa Arsenault, who is stepping down after 2 years as Chair. Melissa will now be working in a new position as Marketing and Communications Manager for RONZ.

## Waste Not - Want Not

Rejuvenate the old  
reduce what we waste  
reuse things again  
recycle making haste  
recover all we can  
reclaim the old dump site  
replant the ravaged land  
and step into the light.

Respect all resources  
look for the best in each  
learn from those who care  
with knowledge to share and teach  
regard the rubbish stream  
as products to reuse  
for a 'Waste Free New Zealand'  
is the right road to choose.

Have a compost bin  
to handle kitchen scraps  
farm earthworms as well  
- they're helpful little chaps  
separate glass and plastics  
and metal things as well  
for 'trash' is just a mindset  
which holds us in its spell.

Go gentle on the earth  
tread softly as we walk  
add action to the words  
instead of empty talk  
wisdom is the answer  
to the mountain facing us  
by working in with nature  
resolutely without fuss.

Joe Bell, 2001

## BusinessCare Toolkit for Change

A "Toolkit for Change" was launched by BusinessCare



Trust in October 2001. This Toolkit is designed to assist those who are working with local businesses in the areas of business environmental sustainability and cleaner production.

Following pilot testing of the Toolkit for Change, participants agreed that a concurrent process of learning and using the Toolkit needed to be delivered over a six-month period. A mix of distance-learning, practical learning and workshops will enable the Toolkit to meet the learning and implementation needs of each individual participant.

An initial two-day workshop will be held in conjunction with the Auckland Regional Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2002. The remaining workshops will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2002.

For information on these workshops, contact Pamela George at BusinessCare National Office on 04 801 9162 or [pamelag@businesscare.org.nz](mailto:pamelag@businesscare.org.nz)

## Wood Wastes 2002 - Residues to Revenues

A new conference has been designed for wood waste producers and wood waste users. The Forest Industry Engineering Association is running **Wood Wastes 2002 – Residues to Revenues** on the 2-3 May in Auckland and the 29 April in Melbourne. This conference will bring together wood producers, suppliers of wood residues, waste management organisations, project developers, energy companies, equipment suppliers, investors, Government and environmental agencies and researchers.

For further information, contact Brent Apthorp at the Forestry Industry Engineering Association on 03 471 0313 or email [apthorpb@es.co.nz](mailto:apthorpb@es.co.nz)



## Vacancy Network Coordinator

Auckland based position.

Salary range: \$30,000- \$35,000

### Key Tasks:

- \* Researching Zero Waste best practices and technologies.
- \* Writing reports to assist communities working towards Zero Waste.
- \* Maintaining and updating the Zero Waste website
- \* Writing and collating articles for the Zero Waste Update
- \* Providing information and networking assistance to community organisations, councils, businesses, schools and international enquirers
- \* Assisting the processing of funding applications.

If interested please send your CV to Julie Dickinson, ([julie@zerowaste.co.nz](mailto:julie@zerowaste.co.nz)) by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## The Paper Mill

The Papermill was first established in 1989 as a project designed to lift the self-esteem of intellectually disabled people, by training them to make paper. Papermill paper is made by recycling used paper and cloth (including old tea towels and hospital gowns) to make a basic mulch, to which flowers, herbs and even noxious weeds are added for effect. The Papermill has now developed into a tourist attraction, providing tours of its facilities and the opportunity to experiment with papermaking. Papermill products are also available for purchase, and can be made to order. Contact the Papermill, State Highway 1, South Whangarei, Northland, phone 09 438 2652.



Papermill workers

## Beyond Recycling: Zero Waste

A one-day Zero Waste conference is being held in the UK on the 16th February, 2002.



The Conference is being

organised by Zero Waste UK, and aims to broaden the UK's perspective on how much can be achieved with forethought and planning towards a Zero Waste policy.

Zero Waste specialists speaking at the conference include:

**Daniel Knapp, Ph.D.** President and Founder, Urban Ore, Inc. and Urban Ore Development Associates, Berkeley, California.

**Paul Connett.** Prof. Of Chemistry, St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York, Specialist in environmental chemistry and toxicology.

**Bill Sheehan, Ph.D.** Executive Director, GrassRoots Recycling Network, Athens, Georgia, USA. Biological and ecological expert in recycling, composting and sustainable resources.

**Mary Lou Van Deventer.** Managing Director, Urban Ore, Inc., Berkeley, California.

## EERST Wins Environmental Award

During the recent Environment BOP Environmental Awards, which recognise excellence in work contributing to a more sustainable environment, the education category was won by EERST (Environmental Education for resource Sustainability). EERST won the award for their comprehensive waste minimisation education, "Paper for Trees" programme, the installation of composting worm farms in schools and the development of a national zero waste school certificate, which is available on the Zero Waste website

([www.zerowaste.co.nz](http://www.zerowaste.co.nz))

## Resources

### Reducing Dioxins to Air

“An Action Plan for Reducing Discharges of Dioxin to Air” has been released by the Ministry for the Environment, examining dioxin discharge in New Zealand.

The report suggests that dioxin has the potential to cause neurobehavioural, developmental, reproductive and immunotoxic effects as well as cancer. The report states that the largest source of dioxin discharge is from landfill fires (39% of all dioxins emitted to air) followed by domestic fuel combustion (16%) and domestic waste burning (11%). (<http://www.mfe.govt.nz>)

### Birth Defects and Landfills

A new study published in the Lancet, a British Medical Journal, shows a 33% increase in the risk of non-chromosomal anomalies for residents living within 3 km of 21 European hazardous waste landfill sites. For more information, go to [http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9303/full/llan.359.9303.original\\_research.19269.1](http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol359/iss9303/full/llan.359.9303.original_research.19269.1)

You'll need to register to the site on the way in.

### Product Stewardship Institute

The Product Stewardship Institute assists US government agencies in establishing cooperative agreements with industry that reduce the health and environmental impacts from consumer products. The Institute seeks active input from, and cooperates with, environmental groups, business interests, academic institutions, and related organizations to achieve product stewardship goals.

[www.productstewardshipinstitute.org](http://www.productstewardshipinstitute.org)

## Events

### Eco Expo about Zero Waste

The National Eco Expo is to take place during the EcoFest BOP which runs from 9-17 March 2002 in the Bay of Plenty. The National Eco Expo will feature a Zero Waste theme, recycling and new products, and will be held at

Memorial Park in Tauranga on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> of March. Businesses wanting to showcase their environmentally friendly products and services at the Expo can contact event organiser Tony Pill on 07 576 0513 or 025 647 4793.

### CEO of B&Q (UK) Visits NZ

One of the world's most experienced environmental and social senior managers, Dr Alan Knight, will be making three public presentations in March, in Auckland and Christchurch. Dr Knight, Head of Sustainability at B&Q in the UK, and Head of Social Responsibility at the parent company, Kingfisher plc, is responsible for coordinating social and environmental policies across the Kingfisher group of more than twenty companies in fifteen countries.

Under Dr Knight's direction, B&Q was one of the first companies to work with its suppliers on environmental issues and the first retailer to launch a supplier audit programme. B&Q was also among the first, small group of companies to make a commitment to source only certified timber.

To hear him speak in Auckland on March 5th or 6th contact the AEBN Office on 09 817 2622 or [office@aebn.pl.net](mailto:office@aebn.pl.net). To attend the “Let's Cut the Crap” seminar in Christchurch, looking at Zero Waste for retailers, contact the Retail Merchants Association, 03 366 1308, or [helpline@chch.retail.org.nz](mailto:helpline@chch.retail.org.nz)

## International News

### One Stop Timber Shop

The Australian Wilderness Society has launched a website to help Australian architects and builders source quality recycled timber. The “One Stop Timber Shop” provides:

- An updated database of recycled timber supplies, suppliers and products
- A “Timber Shop Classifieds” section
- An information guide for using recycled timbers
- Recycled Timber FAQ's and links to related sites and guides.

Visit the site at

[www.timbershop.wildrness.org](http://www.timbershop.wildrness.org)

### Food Waste Collection a Hit

Over ten of Melbourne's leading businesses are reporting huge successes just six months after the launch of the Central Business District food waste collection.

The programme, launched in April by Melbourne City Council, collects food waste from city eateries, markets, caterers and other green waste producers and ensures that it is composted instead of going to landfill. One restaurant believes that the scheme will help it to reduce its waste to landfill by about 200 tonnes per annum.

*From EcoVoice, the Newsletter of EcoRecycle Victoria.*

### Bangladesh bans polythene bags, promotes jute

Bangladesh has ban production and use of polythene bags from New Year's day 2002 to protect the environment and promote use of jute products.

Polythene shopping bags threatened to choke the flood-prone country's drainage system, with reports of a layer of polythene on the bed of the Buriganga River in Dhaka, the officials said. The ban will shut hundreds of small factories making polythene bags, but hundreds of people held a rally hailing the government ban. “I know only 4,000 people may lose their jobs due to the ban,” Siraj told the rally. “(But) in fact, it will create thousands of jobs in the jute and other sectors to benefit the country's economy as well as the environment.” Jute exports were once Bangladesh's major foreign exchange earner, but the sector has lost out to artificial packaging in recent years.’ Friday, December 28, 2001 By Reuters

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