

Zero Waste Update

Please pass on

January 2003, Issue 30

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

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Welcome to 2003

The start of 2003 has the feel of being a really good year with heaps of confidence in industry as well as the general public (despite the fact there is a threat of imminent war in Iraq).

The changes at Zero Waste New Zealand promise to make 2003 really exciting and the contribution from the eager beavers in the Takapuna Village Cluster (Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, Waste Not, Recovered Materials Enterprise Trust, ZW International Alliance and Envision NZ) and the wider Zero Waste family will be invaluable for the growth of the Zero Waste vision.

I truly hope that Central Government will have the conviction to introduce the promised "Landfill Levy" this year. The resulting message and funding source would allow us to achieve some wonderful things. In the meantime we will keep battling on. If we don't, who will?

Mike Morris, Chair ZWNZ.

Zealand Trust to help establish and coordinate ZWIA's activities, but will continue working on a number of key Zero Waste New Zealand projects in the coming year.



International support for ZWIA has been attracted and this will provide the support base for Warren to con-

-tinue promoting Zero Waste in New Zealand and overseas, alongside his other community development activities. ZWIA is an exciting new initiative that will bring new energy and resources to the Zero Waste movement in New Zealand along with the international network. We'll keep you posted on activities and progress in coming issues of the Zero Waste Update.

Julie leaves her role as Manager of the Trust after three and a half years. The Zero Waste team would like to wish her good luck in this new and challenging role and would also like to thank her for her dedicated effort towards shaping the Zero Waste movement in New Zealand. For more information on ZWIA contact jdickinson@ZWIA.org

Zero Waste goes global

NEWS CLIPPINGS

Please note we have significantly reduced the number of news clippings sent out every month in an attempt to reduce the amount of paper consumed. We also prefer to send as much information out via email as possible. If you would prefer to receive your news clippings as a pdf via email rather than by post, please contact Lu at; lucy@zerowaste.co.nz. Please note, the clippings are usually more than 5 MB in size.

After more than two years of discussion and planning, Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA) has finally been established to help network and support the growing number of Zero Waste campaigns around the world. ZWIA will play a key role in developing international standards and benchmarks to protect the integrity of the Zero Waste 'brand', which is coming under increasing threat from misuse and green washing from various interests - the 'Zero Waste' landfill company in the UK is but one example. There is a real urgency to set internationally agreed standards and keep Zero Waste in the hands of those who really want to achieve Zero Waste - and out of the hands of those intent on maintaining the status quo.

ZWIA is being established in New Zealand under the guidance of Warren Snow, on behalf of Zero Waste International members, including representatives from the UK, USA, Australia, Canada, Egypt, Scandinavia, Taiwan, India and Italy. Eventually ZWIA could be based overseas, but for now the strength of the Zero Waste movement in New Zealand makes it the logical place to start.

At the end of February Julie Dickinson is moving from her role of Manager of Zero Waste New

Zero Waste Academy

Hi, firstly a quick introduction. My name is Jonathon Hannon. I feel enormously privileged to have been appointed as the coordinator of the new Zero Waste Academy.

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Zero Heroes

The combination of Waiheke Island's Waste Resource Trust and the Community Business Environment Centre of Kaitia led to the creation of Clean Stream Waiheke Ltd in 2001 with the aim of reducing the amount of waste shipped off the island to landfill. The community venture won a seven year contract to run the Island's waste services.

While not all of Waiheke Island's Zero Heroes can be mentioned here, their efforts are nonetheless recognised. In the last 10 months a range of innovative waste reduction education projects have been set up on the Island to complement the resource recovery contractors: all are working towards achieving a waste free Waiheke. Glenda Andrew-Neal and Denise Roche joined the Waste Resource Trust (WRT) in March 2002 as Zero Waste education advisors employed to support the resource recovery contractors on the island, Clean Stream Waiheke.

During that time the dynamic duo have set up a number of projects with businesses, householders, the local ferry company and schools on the island.

Over the summer months Waiheke receives a large number of visitors who contribute to a rise in waste volumes. In response, the team are developing as many projects as possible to increase the public's awareness of how they can assist in waste reduction and resource recovery.

A multi-purpose arts and education studio has recently been set up in a community arts and culture information facility called Artworks. The studio provides the Waste Resource Trust with a place to distribute information to the public about their education programme whilst also displaying works of art made from recycled or recovered materials by resident artists on the island.

Currently Clean Stream collects paper, glass, metals and plastics. Tackling the organic component is the next key to further reducing the island's waste. Not only do restaurants now use a cooking oil recycling programme but several are also involved in a trial of composting their food waste using Bokashi and Effective Micro-organisms (EM). This process involves adding a culture of

micro-organisms (used as a compost inoculant) to a mixture of kitchen food scraps and dried bokashi (wheat, bran and sawdust). Twenty households are also taking part in this trial.

Glenda feels that this is an excellent method for Waiheke residents to divert their organic waste - being rodent proof all food scraps, including meat, can be added. If the trial goes well the next stage will be to consider whether to manufacture Bokashi on the island.



A few of the Waiheke Island team from L to R: Rawiri, Kate, Denise, Glenda & Gary

Towards the end of last year Fullers ferry company introduced labelled bins to collect plastic, glass and newspaper. The scheme has been a hit with commuters and there has been a huge reduction in the use of the waste compactor on the wharf.

Glenda has worked with the Island's primary school towards signing up to the Enviro-schools programme. Resource recovery systems are to be established this year, with the main emphasis being on encouraging the children to take responsibility for managing them.

Future projects for the year include a 'junk to funk' fashion extravaganza in May 2003.

Last but not least, the resourceful and hardworking recycling workers of Clean Stream Waiheke collected 100 tonnes of recyclates during December 2002.

Contact 09 372 2915 for more details.

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust is looking for someone to update the Buy it Back Guide database. We need someone with experience of MS Access and who has good communication skills. Would suit student or someone between jobs. Please contact Lu for more details at lucy@zerowaste.co.nz or call 09 486 0738

Guest Editorial

Tony Winter is director of DWELL (designed well being), a new sustainable business that uses an holistic approach to creating healthy life style homes incorporating products and services based on proven models and technology. He writes about Zero Waste and it's connection to design.

Traditionally everything made by man goes through a series of life cycle stages from development and launch to growth, maturity and decline (usually ending up in the ever increasing mountainous waste stream). This is an economic view of a product's evolution based on sales volume and is not compatible with reducing waste, or enhancing our one and only planet earth.

A different approach is the use of Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) and Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) as key tools in the design of all consumables and the built environment. These tools are now being used in countries that are actively addressing the environmental and social impacts of products and services. People are always the integral part of the sustainable solution and have to be accountable for the outcome of any action they take as individuals. So let's take a look at the start of the process to make or build anything, to leverage change.

Designers are involved from the beginning of the process and have an excellent opportunity to influence change by starting with a basic checklist that would include;

Could the product or service be cleaner, more energy efficient, quieter; how reusable or easily repaired is it?; how can it's life be extended through maintenance?; can it be rented, leased or a shared ownership?; how will it be recycled at the end of it's life?; and will it maintain and prolong both environmental and human health?

The ultimate goal must be to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. I hope you will now consider how you will instruct the person that is at the start of any process and that you have considered the above issues because you are the one that is about to start it and control it all - not just the designer. For more information on DWELL contact Tony at dwell@clear.net.nz or 09 521 4340.

This position will eventually be based at Massey University but in the meantime I am spending the next couple of months in Auckland working alongside the Zero Waste New Zealand Trust staff.

It has been great to have been made to feel so welcome and my introduction to the history, culture and personalities of Zero Waste has been fascinating. Even at this early stage I can tell that this role will be enormously demanding. Both in terms of bridging the diverse stakeholder perspectives and fulfilling the mandate of delivering high quality training and capacity building across the spectrum from grass-roots community to academic and business interests.

Reflecting Zero Waste New Zealand Trust's success as an organisation, the Zero Waste paradigm has literally 'exploded upon New Zealand' and rapidly impacted the nations thinking on waste. The 'dream' for the academy is that it will fill the void of information and practical know-how so New Zealanders can actively convert the 'Zero Waste promise' into a new and more positive environmental reality. I am conscious that the academy faces a demanding task and a narrow window of opportunity. The effort required goes way beyond any individual. I have been humbled by the warmth and support of all those people who share the vision for the academy. My role will be to work alongside all these grass-roots experts from their respective sectors and draw the distributed knowledge into a format that exceeds the scrutiny of accrediting organisations.

In finishing I think it is important to acknowledge the role played by the Zero Waste Community Enterprise Network and in particular John Ransley and Josie Uren (Innovative Waste Kaikoura) and Sheryl Stivens (Waste Busters Trust Canterbury) respectively, in bringing the Zero Waste Academy to fruition.

For more information about the Zero Waste Academy contact me at jonathon@zerowasteacademy.ac.nz or phone 09 486 0734.

Training

Resource Recovery Management Training Course

Innovative Waste Kaikoura will hold the second Zero Waste Academy Resource Recovery Management training course from 10th to 15th March 2003 in Kaikoura. This course has been created to develop the skills of workers who have the potential to take on management roles in community recycling operations. For more information on registering, contact jill@zerowaste.co.nz.

Zero Waste Education Training Workshop

To be run by Wastebusters Trust Canterbury in Ashburton on 20th February.

Waste Busters Trust are leaders in waste minimisation education. The course will focus on four programme areas: Zero Waste Business Programme and Waste Exchange, Zero Waste Schools Education, Technology Reuse and Recycling and Zero Waste Community Education.

To register phone Waste Busters on 03 308 9998 or email mcwastebusters@clear.net.nz.

Plastic Bag Update

Simply say NO - the Christchurch Campaign.

TRADEAID are to meet with Foodstuff managers to run a trial providing free hessian bags to customers of St Martins New World supermarket, Christchurch, at the start of February. The bags will be sponsored by Christchurch City Council, Foodstuffs and TRADEAID. A charge will also be applied to plastic bags. Initially, it is hoped this will make it easier for the customer to get used to alternatives to plastic bags, but eventually a charge will be applied to the cloth bags.

The Christchurch campaign, 'Simply Say No', has received a considerable amount of media attention, with Annelies Pekelharing and Cath Knight having been interviewed by the local press and TV3. The Press invited the public to express their views on the issue of plastic bag use and received an enormous response in support of placing a charge on plastic bags to discourage their use. (Monies from such a charge could be used to fund waste minimisation projects throughout New Zealand.

Locally, a petition has been started and signatures have been collected from

people supporting such a tax. The petition will be sent directly to the Hon. Marion Hobbs, Minister for the Environment.

Over the summer months, hessian bags have been sold at local show days and festivals. Since the petition began, TRADEAID has noticed a considerable increase in the sale of hessian bags from their stores.

The next task in the 'Simply Say No' campaign is to make contact with the Chief Executives of the major supermarket chains and determine where they stand on this issue. One chain is making noises about charging for plastic bags.

Another point of interest is determining the most viable alternative to plastic bags. Options include organic cotton from Vietnam and alternative fibres such as Manchurian Rice Grass (apparently a pest in the Northland). A company based in that region currently makes paper products from the fibre.

For more information please contact campaign coordinator, Annelies Pekelharing, at anneliesp@xtra.co.nz.

More information on plastic bags can be found in the international section.

Zero Waste Council News in Brief

Tauranga DC: New Zero Waste Coordinator

Heidi Petterson recently filled a new post at Tauranga District Council as Zero Waste Coordinator.

Heidi feels very privileged to be working in this role within a community that already has some good waste minimisation initiatives in place. First up is designing an in-house waste audit and recycling programme for council. Also on the agenda is a household putrescibles trial and cleaner production trial.

To contact Heidi email her at HeidiP@tauranga.govt.nz.

Opportunities

Enthusiastic, Environmental Waste Consultant based in the UK, is looking for opportunities in New Zealand. Experience lies in plastics, paper and compost in the commercial and public sectors and with collection and market development. Contact james.jacobs@tiscali.co.uk for more information.

Resources

Websites

www.wastenet.net.au - the one-stop online resource for comprehensive waste-related information and links.

Universities

www.sustain.ubc.ca/ - is the website for the Sustainability Office of the University of British Columbia, Canada. They became the first University in Canada to implement a sustainable development policy and have developed a variety of creative initiatives in many fields including waste reduction.

"Universities have always existed to nurture healthy communities and economies through education. But today, more than ever before, universities are realizing that they also need to set positive social, environmental and economic examples for their societies to follow".
University of British Columbia

'Waste Counts: A Handbook for Accommodation Operators', published by the Centre for Environmental Studies in the Hospitality Industry at Oxford Brookes University, UK.

This informative handbook has been developed to help accommodation establishments minimise the amount of waste they produce and reduce the associated disposal and handling costs.

To obtain a copy of the handbook contact Matt Todd, project manager at Oxford Brookes University at mtodd@brookes.ac.uk or visit their website www.brookes.ac.uk.

Events

Canterbury Sustainability Expo

February 15th & 16th, Canterbury Horticultural Hall, Christchurch.

The main focus is on Sustainable Development but includes a vast array of exhibits and displays. Go to www.gosolar.co.nz and click on EXPO 2003.

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International news

Australia targets plastic bags

The Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, has announced that Australian retailers are to meet high recycling and reduction targets for lightweight plastic bags over the next two years. Ministers are to ask industry and the community to work together to cut the use of plastic bags by 75% by 2004. To make this achievable, the Environment Protection and Heritage Council have agreed to the following critical short term actions:

Government to develop legislative options including a possible plastic bag levy (as in Ireland) and ban on plastic bags; Retailers to develop and implement a strong National Code of Practice for the Management of Plastic Retail Carry Bags by April 2003, which includes targets of 50% recycling of HDPE bags and 50% reduction in plastic bag use. Ministers are also seeking 90% participation rate of retail chains and 25% participation rate of small retailers.

For more information go to www.ephc.gov.au/pdf/EPHC/Comm_Plastic_Bags.pdf

(Source: Warmer E-News, January 2003)

Taiwan - launch of second stage of plastic bag ban policy

The Taiwanese Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) has launched the second phase of its policy to restrict the use of plastic shopping bags and disposable plastic tableware, including styrofoam. The restrictions will be fully implemented in February giving businesses one and a half months to adjust their practices. After this the EPA will impose a range of fines (from NZ\$3-15,000). However, those cooperating with the policy will be subsidised for the purchase of tableware and cleaning equipment. As for affected plastic manufacturers and disposable tableware makers, the EPA will provide unemployed workers opportunities to work in jobs related to recycling, environmental protection and tableware cleaning. (Source: Warmer E-News January 2003)

UK Council to trial plastic bag tax

Durham County Council, the council that introduced Britain's first traffic congestion charge, is to ask local consumers to take part in a trial to pay a tax on plastic carrier bags. The move follows the assertion late last year by UK Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, that charging people according to the amount of rubbish they generate is fair. Mr. Meacher said: "Some local authorities have expressed an interest in this and we are saying to them: if you want to pursue this, fine. This is a green tax and the aim is not to raise money, it is to change behaviour."

(Source: The Independent, UK, 18 Dec 02)

Ireland to ban landfilling recyclable packaging

Irish Environment Minister, Martin Cullen, has announced that from March 1st 2003 the landfilling of recyclable packaging waste from commercial sources will be banned. The new packaging regulations will oblige all manufacturing and retail businesses to segregate the packaging waste arising on their own premises into specified waste streams (including paper, glass and metals). These regulations have been put in place to meet the 2005 target set by the EU for the recovery of 50% of all packaging waste.

(Source: Clubrecycle newsletter, UK January 2003)

EU passes strict new electronic recycling law

The new law applies to all electrical and electronic goods sold in the EU and will be in place by 2005. It will provide consumers with a way of returning items to be recycled at no cost to them. It is hoped that forcing firms to pay for recycling would encourage them to design products that are easier to deal with at the end of their working life. Consumers will also have a duty to recycle - the EU failed to amend the law making it illegal to dispose of electrical goods along with other residual household waste. (Source: Reuters, December 2002)