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

## Inside this issue:

National Strategy Update	1
Zero Waste in Timaru	1
Recycling System Launched	1
Whakatane District Council	2
Recycling in the UK	2
E Awards	2
C & D Waste Recycling	3
Holiday Parks go ZW	3

## Zero Waste Website

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

- "The End of Waste: Zero Waste by 2020" is now online under "Zero Waste Philosophy"
- Check out a summary of documents on the economics of Zero Waste, under "Zero Waste Philosophy" / "Economics of Zero Waste"
- Buy It Back Guide - your guide to buying products made from recycled materials

## National Strategy Update

The Waste Minimisation and Management Working Group will be meeting for the last time on the 27th of July before making it's recommendations on a National Waste Minimisation Strategy to the Minister for the Environment and the President of LGNZ. Government will release its strategy in November 2001.

Meanwhile, in her State of the Nation's Environment Speech, Marion Hobbs announced that one of this government's four highest priority issues is "Hazard and waste reduction: making HSNO work, and tackling existing contamination; *implementing a new strategy to move New Zealand towards zero waste.*"

The speech was presented at the Information to Motivation Conference at Te Papa, Wellington on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June and can be downloaded at [www.mfe.govt.nz/new/index.htm](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/new/index.htm)

## In-House Zero Waste Policy at Timaru DC

Timaru District Council adopted an in-house zero waste policy in February 2001. Within the first three months, the scheme has recycled 1700kg of paper and produced a total waste reduction of 83%! As a result Timaru's local Crown Public Health office has also adopted a zero waste plan and are pleased to report a reduction of waste to landfill of 85%. Another six businesses and two schools in Timaru are also seriously working towards zero waste. For further information contact Briony Woodnorth on 03 684 8199 or [brionyw@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:brionyw@timdc.govt.nz)

**"Zero Waste - the driver for sustainability"**

## Recycling System Launched

On the 15 of June, Waste Works Limited officially launched its new recycling system. This system consists of bin lids that fit over standard 240 litre wheelie bins and 220 litre drums. The lids are ideal for use either outdoors or indoors, and offer the perfect solution to all event, public place and office recycling. The lids have a coupling system so that they can be used in banks or individually, and are lightweight, stackable and very strong. A set of standard recycling graphics is also available. The lids cost \$58 per unit, \$168 for three lids or

\$265 for five lids. For further information contact Russ Louden on 021701 727 or [russlouden@clear.net](mailto:russlouden@clear.net) or visit the Zero Waste website under "Latest News and Events"/ "New Products and Innovations".



## Zero Waste Council Profile: Whakatane DC

In May 2000, the Whakatane District Council officially adopted a Zero Waste to landfill policy. This policy changed Council's direction to future solid waste disposal from the establishment of a new landfill to the development of a \$1.6 million Resource Recovery Centre (RRC). The establishment of the RRC, will alter Whakatane's current refuse and recycling collection system to maximise the separation of recyclables at kerbside.

Currently approximately 10,000 properties in the district have a 240 litre wheelie bin and 9,000 also receive a kerbside recycling collection for paper, cardboard, glass, tin cans and aluminium cans. Every property currently using a 240 litre bin will receive a new 60 litre bin in July 2002. The new 60 litre bin will be for the weekly collection of rubbish and the 240 litre bin will become a mixed commodity recycling container to be emptied every two weeks. With this change of service, all kinds of plastic, ie, sheet, wrap, bags and containers will be included in the recycling service.

The rubbish from the 60 litre bins will be delivered directly to the landfill while the recycling (240 litre bins) will be delivered to the new RRC where it will be manually sorted (using conveyor systems), processed, stored and passed on for re-use.

The landfill will be closed to the public and all non kerbside collected material (greenwaste, car bodies, bulky items, etc) will have to be delivered to the RRC, where it will be sorted for re-use to maximise the reduction in rubbish going to the landfill.

The RRC will also operate an on-site waste minimisation education

centre for use by schools and interested community groups.

With these changes to the collection system and the establishment of the RRC, it is expected that waste to landfill will initially be reduced by 50%. Further waste separation initiatives are planned to further increase this reduction.

For further information contact Kevin Sullivan at 07 307 9835 or e-mail to [kevins@whakatane-dc.govt.nz](mailto:kevins@whakatane-dc.govt.nz).

## Recycling in the UK

The Community Recycling Network (CRN) in the UK recently held their annual conference in Bristol. The CRN is a network comprising over 250 community-recycling groups from around the UK. The conference was attended by Warren Snow of Zero Waste New Zealand Trust who was invited to make a presentation and Julie Dennis of Waste Wise in Hamilton.

Warren was impressed with the range of waste reduction activities taking place around the UK, driven both by the UK's sophisticated Community Recycling Network and government initiatives. A range of new schemes has been initiated in the UK since the advent of the *Waste Strategy 2000 for England and Wales*. This waste strategy set out a number of "levers for change", including:

- A major new Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), to deliver increases in re-use, recycling and use of recycled materials. ([www.wrap.org.uk/](http://www.wrap.org.uk/))

- Tackling waste streams through producer responsibility

- Tradable permits limiting the amount of waste local authorities in England can send to landfill

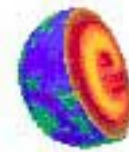
- Using the landfill tax credit scheme to increase recycling, including extending the scheme to community re-use and recycling projects

For more information on UK initiatives, visit the following websites:

[www.environment.detr.gov.uk/waste/index.htm](http://www.environment.detr.gov.uk/waste/index.htm)

[www.crn.org.uk/indexjs.html](http://www.crn.org.uk/indexjs.html)

## Zero Waste wins E Award



The Auckland Regional Council held the 2001 E-Awards to recognise excel-

lent practices that contribute to Auckland Region's environment. The E-Award ceremony was held on World Environment Day (June 5) with 38 finalists, and 19 award winners, across seven categories.

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust was awarded a Community Award for supporting the growth of zero waste projects in the Auckland region.

Other award winners included Maraetai School, which won an Education Award for their zero waste achievements and Linda Lee of Pukaki Worms who won an Individual Award for her work in vermiculture and organic farming.

Since adopting a zero waste policy three years ago, Maraetai School has reduced waste from 2.5 bins per day to just 0.5, recycling all food scraps, paper, plastic and cans and has an extensive seedlings nursery. Judges commented that "If all schools followed the model of Maraetai School then we would be well on our way to a zero waste society!!"

## Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling

Recycling and waste minimisation in the construction and demolition (C&D) industries is gaining increasing attention, both in New Zealand and overseas.

In New Zealand, C&D waste accounts for about 17% of landfilled waste (National Waste Data Report 1997). On top of this, nearly 826,000 tonnes of C&D waste were cleanfilled in 1995 in the Auckland Region alone.

A number of Councils around New Zealand are now trying to address these figures by putting in place C&D waste programmes.

Auckland Regional Council has developed a programme called REBRI (Resource Efficiency in the Building and Related Industries) which promotes resource efficiency by helping companies to achieve the best ways of designing, constructing and demolishing buildings using as few resources as possible. For further information go to [www.arc.govt.nz/rebri](http://www.arc.govt.nz/rebri)

Christchurch City Council has funded a five-month pilot project, which has seen two Christchurch construction companies cut their disposal costs by 30%. The project was managed by consultants Sinclair Knight Merz and involved a training programme for construction workers at four sites and the use of onsite recycling containers.

In Australia, the New South Wales Waste Board has developed a Construction and Demolition Projects Directory and a number of reports, newsletters and case studies on C&D recycling.

[www.wasteboards.nsw.gov.au/directory](http://www.wasteboards.nsw.gov.au/directory)

### Success stories:

- Burrell Demolition recently demolished the Post Office annex in Commerce Street in Auckland, recycling 98% of the concrete, bricks and steel and 70% of the timber.
- Since it was founded in 1997, Ward Resource Recovery in Auckland has produced over 270,000 tonnes of "alternative aggregate" for use in roading and building, by crushing concrete from demolition sites.
- DeConstruction Services in Portland, Oregon recycles 85% of the materials from its projects and demonstrates that manually dismantling homes is often more economical than demolition.
- During the construction of 95 new homes in Alameda County, California, the building contractor, with the help of a recycling subcontractor, recycled 1044 tons of debris or 86% of the waste.

For further information on any of these, please contact Zero Waste.

*"With zero waste rapidly becoming the buzzword of the century..." from NZ Herald, June 13, 2001, "Round the circles" an article by Rose Thodey.*



## Holiday Parks go Zero Waste

The Holiday Accommodation Parks of New Zealand (HAPNZ) members are making zero waste happen in a big way in Opotiki. Spurred by the introduction of landfill tipping fees and facing increased costs, holiday park owners and operators decided to get serious and do something about their waste.

Both the Island View Family Holiday Park and the Ohiwa Family Holiday Park have introduced full recycling. Visitors are asked to separate materials and comprehensive recycling systems are provided. Both parks accommodate between 300 to 650 people a day at the height of the season.

300 litre plastic drums, discards from the kiwi-fruit industry, are used to collect separated materials. Island View reduced their waste disposal costs from \$100 to just \$12 over the 6-7 week Christmas Holiday period. They also received income from the sale of their aluminium cans. Ohiwa have yet to operate full recycling at the height of the season, but reported recently that it has been 4 weeks since they visited the landfill, a trip that was typically made weekly even during the off-season.

A third park plans to ensure recycling is operational before the height of the new season and Opotiki District Council is fielding calls from camp operators further up the coast who want to do the same thing.

For further information contact Zero Waste Advisor Louisa Palmer on 021 608 715 or [wow@paradise.net.nz](mailto:wow@paradise.net.nz)

*Recycling bins at Ohiwa Family Holiday Park, Opotiki*

## Environmental Choice



Environmental Choice New Zealand is an environmental labelling programme, which has been created to help consumers find products that ease the burden on the environment.

Environmental Choice New Zealand follows the ISO 14024 standard "Environmental labels and declarations - Guiding principles." This requires environmental labelling specifications to include criteria that are objective, reasonable and verifiable. It also requires that interested parties have an opportunity to participate and have their comments considered.

A number of revised and new product specifications open for public comment are available from the Environmental Choice website: [www.ianz.govt.nz/echoice/index.htm](http://www.ianz.govt.nz/echoice/index.htm) or email [marseneault@ianz.govt.nz](mailto:marseneault@ianz.govt.nz) to request a copy by email or post.

## International News

### Plastic Lumber

Trex Company, Inc., which makes decking material from waste wood fiber and reclaimed plastics, has announced it is participating in a joint venture to recycle polyethylene at a new facility in El Ejido, Spain. The plant is designed to recycle waste polyethylene generated primarily from agricultural applications. For more information on Trex Company, see [www.trex.com](http://www.trex.com).

### Zero Waste UK

UK based Communities Against Toxics (CAT's) held a "Zero Waste Management in the 21st Century Conference" in London on 12th May. Fifty delegates from community-based campaigns around the UK heard speakers from Holland, Canada, USA and the UK speaking on incineration, landfill and the concept of zero waste.

A lot of emphasis was given to networking and the climax of the day was the formation of **Zero Waste UK**.

### Waste levy

Localities in Ohio are authorized by state statute to require all solid waste facilities to collect a \$5.30 ton fee in order to be eligible to receive waste from within their jurisdiction. Facilities not agreeing to levy the fee are denied the right to receive waste from that locality. A Court of Appeal recently upheld the law because, even though the fee and designation process imposed a restraint on interstate commerce, the amount of the fee was "in line with the cost of ensuring safe and sanitary management of the county's output of waste." Waste News ("Hauler to fight decision"), June 2001.

### Compostable Logo

Biocorp, Inc.'s Biodegradable Plastic Bags have just been granted the first "Compostable Logo" by the International Biodegradable Products Institute. The biodegradable plastic bags helped the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney to collect and recycle 76 percent of the solid wastes generated at the sports venues and athlete's villages

For more information on Biocorp's products see the zero waste website under "Latest News and Events"/"Products and Innovations"

### Toxins from incineration

An article published in the Dominion on 31 May 2001, links the dioxin 2, 3, 7, 8TCDD to the burning of waste in the presence of chloride, particularly municipal, medical and hazardous waste.

2, 3, 7, 8TCDD affects a wide range of organ systems, including immune, neurological and reproductive systems. The International Agency for Research on Cancer says that 2, 3, 7, 8TCDD is a carcinogen. The article states that "The United States Environmental Protection Agency does not recommend a reference dose for dioxin-like compounds, however, as any recommendation would be significantly less than existing background levels".

## Events

The Ashburton Winter Waste Fest 2001 will be taking place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. The Festival, which has now been running since 1998, will include a Glorious Garbage Wearable Awards with \$1000 in prizes and Reuse Recycle Awards, including a Garden Art section. The award ceremony will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August at the Ashburton Art Gallery. For further information contact Wastebusters Trust Canterbury, PO Box 323, Ashburton, Phone: 308 9998, e-mail:

[mcwastebusters@clear.net.nz](mailto:mcwastebusters@clear.net.nz)

or website:

[www.wastebusters.orcon.net.nz](http://www.wastebusters.orcon.net.nz)

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