

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

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Zero Waste Website

www.zerowaste.co.nz

■ Check out the Zero Waste submission to the Waste Reduction and Working Group: "The End Of Waste: Zero Waste by 2020" under "National Campaign/National strategy".

National Strategy Where to Now?

The National Waste Minimisation Strategy submission period is now officially over. Hopefully you received a copy of the Zero Waste resource material "The End of Waste – Zero Waste by 2020" and took the opportunity to make your own submission.

Some 200 submissions have been received, and the results will be made public in early April on the Ministry for the Environment's website (www.mfe.govt.nz). The Ministry and Local Government New Zealand are currently giving detailed consideration to the proposals contained in the working group report. They expect to report to the Minister for the Environment and the President of LGNZ, by the end of June, on what should be included in a waste minimisation strategy for New Zealand. The working group is expected to continue to advise on the specific proposals being developed by the Ministry and Local Government New Zealand for a waste minimisation strategy.

News from the Top of the South

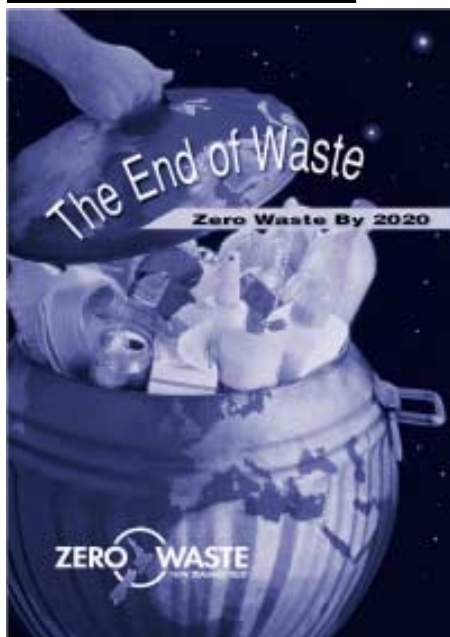
Last December Tasman District Council published an excellent draft Zero Waste strategy, and distributed it throughout the community for comment. Over 80 submissions were received, the majority supporting and encouraging a Zero Waste goal and calling for action. This response encouraged the TDC Zero Waste Subcommittee to recommend that \$100,000 be set-aside in the next budget to implement the strategy. A programme to promote composting has recently been undertaken by Council, including composting in schools, public workshops and compost bin subsidies. Next year it hopes to provide support for a new recycling scheme.

Next door, Nelson City Council received final sign off in February for its Zero Waste Strategy and, as part of this, has set aside \$30,000 towards employing a Regional Waste Co-ordinator to cover the Nelson/Tasman/Marlborough region. This is an excellent initiative which will help councils work together to implement their zero waste strategies and will be a real boost for the region.

\$80,000 for Resource Recovery Centres

In July last year Zero Waste New Zealand Trust sent out a request for proposals for Resource Recovery Centre projects. Recognising that Resource Recovery Centres play a vital role in the reduction of waste going to landfill, the Trust's aim was to encourage the development of a number of model Centres around the country.

The high standard of applications made it a very difficult task for the assessment panel (including Dan Knapp from Urban Ore, California and Russ Loudon of Waste Works Ltd), however, the successful applicants were: Dunedin City Council and Ashburton District Council \$25,000 each; Hawkes Bay District Council and Opotiki District Council \$10,000 each; Kaikoura District Council and Materials Processing Ltd, Hamilton \$5,000 each



The End of Waste: Zero Waste by 2020, Download at www.zerowaste.co.nz

Zero Waste Council Profile: Christchurch

Christchurch City Council adopted a goal of Zero Waste to landfill by 2020 in August 1998.

That year the **Canterbury Waste Subcommittee** was also established, representing all ten territorial local authorities in Canterbury with a focus not only on the need for a regional landfill but also to focus on waste minimisation – to help attain the zero waste to landfill goal across the region.

To date Christchurch City Council has established a number of waste minimisation initiatives.

Through its **Target Zero** programme, Council assists the business sector to reduce waste at source by promoting cleaner production and providing waste reduction workshops, seminars, information, and advice.

There are **resource reuse centres** at the three Christchurch City Council Refuse Stations. These are run by the Recovered Materials Foundation (RMF), a charitable trust set up and funded by the Christchurch City Council, on contract to the Waste Unit.

A **'Supershed'** run by the RMF was established in November 2000 where shoppers can view and purchase a large variety of 'pre-loved' items from the resource reuse centres, that would otherwise go to landfill.

The RMF runs the **Waste Exchange Service** facilitating reuse of uncontaminated industrial materials, mainly packaging with over 300 companies listed in the database.

A **weekly Kerbside recycling** collection for the residential sector was introduced in 1998. Currently 13,000 tonnes of materials per year are being diverted from landfill and this figure is growing.

Once collected, the materials are

Giboard Recycling - Canada

In 1985, New West Gypsum Recycling Inc. (NWG) set up an operation to recycle gypsum board, or giboard, after the government banned it from landfill. The operation was so successful that in 1996 NWG opened a recycling plant in New Westminster, a suburb of Vancouver, capable of processing 110,000 tons of giboard annually. In 1990 plants were opened in Toronto and Seattle. NWG's total production for British Columbia, Ontario and Washington was 130,000 tons in 1997 and this is expected to grow to over 200,000 tons within five years. NWG has recycled over 1,000,000 tons of wallboard since its inception.

The NWG process separates the wallboard into gypsum powder and paper flakes with a patented

given to the **Recovered Materials Foundation (RMF)**. The RMF is contracted by the Waste Unit to process/store these materials prior to sale and to develop local markets and end uses for these materials while creating local employment opportunities. The RMF undertakes research into new uses of different parts of the waste stream, and funds suitable fledgling recycling industries

A **compost facility** where approximately 33,000 tonnes of green 'waste' is being processed into a saleable commodity has been in operation since 1994. Registrations of interest for a new pilot in-vessel composting system, to be operational by 2004, have just been advertised. Such a plant will be able to process kitchen waste and biosolids (sewage sludge) as well as garden organics.

Payment by weight for all domestic customers (trailers, cars etc) was introduced at the three refuse

stations in 2000. The recyclable gypsum is trucked back to giboard manufacturers, where it is mixed with virgin rock to make new wallboard. The recyclable paper, in the form of noodle pulp, is returned to paper companies where it is mixed with virgin pulp to make new paper products such as wallboard backing.

As the worldwide demand for recycled giboard increases, NWG will expand into markets in Australia, Europe and the Far East where the use of giboard is growing at a rapid pace. The operation is cost-effective and can recycle giboard cheaper than a property owner could pay to have the material hauled to the dump.

For further information go to www.nwggypsum.com

stations in 2000.

A **waste minimisation levy** of approximately \$17 per tonne of waste received by the Council has been imposed the last few years to fund various initiatives to reduce waste. This way all producers of waste contribute towards the paying of waste reduction initiatives.

Enquiries:
zefanja.potgieter@ccc.govt.nz

Email distribution list

Zero Waste has set up an email distribution list that will be used to distribute topical information that we feel should get out to our network as quickly as possible. If you are not already on this list and would like to be included, please email Sunshine at

sunshine@zerowaste.co.nz

Business Initiatives

Target Zero - sustaining business and the environment

Businesses around Christchurch are benefiting their bottom line and the environment through involvement with Target Zero.

Target Zero is a waste minimisation initiative, funded and managed by Christchurch City Council, working with Christchurch businesses to save money and reduce environmental impacts through resource efficiency.

Target Zero focuses on close monitoring of business inputs, processes and outputs to make efficient use of resources, minimise waste and maximise profits.

The focus of the programme is to provide services that meet the needs of business while achieving the objectives of Target Zero, leading to win/win solutions, including:

Cost reduction – minimising waste and using resources efficiently to reduce costs

Compliance with, and reduced liability under the Resource Management Act and other statutory and regulatory requirements

Marketplace image – environmental care is becoming more important to consumers

Risk reduction – reducing the risk of environmental damage and liability.

The financial and environmental benefits are clearly shown time and again by those businesses that have implemented waste minimisation practices.

When MCP NZ Ltd, a metal curtain track and valance rod manufacturer, completed the Target Zero programme, their

Workshop Foreman, Dave Turnbull, said the programme was a great success. “The programme taught us to not take waste for granted. The company has benefited from financial savings of around \$9,500 per annum which have gone straight to our bottom line and our staff have learnt some valuable new skills.”

Contact: Cathy Webb, Target Zero Programme Administrator
Tel: 03 371 1487, Email: catherine.webb@ccc.govt.nz

RICOH and the Environment

The Ricoh Group, a leading supplier of office automation equipment, is continually developing programmes to minimise waste and impact on the environment. The company is working towards achieving zero waste at manufacturing facilities and is exploring the possibility of ‘Eco-Packaging’ for use worldwide.

Ricoh New Zealand Limited introduced their industry leading ‘Recycle With Ricoh’ Toner Cartridge Recycling Programme in November 2000. The programme enables customers to help the environment by returning their used toner cartridges to Ricoh, using a Ricoh ‘Freepost’ return label.

As an alternative to the toner cartridge Freepost facility, Ricoh is also planning to introduce a simple and economical recycling solution for high volume users of office equipment consumables. This facility will enable users to have all empty toner bottles collected when the machine is serviced, or on demand.

Ricoh is also pro-actively recycling plastics and aluminium

components from machines that have ended their useful service life. In addition to recycling Ricoh products, foreign brand office equipment and consumables are also collected for environmentally friendly disposal.



Plastic panels ready to be collected and recycled.

The response from Ricoh New Zealand customers towards this initiative has exceeded all expectations.

Ricoh New Zealand Limited is also in the process of becoming ISO14001 accredited.

For any further information regarding Ricoh New Zealand’s environmental activities please contact Anne-Maree Angell on 09 915 1482.

Great results for DANZAS

In mid 2000, Danzas AEI (NZ) Ltd, a leading provider of logistic solution, started a paper-recycling project at its three Auckland branches. Within only one month, paper recycling was increased from ¼ tonne a month to 1.22 tonnes.

The project was so successful in Auckland that it was taken to Danzas’ Wellington and Christchurch branches. In Christchurch the project resulted in the replacement of polystyrene chips, which were used in packaging, with shredded paper - a simple substitution which now saves the company \$720 a month! Many thanks to Alice Aucler, the French work-experience student who undertook this recycling project with such great results.

Resources

Reverse Garbage Co-op Ltd,

based in Brisbane, operates a large retail warehouse where an amazing variety of interesting and useful discards are available for use by artists, craftspeople, handy people, teachers, tradespeople and the general community. Check out their website at www.reversegarbage.com.au

International News

Toronto adopts Zero Waste

Toronto, Ontario has declared itself Zero Waste by 2010. Vowing to find ways to take care of their own waste, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman announced Task Force 2010 to consult with the people of Toronto and recommend a comprehensive waste diversion plan to Toronto City Council by June 2001. For more information see www.city.toronto.on.ca.

Taipei Recycles 40%

In July 2000, Taipei instituted a pay-as-you-throw waste collection system and began collecting recyclables for free. In just a few months this has reduced Taipei's garbage production by 40% and increased recycling four fold. Contact Zero Waste for further information.

**Zero Waste
New Zealand Trust
PO Box 33 1695, Takapuna,
Auckland
Phone: 09 486 0734,
Fax: 09 489 3232, Email:
mailbox@zerowaste.co.nz**

Recycling Competition

BERKELEY, California - This Earth-friendly city plans to pay a few lucky residents at least \$250 if their trash is clean — of recyclables, that is.

The city is launching a "Cash for Trash" contest next month that will see inspectors sift through the garbage of one willing household each week. If the trash is free of recyclables - from the obvious glass bottle to the less celebrated milk carton - the household wins the cash.

"This is a fact: If you don't do promotions, then your recyclables go down," said Kathy Evans, an adviser to the campaign. "People loved it the last time. They would come up to me all the time and say, 'I'm going to win.'"

In 1999, the city reported it had diverted half its overall waste to recycling centers rather than landfills, according to the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Waste Reduction in the Philippines

THE SOLID Waste Management Act became the first legislation that the new President of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law. The Act, which Ms Macapagal described as a "safeguard for our environment," requires local government units (LGUs) to reduce their waste disposal by 25 percent within five years. The act includes:

- mandatory segregation of wastes at source
- mandatory composting and recycling for local governments with clear targets (e.g. 25 % recycling in 5 years)
- a ban on disposable packaging (although which materials will have to be banned will still be determined by the National Packag-

ing Institute)

- incentives for the development of recycling markets

- exclusion of incineration as a "resource recovery" option

From *Inquirer News Service*, By Amy Bainbridge

Deposit System

BERLIN - Germany's ruling centre-left government agreed a plan on Wednesday to introduce an obligatory deposit system for drink cans and non-refillable glass and plastic bottles from the start of 2002.

The ministry said the introduction of a deposit on "ecologically damaging packaging" was aimed at stopping the rise of cans and glass and plastic disposable bottles and to stabilise market share for reusable and refillable packaging.

Economics Minister Werner Mueller that industry would have to pay "economically bearable" extra costs of less than two pfennigs (US\$0.009) per packaging unit.

The plan needs support in the Bundesrat upper house to come into force, but most states represented there have indicated their support for the plan.

GERMANY: February 4, 2001
REUTERS

Electronic Update and Newspaper clippings

If you are currently receiving a hard copy of the Zero Waste Update and would prefer to receive an electronic copy (pdf), please email

sunshine@zerowaste.co.nz

We are now also able to send the newspaper clippings electronically.