

Zero Waste Update

May 2002, Issue 23

Please pass on

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

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A new face for Zero Waste

I'm sure many of you will be wondering what has happened to your monthly Zero Waste Update since the last issue went out in February. The reason for the lapse has been the gap left by Sunshine Yates' departure (she's currently sunning herself in Panama) and her replacement. Well, the Update's now back on track and I would like to introduce myself, **Lucy White (Lu)**, as the new Network Coordinator for Zero Waste New Zealand. I had a fantastic introduction to the work of the Zero Waste Network at the Hui in Methven and had the good fortune to meet many new faces but here's some background information for those whom I haven't met so far



I have recently joined Zero Waste New Zealand from the UK where I worked for the Community Recycling Network (CRN), which some of you will know through its magazine 'The Wastepaper'.

During that time I co-established and coordinated a non-profit community composting project. I spent last year travelling around New Zealand and after returning to the UK for a couple of months, I knew this was the right place for me. So, it's great to be back and involved with such an innovative network of like minded individuals and I am looking forward to hearing from you, so please keep me updated with all your recent stories and information.

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust is now made up of a team of 3 staff:- **Julie Dickinson**, the Manager, who is in charge of the Trust and who does most of the liaison with councils, and government agencies (julie@zerowaste.co.nz), myself, Network Coordinator, making sure information gets out to the network via the Update and website, and researching information and making it available (lucy@zerowaste.co.nz) and **Jill Norman** the Administration Assistant,

handling phone enquiries, initial funding enquiries, accounts and administration (jill@zerowaste.co.nz).



L - R: Julie, Lu, Jill

The team of **Trustees** is also in the process of change with Guy Salmon recently resigning after accepting nomination as a National Party List candidate. Mike Morris is the new Chairman of the Trust, working alongside Don Riesterer, who stepped down as Mayor of Opotiki District Council last year. We will keep you informed as new Trustees are appointed.

Three major sponsors now support the work of Zero Waste New Zealand: The Tindall Foundation, Community Employment Group and the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund. Additional funders are also being sought to enable the Trust to distribute funds to the rapidly growing number of Zero Waste community initiatives around New Zealand.

This is an exciting time for Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, starting the year with new staff and Trustees and with a new National Waste Strategy incorporating a vision of 'Towards Zero Waste'. We will also be starting work on some major new projects to support Zero Waste communities and will bring you up to date in following editions of the Zero Waste Update.....

Zero Waste Website
www.zerowaste.co.nz
 We are in the process of updating the website. It is still active but watch this space for more details.

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 Takapuna, Auckland
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Zero Waste Community Group Hui



Over 100 people attended a three day Hui in Methven in April, focussing on a number of hot topics including the recently launched New Zealand Waste Strategy "Towards zero waste and a sustainable New Zealand". The event was organised by Wastebusters Trust Canterbury (thanks to Sheryl and Priska) with support from Zero Waste New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment and Community Employment Group. The message from the conference was positive with presentations being given by representatives from 37 community recycling groups, the Recycling Operators of New Zealand, Zero Waste New Zealand Trust and the Ministry for the Environment. The need for a networking event came at a crucial time, with lots of new groups maximising the opportunity to discuss ways that the community sector can play a part in implementing the new Waste Strategy. Throughout the conference this dynamic and passionate group of individuals from across the country discussed the successes and challenges of operating recycling projects within communities at the grassroots level. Key outcomes from the Hui included a decision taken for community groups to join with RONZ and be represented by them, and for community groups' training needs to be supplied via the Zero Waste Academy (more on this later). The need for ongoing workshops for community groups was voiced by the group.



Gathering at the Hui



National Waste Strategy

Ket Bradshaw from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) initiated discussion at the recent Methven Hui on New Zealand's Waste Strategy "Towards zero waste and a sustainable New Zealand".

She outlined support the Ministry will be providing such as regional roadshows to inform and advise local authorities, community groups, businesses and members of the public about the new targets and strategies. More information on these will be given in the next Update.

It is very significant that New Zealand is the first country in the world to be aiming 'Towards zero waste' and Zero Waste New Zealand views the Strategy as an excellent step in the right direction. There is still a long way to go in establishing the incentives to seriously work towards Zero Waste but the Trust will be working alongside MfE, RONZ and other organisations over the coming year to help achieve our common goal.

Discussion at the Hui highlighted the fact that the Waste Strategy is an excellent resource for community groups and recyclers to use when making submissions on their community's Annual Plans.

Copies of the Waste Strategy can be obtained from the MfE, either through their website www.mfe.govt.nz or email publications@mfe.govt.nz.

Opotiki's new Resource Recovery Centre

Opotiki District Council is well on its way to achieving the target of Zero Waste with the opening last month of a new 950m² Resource Recovery Centre (RRC).

This was the first council to adopt a Zero Waste policy in November 1998 and since July 1999 has reduced Opotiki's residual waste from 10,000 tonnes per annum to 1,500 tonnes per annum. In July 2000 a kerbside collection scheme was established in Opotiki township and the charging system for waste disposal was restructured.



Signs at Opotiki RRC.

Rewards for recycling were offered. If a load was fully recyclable a charge of \$4 was applied, if the load was non recyclable the charge was increased to \$12.

These charges saw an instant 40% reduction of waste to landfill. The introduction of the kerbside scheme helped reduce residual waste in the urban area by 50%. In the rural areas, two RRC's were built as a kerbside scheme did not prove to be economical for them. With a population of only 9,350 monitoring and control of the schemes are relatively easy, but Council Engineering and Services Manager Dave Reece regards his model as one that could be easily replicated in other regions.

The new RRC is operated by five full time staff as a drive through centre with staff checking every load that comes through. All materials are accepted; any residual waste also gets collected on site and charges apply. It is a tidy, well used and well respected resource for the community.

Dave Reece would like to thank Simone Annis and Don Riesterer for their contributions towards setting the target of Zero Waste in Opotiki and Zero Waste New Zealand for seed funding from the start.

For further information contact Dave Reece at daver@odc.govt.nz

Central Otago Wastebusters Inc.

Congratulations to Central Otago Wastebusters Inc who have been awarded overall winner in the annual Trust Power Community Awards presented "in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the Central Otago District Community".

New Zealand Commitment Inspires UK Zero Waste Development

Guest editorial by Mal Williams, Cylch (Wales CRN) and Zero Waste Trust UK
"It's the first and last chapter in the recycling manual; it completes the circle pointing to the Nirvana of Resource efficiency" is how one recently converted Zero Waste activist put it. "Once you've considered the implications of Zero Waste anything less is sheer stupidity."

Bath and North East Somerset Council has been a pioneer in recycling for over 15 years and was one of the first places to develop a comprehensive kerbside collection, but the commitment to greener ways has been re-invigorated by their recent conversion to a policy of Zero Waste. Other areas are now tinkering with the idea, and Zero Waste is on the agenda. Without the initiative that New Zealand has taken this would not be so. The waste industry has paid fortunes creating an impression that it is only THEY who can and should collect the bins, rubbishing all the recycling efforts and blurring all the data. The waste industry's efforts to replace landfill with incineration so that they could carry on compactor collecting and reaping vast profits from the gate fees have been a wonder to behold.

So I want to send hearty congratulations to my colleagues in the antipodes for leading us into the ways of the enlightened. We all have a long way to go, we know that. The Zero Waste steps we are taking are the first in a long journey but without them the journey would not have started.

Zero Waste Trust UK and Zero Waste International are now registered companies in the UK.



Rodney District Council Draft Zero Waste Plan

In March 2002 Rodney District Council produced its draft zero waste plan in consultation with Waste Not Ltd and Meritec Ltd showing how it intends to reach the zero waste target by 2020. The proposals include establishing a kerbside collection scheme of recyclables. Council is envisioning a reduction in individual household waste disposal costs of an impressive 28%. Views on actions suggested are welcomed and more consultation meetings will be held before the Council adopts its final Zero Waste plan. They are in the process of developing educational material to encourage public participation. For a copy of the plan contact Rodney's Zero Waste Coordinator, Sheryl Mai - smai@rodney.govt.nz or visit the website www.rodney.govt.nz

Business News

Ricoh New Zealand & Plascrete Int. Ltd

Auckland's Victoria Park Market is now home to a special Ricoh pathway – paving stones made from Ricoh's recycled rigid plastic waste (including fax toner cartridges and machine panels) by Auckland based recycler Plascrete International Ltd. This recycling effort has been applauded by Ricoh's head office in Japan.

Ricoh are also sponsoring and working with Christchurch City Council who are implementing a waste minimisation programme within their own offices.

Issue 7, winter 2002 Ricoh Communicator

Australian Councils funded to recycle oil

The Australian Government has made A\$9million available to build waste oil collection facilities in rural areas. Presently 100 million litres of oil goes missing each year, much of it stored in the more remote areas of Australia with limited access to recycling facilities.

The programme aims to lift Australia's oil recycling rate to world best standards. In the future, the scheme will look at the needs of urban councils.

Warmer Bulletin, March 2002

Vodafone, Nokia and Telecom recycle old mobiles

From February 2002 any used mobile equipment can be taken to a Vodafone Service Repair outlet to be recycled by Nokia. People who recycle their old mobile equipment will go into the draw to win a new Nokia phone or four prizes of \$50 every three months. Check www.vodafone.co.nz for more details.

Telecom are now also offering to "buy" old mobile phones by offering a \$20 phone account credit to an 025 or 027 account when you give back a working Telecom Mobile phone in order to recycle or dispose of components safely. This incentive runs until 30 June 2002. A maximum of \$100 credit is available for each customer. Non-working phones will also be taken but no cash incentives will be offered on these. Check www.telecom.co.nz for more details.

March 2002, In Touch, Telecom News

Clopyralid threat to composting

Results from an application made by Auckland based composter, Living Earth Ltd, to the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) for an assessment of Clopyralid based herbicides (a chemical used in some garden herbicides) confirms possible adverse effects arising from their use and supports grounds for their reassessment. A number of local authorities (including Christchurch City Council, where the problem was first detected) and NGO's (including Zero Waste New Zealand Trust) continue to offer their support alongside the Ministry for the Environment and the Green Party. In the USA the sale of clopyralid based herbicides is forbidden in urban markets in states that have invested in garden waste composting. Similar measures may need to be invoked in New Zealand if a sustainable future for urban composting is to be developed. For further information contact Rob Fenwick, Living Earth Ltd at rfeenwick@livingearth.co.nz

Please email your news and stories to lucy@zerowaste.co.nz by May 27th

Resources

New book

Zero Waste, Robin Murray

Robin Murray is an industrial economist and a Visiting Research Associate at the Centre for the Study of Global Governance at the London School of Economics. He is also the author of 'Creating Wealth from Waste'.

'Zero Waste' is an in-depth study of current waste affairs of the UK and makes a sound economic case for zero waste in the UK, highlighting high impact zero waste success stories from around the world (including New Zealand). This ground breaking book is essential reading for anyone interested in the economic rationale for zero waste. A limited number of copies are available from the Zero Waste New Zealand Trust office at a cost of \$40. It can also be downloaded as a PDF file from the Zero Waste website under 'Resources & Links'.



"As a pollutant, waste demands control. As an embodiment of accumulated energy and materials it invites an alternative"
Zero Waste, Robin Murray

New video

Slash Trash: waste stream to clean stream

produced by **Kaitia's Community Business and Environment Centre (CBEC)**, we are shown the alternatives to placing the waste stream into landfill, introducing the concept of a clean stream. It has been developed and designed to be used as an educational and promotional tool for promoting waste reduction and recycling in schools and communities

taking viewers on a recycling educational tour.

Copies are available from CBEC at a cost of \$29.95 + pp. Contact admin@cbec.co.nz for more details.

Events

Zero Waste Day at WasteMINZ workshops 29 May, Palmerston North

WasteMINZ is hosting a workshop aimed at updating your knowledge and skills in environmental education, waste minimisation, landfills and Zero Waste.

The Zero Waste day will feature world renowned anti-incineration specialist Dr Paul Connett and Resource Recovery Centre expert Russ Loudon. There will also be a tour of a number of excellent Zero Waste initiatives within Palmerston North City. Please contact Carole Inglis or Gael Austen for further information on 09 486 6722 or wasteminz@xtra.co.nz or see more details and register on the website www.wasteminz.org.nz.

International News

Korean Zero Waste Conference

Warren Snow has recently returned from presenting at an 'International Zero Waste Conference' organised by the Korea Waste Movement Network in Seoul, Korea. Many academics, community groups and government officials were introduced to the Zero Waste movement in New Zealand through Warren's presentation. (For a copy of this presentation please email Lu White at lucy@zerowaste.co.nz) At the local level one of the most inspirational presentations was made by a neighbourhood action group in Gunpo led by a local woman, that is operating a kitchen organic waste collection scheme.

The waste is taken to a duck farm to be reused as fodder. In 1998 the scheme started out with just 1,737 families and by 2000 that number had risen to 9,000. These activities led to the formation of the 'Gunpo Committee for the Reuse of Kitchen Refuse' by Gunpo City and after conducting a year of surveys the whole of Gunpo City, with 50,000 households now treats kitchen organic waste separately.

World Cup

The Korea Waste Movement Network, comprised of over 270 NGO's (non government organisations) has been working on a 'waste free 2002 World Cup', which is being held in Korea and Japan in June this year. After having monitored waste management systems within various stadiums they have made a series of proposals to the Government, most of which have been adopted. These include prohibiting distribution of cheering items at matches, banning smoking within stadiums, installation of separate collection bins at all stadiums and restricting the distribution of advertising leaflets to one type per company. Volunteers will be provided with lunch money instead of disposable lunch sets, vending machines (which you see on every street corner) have been prohibited and proposals that restaurants will be banned from using plastic products are being considered. For further information contact zerowaste@hanmail.net

EU tell car manufacturers and electronic firms to recycle

This month has seen the European Parliament set to approve laws to make electronic firms deal with their end of life products and car makers recently lost their battle against the radical EU law on scrap cars. Both laws will be huge drivers in promoting recycling throughout Europe.

Electronics manufacturers will now have to pay the cost of collecting and recycling old electronic goods which people want to throw away.

Targets for national governments include ensuring by 2006 that between 4 and 6 kilos of electronic scrap per person is collected each year and that up to 70% is recycled.

The EU dumps 9 million tonnes of cars each year. The "end of life vehicles" (ELV) directive, expected to come into force next April, requires car makers to cover the cost of tough new rules on treating ELV's including recycling most of the waste. Motorists will be able to send old cars free of charge to a licensed recycler. By 2015, 85% must be recycled.

Reuters 25/4/02 & 10/4/02