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November 2001, Issue 20

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

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## Zero Waste Website

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

■ A Zero Waste Fantasy Conference, Alberta, Canada - download Warren Snow's keynote speech. Under "International" / "International Zero Waste Conferences".



Nokia Recycling Bin

## Putrescible Waste Recycling in MacKenzie

Due to the Mackenzie District's small population base (approx 4,000 people) and extremely rural and isolated territory, Council has had to consider their waste reduction options with a slightly different focus than some of the other more urban local authorities in New Zealand. Being a major tourist path for international and national travellers, the predominant waste types from Lake Tekapo and Twizel are food scraps/putrescibles and cardboard, from hotels and restaurants.

The Mackenzie District has made a considerable progressive step towards waste minimisation and also the ultimate zero waste target with approval to purchase an In-Vessel (VCU) composting unit. The unit will receive domestic putrescibles from each of the three main townships and also commercial putrescibles from food preparation sites including Mt Cook Hermitage.

New Resource Recovery Parks/Transfer Stations will be commissioned in February 2002 at each main township where the main impetus will be on recovery and re-use. There will be no landfills available within the Mackenzie District from February 2002, and any residual waste will be carted to Redruth landfill at Timaru.

## Nokia Recycling

In May Nokia launched its New Zealand recycling scheme, "The Future Is In Your Hands". The scheme encourages customers to dispose of their used or old mobile phones, batteries and accessories (any make or model) at designated Nokia recycling bins, to ensure that these obsolete products are properly recycled and disposed of.

### Nokia Recycling Bins are located at:

\* Mobilefone Repair.com, Strand Arcade, Auckland; \* Brightpoint, 228 Bush Road, Albany, Auckland; \* Mobilefone Repair.com, 89 Carbine Road, Mt Wellington, Auckland; \* Accord, 2/343 Church Street, Penrose, Auckland; \* Mobilefone Repair.com, 81 Moorehouse Avenue, Christchurch; \* Nokia Professional Centre, 31 Waring Taylor St, Wellington

## Zero Hero

Zero Hero of the month: Maurice Brown, Kawerau Site Foreman for Materials Processing Ltd.

Give Maurie a problem – then stand back! Take steel strapping for example, Maurie brutalised a common hay baler to make strapping bales, which the scrap-metal merchants *can* recycle!



We're on the look out for Zero Heroes around the country. So if you know someone who's making a real difference in your community, send us a good quality photo and a caption and we'll add them to our Zero Hero gallery.

## Zero Waste Council Profile: Tasman DC

Eighteen months ago Tasman District Council adopted a target of zero waste. Since then they have developed a zero waste strategy, set some initial objectives and started a few exciting projects. Council decided to start by tackling organic waste, then set aside funding to assist with setting up resource recovery facilities and other new ideas. The total budget for the first year was \$20,000 (from rates). This was increased to \$100,000 this financial year (\$75,000 from rates, \$25,000 grant from ZW Trust). Tasman District Council's main projects to date include (with approximate budget allocations per project):

- 1) Developing and consulting with public on an initial zero waste strategy (\$1,500)
- 2) Offering residents a \$15 discount when purchasing compost bins, worm bins, or worms. To encourage more home composting (\$4,000)
- 3) Printing an easy to understand composting and worm pamphlet (\$1,500)
- 4) Running a series of five how-to composting workshops throughout the district this spring (\$1,400)
- 5) Establishing a 'Worms in Schools Programme', with educators visiting 10 schools this year, helping in class and setting up composting bins. (\$7,500)
- 6) Assisting a local community group who have put forward a proposal to set up a resource recovery park in Richmond, the largest urban area (\$40,000).
- 7) Assisting a local group who are developing a new initiative to turn waste paper into a Papercrete building product (\$4,800)
- 8) Assisting a local community group to establish an improved community composting and education centre in Takaka (\$800)
- 9) Starting in-house zero waste initiatives within Council, to show Council is 'walking the talk'. (up to \$2,500).
- 10) Inviting some of the Zero Waste

New Zealand Trust team to town, to give public talks and promote the zero waste principles as part of Council's exciting new environmental education initiative, *Ecofest 2001*. There are about a dozen waste related events happening during Ecofest (27 Oct - 11 Nov 2001).

For further information, contact Susan Corry, on 03 544 3484 or susco@tdc.govt.nz

## Innovative Waste Kaikoura Ltd

Innovative Waste has developed and built a Vertical Refuse Compactor, so that the life of the Kaikoura landfill can be extended.

The Compactor which has a 6:1 compaction rate, bales refuse in wool fadges, which are then placed in pre-cut cell blocks in the landfill. The added advantage to this method is the ability to landfill selectively i.e. sorted materials will be landfilled according to a register kept on site, so the landfill contents can be recycled at a future date.



*Verticle  
Compactor  
developed  
by  
Innovative  
Waste  
Kaikoura*

This system also reduces the need for daily cover, which was using up valuable landfill space. Due to the fact that there is no uncovered refuse, vermin problem is much reduced.

The compactor was designed and built locally, initially to solve a local problem. Since it has started operating, other districts have shown intense interest in this system.

The Vertical Refuse Compactor is regarded as a recycling press on loan

to the Landfill and as we get closer to our Zero Waste target, is being progressively used more for pressing plastics, aluminium cans, and steel cans.

Machinery specs and price can be obtained by calling John Ransley on 03 3197148 or emailing iwkw@xtra.co.nz

## A New Role for First Zero Waste Mayor

Don Riesterer, Mayor of Opotiki for the last 12 years, has stepped down from his Mayoral position. Opotiki was the first Council in New Zealand to adopt a target of Zero Waste, back in 1998. Don will now be focusing his energies on a range of other activities, including being a Zero Waste New Zealand trustee.



## Work Sought

Laureteen Morris, an American student, is currently completing her Masters Degree in International Environmental Policy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, and would like to find employment in New Zealand. She will be available for employment by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002. Her primary career goal is to work in waste minimization, business sustainability, and zero waste initiatives.

If you think you may have a potential position for her, contact Laureteen at Laureteen.Morris@miis.edu For a reference, contact Warren Snow on wsnow@envision-nz.com

## Caltex and Vertex Pacific Recycle

In late 2000, Caltex NZ Ltd and Vertex Pacific Ltd embarked upon an initiative to improve the environmental sustainability of Caltex's lubricant packaging.

After considering various options, recycled HDPE was selected as the best substitute for the 100% virgin material historically used.

70% of the material content of each container is now manufactured from post consumer waste collected via kerbside recycling programs in New Zealand. In total this results in more than 1,500,000 used milk bottles being put back into productive use annually. There are also substantial but less quantifiable savings in energy, non-renewable resource, reduced pollution etc due to 60 tonnes less new Polyethylene being produced and imported into New Zealand.



### Caltex's Vertex Recycled Packaging

The performance of the jerrycan has also been enhanced as the recycled plastic is more rigid than the virgin material. This will enable future light weighting and material reduction when new blowmoulding equipment is employed by Vertex later this year. A further 3% material reduction is anticipated.

These jerrycans are also the first recycled plastic packaging containers to achieve Environmental Choice licensing. Each Caltex Jerrycan proudly carries the distinctive logo on the cap, letting consumers know that this Caltex packaging has been deliberately developed to minimise negative environmental impact.

In such a competitive market Caltex see this as the creation of a unique marketing advantage.

## Accountants Embrace Sustainability

The *Sustainability Working Group* was formed in February 2001, and now boasts more than 100 members. Affiliated to the Auckland Branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the group is made up of Institute members and others with interests in sustainability.

The vision of the Group is "*To enhance the understanding of sustainability in business*" with core areas of activity in education, promotion and reporting. The Group's areas of interest encompass a wide range of topics which go far beyond the areas in which accountants traditionally work.

Group members are located throughout the country, drawn from numerous disciplines and sectors.

(Central, regional and local government, LATES, industry, commerce, academia, large and small accounting practices, legal firms, etc.)

The Group aims to raise accountants'

awareness of sustainability issues and practices, and through this "*make a difference*" to the

economic, environmental and social performance of organisations.

The Group can see huge opportunities for accountants to interact with their many stakeholders and assist them to reduce costs, and improve profits - the bottom line.

The 26,000 members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants are potentially a channel that could assist organisations reduce waste, improve energy efficiency and make improvements in a host of other areas. Where they may not be experts themselves in these areas, they would know where to find experts and advice and would use

their generic professional skills to identify costs savings, monitor performance, improve systems and procedures, and develop triple bottom line reports.

The Sustainability Working Group meets monthly with a video link between several venues throughout the country.

A "centre of knowledge" website will become operational during October with access via [www.icanz.co.nz](http://www.icanz.co.nz) and a search on "sustainability". A fortnightly newsletter is published.

For further information contact, Ray Skinner, R J Skinner & Associates, email: [rayskinner@clear.net.nz](mailto:rayskinner@clear.net.nz)

## In Memory of Rosemary Eller

Rosemary Eller, Waste Management Officer for Rodney District Council, died tragically on 11 October in a motor vehicle accident near Albany, north of Auckland. Rosemary was a dedicated and hardworking public servant who believed passionately in the importance of environmental issues and worked tirelessly in her job to put those beliefs into practice. Rosemary joined Rodney District Council in August 1998, after working in Australia for seven years in the fields of environmental protection and waste minimisation. For most of her time with RDC, the Council was largely focussed on the privatisation of waste management and she had difficulty reconciling this with her views. The new Council that was elected in March this year has a much greater interest in recycling and zero waste.

Unfortunately, Rosemary will miss their achievements. Rosemary's energy and enthusiasm will be greatly missed by all who knew and worked with her.

## Resources

### The Enterprise Awards Scheme

Industry New Zealand has launched The Enterprise Awards Scheme, to assist businesses and entrepreneurs with the development of well-defined business projects and concepts.

The scheme can contribute up to \$20,000 for qualifying costs and contracting external advisors who can provide expert knowledge critical to the projects success.

For further information on this scheme go to

[www.industry.govt.nz/sme/index.shtml](http://www.industry.govt.nz/sme/index.shtml)

Or contact the Zero Waste office for a copy of the Guidelines and Proposal Form.

## International News

### GAIA - Zero Waste Funding

The following international zero waste movements have recently gained funding for their projects from GAIA.

- 1. Korea Waste Movement Network (KWMN), South Korea**, for a civilian-government forum on zero waste on 20 October 2001
- 2. Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA), India**, for a campaign that aims to transform Digha in Midnapur, West Bengal as a zero waste beach resort.
- 3. This Is My Environment Foundation (TIME Foundation), Bulgaria**, for an information drive against waste incineration and for zero waste.
- 4. DEA Klub, Slovenia**, for a No to Incinerator, Yes to Zero Waste campaign in the municipality of Koper.

### Tyre Recycling in Alberta

The Tyre Recycling Management Association of Alberta have created

a ten million dollar per annum industry out of recycling tyres, employing over 200 employees.

### Israel's Can & Bottle Deposit Law

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2001, Israel adopted a law that requires that a deposit equivalent to 10 cents is levied on each glass or plastic bottle, or metal container. Exceptions apply to small containers (less than 100 ml.) or those of 1.5 litres and up, as well as milk containers. The collection and recycling of containers will be handled by a non-profit corporation set up for the purpose by industrialist, retailers and importers. The Ministry of Environment has set a target for the first twelve months of 50% collection-recycling, to increase by 10% each year thereafter.

### The US recycles rechargeable batteries

An Atlanta based non-profit organisation is offering communities across North America free recycling of rechargeable batteries.

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) handles the collection of all portable rechargeable batteries, including nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd); nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH); lithium ion (Li-Ion); and small sealed lead (Pb) rechargeable batteries.

Spent rechargeable battery packs are collected by RBRC from communities and retailers and shipped to the International Metals Reclamation Company (Inmetco) in Pennsylvania for processing.

In total, Inmetco recovers 260 to 300 tonnes of cadmium each year which is either recycled back into batteries, used in the manufacture of corrosion-resistant coatings, or sold as pigment. Cadmium is the seventh most toxic substance on the Top 20 List of toxics issued by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

For the full story go to: [http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2001/10/10112001/s\\_45231.asp](http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2001/10/10112001/s_45231.asp)

## Source Separation

There has been a lot of information going around about waste separation, MERFS and super MERFS.

What everyone seems to be forgetting is that most homes already have the best waste separation facility already installed. I refer of course to the Waste Integration Final Extraction units installed in most homes - hereinafter referred to as the WIFE. These units successfully separate waste into its different recyclable constituents, without any cost to the local waste collection authority, and with no further need to finance expensive waste management units.

They do of course work alongside the Household Utility for Separated and Biodegradable Ancillary Normalisation Dissemination units (HUSBAND's) - which are normally utilised to effect the delivery of separated waste on collection days.

Some of these units are being trialled in test areas, with remarkable results - 90 to 95% implementation, 60 to 70% recycling achievement, and at no extra cost to the waste collection authority.

When considered against the cost of wheely bin style collections and MERF technology, the WIFE and HUSBAND technologies show significant success at minimum cost.

It is a wonder that more authorities are not implementing WIFE and HUSBAND units as standard.

From Rob Hill from NIFE - [www.noincineratorsforeurope.org](http://www.noincineratorsforeurope.org).

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