

Zero Waste Update

Please pass on

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 Conference 2000

From the 7th - 9th December Kaitaia will become the Zero Waste capital of New Zealand as it hosts the second annual Zero Waste conference. Zero Waste supporters from all over the country - and from around the globe, will converge on the Far North to listen, learn, discuss and devise Zero Waste strategies for their communities.

All 26 Zero Waste Councils are expected to attend, along with a significant number of other Councils who are considering adopting Zero Waste policies.

There will also be recy-

clers, businesses, academic institutions, government agencies, community groups and consultants attending, bringing together just about every stakeholder in the waste reduction 'industry'.

We are extremely honoured to have as key note speaker Mr Tachi Kiuchi, General Manager of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and Chairman of the Future 500. Mr Kiuchi is well known for his strong environmental stance and his views on sustainable business development. Experts from the USA, Australia and the United Kingdom will also be making presentations and bringing a strong interna-

tional perspective to what is happening here in New Zealand. Among these will be Gary Liss from the USA (author of "Local Government Incentives for Zero Waste" - see guest editorial on our website), Robin Murray from the London School of Economics (author of "Creating Wealth from Waste") and Andy Moore from the Community Recycling Network in the UK and publisher of 'The Wastepaper'.

The first day of the conference will be focused predominantly on the Zero Waste Councils - finding out what has been successful and where the main challenges lie. On the second day community groups will join in to hear the guest speakers and take part in the workshops. The final day will be set aside for community groups to network and tour the facilities of CBEC and other local community initiatives.

This conference will be a fantastic opportunity to mix and mingle with the Zero Waste Network and to develop Zero Waste solutions for our communities.

Zero Waste Website

www.zerowaste.co.nz

☐ Check out the new **International** section, outlining international zero waste strategies. With the help of the GRRN website, a list of zero waste activities around the world are included. Reports on Zero Waste from Australia, British Columbia and Wales can also be downloaded.

☐ New Guest Editorial - **Local Government Incentives for Zero Waste** by Gary Liss outlines a variety of incentives that can be adopted by communities to reward and encourage waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting instead of waste disposal. Although there are some Americanisms, this article contains many useful ideas for NZ communities.



Kaikoura Zero Waste Conference 1999

To keep numbers manageable, attendance will be by invitation only - we will be sending out registration packs in mid October. However if you haven't received one by late October please contact us and we will send one out.

Waste Works Technology Tour

In the three days leading up to the Zero Waste Conference, Waste Works Ltd is leading a Waste Works Technology Tour starting in Christchurch and ending up at the conference in Kaitaia. This will be a practical tour of some of the major waste reduction initiatives in New Zealand, offering the opportunity to meet and talk to owners and operators. The tour starts on Monday the 4th of December and works its way up to the Zero Waste Conference in Kaitaia, returning people to Auckland after the conference on Saturday the 9th of December.

This tour offers the perfect opportunity to get a first hand experience of the waste reduction industry in New Zealand, followed by two days of work shopping and networking at the Zero Waste conference. For further information on this tour, please contact Russ Loudon, Waste Works Ltd, Phone: 09 489 1889

Western Australia looks at Zero Waste

Western Australia is looking seriously at adopting a zero waste strategy. In August, the Western Australian Government released a Waste 2020 Draft Strategy – Towards zero waste by 2020 outlining goals, key actions and targets for Western Australia to achieve zero waste by 2020. Download a copy at <http://www.envIRON.wa.gov.au/DEP/waste2020/>

RONZ Workshop

The Recycling Operators of New Zealand (RONZ), a national recycling group of business, community and council interests is running a practical workshop this month to focus on council contracts in the tendering process as well as the design and operation of drop off recycling centres.

The workshop will be held in Auckland on October 17 and will include local authority staff and recycling operators from around the country. This workshop is part of RONZ' Best Practice Guidelines for Recycling project. Results from this workshop will be presented at the WasteMinz Annual Conference in November and at the Zero Waste Conference in December.

For further information contact Karuna Douglas, RONZ Coordinator, phone: 09 488 9449.

Zero Waste Council Profile: Nelson

In September 1999 Nelson City Council adopted a Zero Waste policy, and a Zero Waste Working Party was formed to develop a long-term waste reduction strategy. A year later, recycling, composting and education facilities have been established.

- Nelson Recycling Centre, based at the Transfer Station, is operated by a trust under the umbrella of the Nelson Environment Centre. The recycling centre currently accepts aluminium, metals, glass bottles and jars, oil and cardboard.

- A private composting centre processes about 15,000 cubic metres of garden waste per year beside the Transfer Station site and a \$15 subsidy is available

from Council for the purchase of household compost bins and worm farms.

- The community gardens, run by a trust, provide kids and adult education programmes with a focus on waste reduction and composting. In July 2000, Nelson's Zero Waste Working Party prepared a Zero Waste strategy for Nelson City Council, including five main goals.

1. **Waste audits** – Produce these for all sectors of Nelson's waste stream.

2. **Landfill costs** – Establish the true cost of landfill operations.

3. **Recycling and composting** – Expand the current recycling service to include paper and plastics. It has not yet been decided whether this will require a kerbside collection, or increased drop off points for recyclables.

4. **Changes to Council's operation** – Waste minimisation objectives to be adopted by each division of Council.

5. **Waste education** – Promote waste reduction, composting, reuse and recycling in schools and the community.

Regional Initiatives

A number of regional initiatives are currently being examined, including the possibility of regional cooperation with Tasman and Marlborough for an expansion of recycling services. Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council are also considering adopting comparable methods for measuring their waste streams in order to gain a clear picture of the regional situation and to help cut down on cross-boundary dumping to landfill.

For further information please contact Debra Bradshaw on (03) 546-0375 or email:

debra.bradshaw@ncc.govt.nz



Opening of Te Hutewai Recycle Centre

X-treme Waste

The gates to the Te Hutewai Recycle Centre were opened on the 1st July 2000. This was a long awaited event after two years of community voluntary time and research!

The Recycle Centre is situated adjacent to Raglan's old landfill that took approximately 50 years to fill. The Recycle Centre and the Transfer Station, both managed by community group – X-treme Waste, are part of the Waikato District Councils Waste Minimisation Plan to reduce waste to landfill.

On Monday 18th September there was a formal opening of the Recycle Centre by the Mayor of Waikato – Angus Macdonald. The event was well attended by agencies and community who had supported the establishment of the Centre.

Additional to the Recycle Centre X-treme Waste offers the following services to its community:

- Weekly kerbside collection
- Special house collections (for elderly people)
- Twice weekly business collection
- Tailored business collection
- Rural drop-off points (modified sea containers)
- A waste network
- Mulching of greenwaste and

the production of mulch and compost

- Educational talks and recycling demonstrations
- Participation in Enviro Schools (Zero Waste component of this regional trial)
- Sponsorship of local radio station
- Recycle bins at cost price
- Waste auditing

These services generate participation and a large volume of recyclables. Over

the last two months the following volumes have been processed:

- 160 bales of plastics, aluminium and tin cans
- 140 drums of crushed glass
- 20 tonnes of paper and cardboard
- a large volume of precious metals and scrap steel

There has been an increase in awareness and use of our shop and building supplies:

- \$700 worth of sales of reusable items
- waste network diverting waste before it reaches the Transfer Station
- reuse of timber and other building/plumbing supplies

For further information, contact Rick Thorpe on 07 825 7093 or email lizrick@wave.co.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

Green Light For Green Initiative

Waitakere – the “Eco City” has scored another environmental first. This week, the City Council unanimously agreed to give the go-ahead for a project, which will see thousands of tonnes of green waste diverted from landfill and turned into compost.

The Council has contracted Perry Waste Services Ltd to run the operation at the City's transfer and recycling station in Henderson. Using the unique “Vertical Composting Unit” (VCU®), Perry's will compost a minimum of 7,500 tonnes of green waste material a year. In all there will be 10 units on site, standing some 8.5m high and capable of handling all of the City's green waste. It is the first such operation in New Zealand of this magnitude.

If all goes according to plan, the Council hopes to be able to add kitchen and food waste to the compost next year, reducing even further the amount going to landfills.

Quote of the month

“Zero waste is the mother of all environmental no brainers”

Jeffrey Hollender, president of Seventh Generation

'WASTE WISE' Organic Recycling Programme

To date over 200 North Island Schools will turn approx. 5,000 litres of school lunch food and contaminated paper waste into a valuable resource each week!

These schools chose to implement the 'WASTE WISE' Organic Recycling Programme with help from a trained 'WASTE WISE' Educator, and are now well on their way to taking responsibility for their own organic waste in an environmentally friendly manner by returning it to their school gardens in the form of 'Vermicast'.

5,000 litres per week may not sound like a large quantity, but it is teaching the next generation of Workers, CEO's and Councillors that there are alternatives to landfilling.

The 'WASTE WISE' Organic Recycling Programme was developed and produced by Julie Dennis (Education Officer for the Recycling Operators Forum, Hamilton) 3 years ago and initially funded by the Hamilton City Council Environmental Initiatives Funding scheme. Since then it has been introduced to eleven other Cities and Districts and educators are being trained in a further four Districts.

The programme was designed to be taught by the Local Council Staff (or contracted out and co-ordinated by Councils). Each region has a trained 'WASTE WISE' Educator to implement the programme into their region's schools which adds a commitment and follow-up factor and a networking of information between the councils and schools. For further information contact Julie Dennis on 025 489 565.

Resources

'Beyond the Bin: The economics of waste management options' is a report which summarises research into the environmental costs of different ways of dealing with household rubbish. This research puts a figure to the environmental costs and benefits of different waste disposal options for household rubbish. For a copy, please send a large s.a.e to Waste Watch, Europa House, 13-17 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QG, UK

Cheap Software

Non profit organisations can get software at the same price as students (much cheaper than standard prices).

The procedure for accessing this cheaper software may vary from place to place, but can be ordered through Software On-Line, who have a very simple system in place. Their website is at www.sol.co.nz

GRRN Zero Waste Articles

The GrassRoots Recycling Network (GRRN) website has a number of outstanding Zero Waste resources, including "Zero Waste, Recycling and Climate Change" by Bill Sheehan, "Zeroing in on Zero Waste" by Bill Sheehan and Daniel Knapp, "What is Zero Waste?" and "Zero Waste Shining Examples" by Gary Liss, and "Zero Waste Management: Principles for the Comming Age of Zero Waste" by Susan Kinsella and Associates and Danial Knapp.

The GRRN website is at <http://www.grrn.org/> These articles are also available from Zero Waste for for \$5.

International News

Recycle your Toyota

Toyota's new Prius car, to be launched in Europe in October, is designed to be recycled at the end of its useful life. Run on an electric motor and a gasoline engine it is powered by a nickel-metal hydride battery guaranteed for the vehicle's life. The battery can then be recycled at one of three plants in Europe.

A new European Union law has stipulated that carmakers will have to recycle or reuse 80% of a car's weight from 2006, increasing to 85% by 2015. By 2007 manufacturers will also have to take back any scrap car without charge.

Wealth from Organic Waste

A Malaysian based waste management firm, Firmaplus, is to begin the use of fermentation technology to process organic waste into high protein animal feed. Firmaplus has committed to an investment of \$500 million to construct and put into operation at least 27 processing plants in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Each plant will have the daily capacity to process 1,200 tonnes of waste into fertilizers and animal feed. The revenue from the process is estimated to reach over \$1 billion a year within a few years.

Contact Zero Waste for further information on either of these articles.