

Zero Waste Update

Please pass on

October 2002, Issue 28

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

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Whistle-Stop Zero Waste Tour

John Ransley, Manager of Innovative Waste Kaikoura, was recently sponsored by the Community Employment Group and Zero Waste Trust to undertake a seven-week trip around New Zealand. The purpose of the trip was to visit Councils and community groups throughout New Zealand who are working on Zero Waste projects. In total, John visited 115 different councils, community groups and recyclers, travelling from Kaitia to Stewart Island.

The trip provided John with an excellent opportunity to see where New Zealand is with regards to Zero Waste and he was able to see firsthand the groundswell of support for Zero Waste, coming from community, council and business sectors.

Key impressions gained from the trip were:

1. There are community groups ready and willing to take up the challenge and John feels they are the only ones that have the will to achieve Zero Waste. However, the window of opportunity is small because waste companies are tying councils up to long term contracts that will not achieve Zero Waste.
2. Councils are prepared to deal with community groups if community groups can prove they are business-like and professional.
3. There is an urgent need for Zero Waste as a national movement to up-skill and train community group leaders, inspire them with vision and purpose and send them back into their communities. The Zero Waste Academy will help achieve this.



John Ransley on site in Kaikoura.

Zero Waste Community Enterprise Network

Representatives of five key community groups recently met to establish the Zero Waste Community Enterprise Network (ZWCEN) under the wing of the Zero Waste New Zealand Trust.

ZWCEN has been established to provide a common voice for community groups involved in waste minimisation and recycling in New Zealand. Members will be encouraged to join RONZ to participate in this industry group as well. ZWCEN will advise and consult with the Ministry for the Environment and other government agencies on waste reduction and common issues. It will also provide support for new groups that are establishing, research needs of community groups and meet at least once a year.

ZWCEN is in its infancy and is still developing its' role and function. Further information will be posted in the Zero Waste Update and on the website; www.zerowaste.co.nz.

If you are interested in finding out more about ZWCEN, please contact Lu at lucy@zerowaste.co.nz.

NEWS CLIPPINGS

Please note we have significantly reduced the number of news clippings sent out every month, in an attempt to reduce the amount of paper consumed. We also prefer to send as much information out via email as possible.

If you would prefer to receive your news clippings as a pdf via email rather than by post, please contact Lu at; lucy@zerowaste.co.nz. Please note, the clippings are usually more than 5 MB in size.

Zero Waste Academy

The first courses run by the Zero Waste Academy will be taking place over the next two weeks. The Resource Recovery Management training course has been written and is being run by Innovative Waste Kaikoura (IWK), starting on the 28th October. The course has been created to develop the skills of workers who have the potential to take on management roles in community recycling operations. This course is full but will be running regularly so please let us know if you would like to go on the waiting list for the next one.

The Kaikoura courses will be officially launched at the Kaikoura Celebration in mid November which is being held to celebrate the success of Kaikoura gaining Green Globe accreditation and IWK gaining a Green Ribbon Award.

Mid Canterbury Wastebusters is also running an Education Training Workshop in Ashburton on October 15th under the Zero Waste Academy. The course will examine their highly successful and comprehensive education package in detail and look at how to apply it both in schools and the wider community.

Guest Column

Eric Lombardi, Executive Director of EcoCycle Inc, Boulder, Colorado, USA discusses "Community, Networks and Zero Waste".

It wasn't that long ago that the "stuff" we all threw away was our own personal business and not the subject of heated debates, multi-million dollar budgets and political elections. And certainly "the future health of the planet Earth" wasn't dependent upon it. Or maybe it was and we just didn't know it yet?

If you can remember the days before the recycling revolution swept the globe (some of us can) then you'll recall that the term "waste reduction" meant putting larger and heavier steel wheels on the landfill bulldozer so that the garbage would get smashed down better. Over a mere 15 years (the 1987 New York garbage barge as the threshold event) we've evolved to the idea of withholding as much of our trash from landfills as possible. How did we make that leap so quickly, and with so much consensus across political and cultural boundaries?

The answer is "network organizations serving the needs of community." Born in the 1980's and 90's, the network organization leaders have been the CRN (Community Recycling Network in the UK), the NpRC (Non-profit Recyclers Council of the National Recyclers Coalition in the U.S.A.), and most recently GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, a global grassroots organization.) The power of CRN, NpRC and GAIA is that they are the "homebase" for large communities of individuals and organizations seeking a common vision for our environmental future. This is the "mission-driven" sector of our world in action, and it works either with or against the "profit-driven" sector and the "government-driven" sector. Each of these three social sectors serve humanity in unique ways, but when it comes to the recycling revolution then the mission-driven people and organizations have led the way.

And it's time to lead again. I'm predicting that 15 years into the future, we'll all be looking back at the days before the Zero Waste revolution when the term 'waste management' meant an exclusive focus on downstream solutions such as recycling and composting.

But during the first decade of the 21st Century we learned to go upstream to the headwaters of the waste problem and address the real issue, which is the design of our products and packaging. Things are made with toxic materials, and are designed for the landfill rather than for recovery and re-use. And this realization spread and grew throughout the world via a fantastic network of organizations, small and large, local and global.

The Zero Waste New Zealand Trust is a model for all of us around the world to watch and learn how to inspire and teach people about the promise of the Zero Waste revolution. Your particular networking approach may be the next evolution beyond the 1990's model and I applaud your creative approach to building new communities, new excitement and new hope for preserving the natural beauty of New Zealand and the world.

Community News

Golden Bay Work Centre

The pilot recycling operation set up at Takaka refuse transfer station is just over one year old and the story is one of success for this community group. The operation was set up to target higher value components of the waste stream, such as non-ferrous metals and reusable items. A reuse shop has been incorporated on site and it has an excellent reputation with the local community and generates a small but steady income



Jacob and Kevin recovering waste oil as they dismantle a motor.

for the project. Their primary income is from the sale of ferrous and non-ferrous metals. They have incorporated a Council-approved waste oil recovery system to catch oil when dismantling motors (see photo). So far, they have recovered 8 tonnes of non-ferrous metal. A big challenge in Golden Bay is the distance and cost of transport and the fragmented nature of recycling in the region - a variety of contractors recover materials for recycling. However, they are net

working with other community groups in the South Island (Innovative Waste Kaikoura and the Kahurangi Employment Trust) to share good ideas. A good working relationship has been developed with Tasman District Council and SICON (site operators). The project is nearing becoming self sustaining as levels of sales are increasing. The next step is to develop a regional approach to deal with plastic waste. For further information contact Mik Symmons on 03 525 8099 or workcentre@xtra.co.nz.

EARTH 2, (Environmental Alert Recycle Towards Health) is a community enterprise set up in Opotiki. The project recently won the green waste tender from Opotiki District Council after running a 4 month trial at the Resource Recovery Centre. The local community have received the project well and are keen to drop their green waste off to the operation. Currently they process 97% of the green waste coming into the site through chipping and windrowing and then selling either as compost or mulch.

Trash Palace

Work is progressing on Trash Palace Enviro-Park in Porirua, the innovative resource recovery centre being constructed from salvaged or environmentally sound materials. It will officially open on November 30th. The building is being funded by the Porirua City Council and will contain a resource recovery facility, secondhand shop, education centre and cafe.

A permaculture garden will be developed. Solar energy and wind power will also feature.

Mana Community Enterprises Inc., who have been working with the Council on this project, have a three year contract to manage Trash Palace and run Porirua's Inorganic Collection. For any enquiries contact Alison Lewin at Mana Community Enterprises on 04 237 5585.



Helen Schafer & Alison Lewin, partners in Trash Palace.

Zero Waste Council News in Brief

Wanganui District Council

At a meeting held by Council in September to discuss waste minimisation targets and vision, the following resolution was passed by **Wanganui District Council**:

To adopt Zero Waste in principle; and to further explore what being a Zero Waste Council/ Community entails.

Porirua City Council

Porirua City is on target to reach its goal of collecting 2000 tonnes of kerbside recyclables in its first year. Recycling collections began in June and since then 692 tonnes of combined materials have been collected. This represents an average of 2.8kg of recyclables per household being put out weekly in Porirua City.

If the tonnage target is reached the contractor will donate \$5 per tonne, in the first calendar year this occurs, to an Environmental Education Trust of Council's choice.

Kapiti District Council

Of the six recycling stations located throughout the Kapiti District, **Paraparaumu** is the first to be redesigned into a 'courtyard recycling site'. The recycling station has been on site behind the supermarket, Pak'n'Save, for the last ten years but had degenerated into an unsightly mess. The new drop off station was part funded by the Zero Waste New Zealand Trust. It is set on a concrete base and surrounded by sturdy galvanised steel supports clad with colour steel with a series of slots ready to accept a wide range of recyclables. The facility now offers good public access, visibility and a unified courtyard theme.

Structural plans of the recycling station will be available. Contact Lu at lucy@zerowaste.co.nz for more details.



Residents using the new drop off station in Paraparaumu.

Mackenzie's model of solid waste management

At the end of May 2002 **Mackenzie District Council** launched its Zero Waste Strategy, moving from disposing of all refuse into landfills to a comprehensive system encouraging waste separation at source and resource recovery. The new systems include 3 bag kerbside collection (of organics, recyclables & residuals), three new resource recovery parks, a comprehensive education programme, processing of organic materials and introducing financial incentives to separate waste. The model is available from Lu at lucy@zerowaste.co.nz



The Vertical Composting Unit (named JOAN) being fed.

Business News

The Body Shop

Not only do The Body Shop encourage their customers to return their bottles for either refilling or recycling but they are now striving for in-store Zero Waste. They have implemented comprehensive recycling systems in their warehouses and head office.

The move towards Zero Waste came about four years ago after Maureen Soanes, Environmental Spokesperson for The Body Shop, instigated waste auditing of the 17 shops throughout New Zealand. The figures that came back showed that some shops were already achieving high diversion figures but others needed a boost. During the waste audit week, six shops came in with zero waste. To help those shops with lower diversion figures, Maureen has helped them to find local recycling facilities that would accept many of the materials discarded in the shop. For example, in Hamilton a local worm farmer takes used tissues from the shop. She has also found operators to take problem materials such as shrink wrap (used to wrap baskets). She works with shop managers and teams to educate them about waste minimisation and improving their recycling systems. "It's all about being creative", said Maureen.

Latest waste minimisation ventures include the new range of make-up being packaged only in materials that can be recycled (eg. plastics 1 & 2).

The company is now investigating the possibility of using biodegradable carrier bags in their shops.

For more information, contact Maureen on 07 834 3174.

Plascrete International Ltd

Plascrete Ltd (and its subsidiaries) were voluntarily placed into liquidation earlier this year. The company had been developing a concrete construction material that incorporated a significant percentage of recycled plastic into the aggregate. The material had potential to be used for construction purposes such as roof tiles and concrete pavers.

The intellectual property rights of the plascrete technology were sold in July and a new company has been registered as Plascrete International Ltd. An agreement has been signed with a group of engineers to develop Plascrete as a construction and building material. Several business drivers are emerging for Plascrete in the UK and Europe. These include the aggregates levy, landfill tax and landfill directive.

For more information visit www.plascrete.co.nz or email info@plascrete.co.nz.

Ecoflex NZ

Ecoflex Australia uses patented engineered design systems with recycled tyres in the construction, building and marine industries. The system has been developed over six years and will now operate in New Zealand. The recycled tyres are used in a number of ways: waffle pods for rib raft concrete floors; retaining walls of various designs; noise bunds; artificial reefs; seawalls; wave barriers; pavement/roading foundations; scour protection in waterways and headwalls around culvert inlets/outlets.

For more details contact Ecoflex New Zealand at evansfam@clear.net.nz.

EMAIL YOUR NEWS

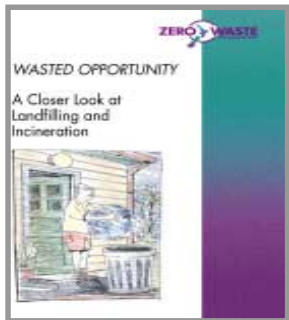
AND VIEWS TO

lucy@zerowaste.co.nz

Resources

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust has recently released several reports, both available from the website, www.zerowaste.co.nz.

Wasted Opportunity: A Closer Look at Landfilling and Incineration'



The report is an attempt to redress the information imbalance that communities face when considering their waste management and resource recovery options. It summarises reports and documents that provide alternative views to those promulgated by the landfilling and incineration industries and clearly outlines the Zero Waste position on these technologies.

It is a useful tool for any council or community debating the landfill or incineration issue.

The report can be downloaded from the Zero Waste website, www.zerowaste.co.nz under 'Zero Waste Philosophy/ Landfills and Incineration'. Hard copies are available for \$5.

'Extended Producer Responsibility: Container Deposit Legislation Report'

This report gives a general explanation of how extended producer responsibility works and describes, in more detail, container deposit legislation models implemented in a number of countries around the world. It is available as a pdf from the Zero Waste website, under 'Resources & Links/ Reports & Information/ New Reports'.

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International news

San Francisco adopts a Zero Waste policy

At the end of September, San Francisco's Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt a Zero Waste policy, setting a target of diverting 75% of its discarded waste by 2010. It currently diverts 46% of its waste and will establish a timeline for achieving Zero Waste when it reaches 50%, expected later this year.

Currently San Francisco generates the amount of waste material equivalent to two Golden Gate Bridges, or 1.6 million tons. The city already has an excellent recycling and organics collection programme and is on its way to becoming the first Zero Waste city in the USA.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board has adopted a goal of Zero Waste in its strategic plan and has pledged to work with municipalities as well as manufacturers and state legislators to bring it about.

ZWUK: More UK Councils sign up to Zero Waste.

Seven Councils in the UK have now signed up to the Zero Waste Charter which is to be formally presented to the Government in early November. They are Chelmsford, Braintree, Bath and North East Somerset (BANES), Milton Keynes, Newhaven, Norwich and Doncaster. The Zero Waste Charter and Ten Point Plan was officially launched at a Westminster Parliamentary meeting in June. Those who have signed the Charter have committed to achieving Zero Waste in the UK by 2020. Ultimately the Charter calls upon the Government to promote Zero Waste by adopting a Ten Point Plan in order to change Britain's Waste economy. Warren Snow, founder of Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, is speaking at two conferences in the UK during October, including the South West Regional Assembly who are considering developing a regional Zero Waste Strategy.

The Zero Waste Update is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Events

WasteMINZ, 6-8 November, Rotorua.



Tom Galimberti, the driver behind the British Columbian Product Stewardship agreements will be the main presenter at the Zero Waste workshop at the WasteMINZ conference on Wednesday 6th November.

Tom has held a number of senior level positions in Ministries in the Government of Saskatchewan and was the Director of the Pollution Prevention Branch in the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. He is now the Principal of Global Environmental Management Systems Ltd, an environmental management consulting firm. The firm specialises in, amongst other things, product stewardship programmes.

Tom will be explaining the British Columbian experience and showing how industry product stewardship makes good political, environmental and economic sense - and how it creates value-added private sector jobs.

And finally

Here's what you can do with 550 discarded 2 litre plastic bottles.



The Sustainable Communities Initiative in Scotland run Creative Waste Workshops for people of all ages. This is a greenhouse made of plastic bottles. For further information email inquiry@sci-scotland.org.uk