

Zero Waste Update

Please pass on

September 2002, Issue 27

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

Inside this issue:

Landfilling & Incineration	1
Guest Column: Annie Leonard, GAIA	2
Community News	2
Council News	3
International News, Resources & Events	4

Wasted Opportunity: A Closer Look at Landfilling and Incineration'

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust has just released a new report on landfilling and incineration technologies. The report, titled 'Wasted Opportunities: A Closer Look at Landfilling and Incineration', is an attempt to redress the information imbalance that communities face when considering their waste management options. It summarises a large number of reports and documents that give alternative views to those given by the landfilling and incineration industries and provides responses to common arguments.

Other New Reports

- ◆ Christchurch City Council, 'Kerbside Collection of Domestic Kitchen Organics in Christchurch'. Results of its' eight week trial. Go to www.ccc.govt.nz/Compost/KitchenOrganicsCollectionTrial.asp.
- ◆ Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, Container Deposit Legislation. Contact Lu at; lucy@zerowaste.co.nz or will be posted shortly on www.zerowaste.co.nz under 'Resources & Links/ Reports & Info'

Canadian Product Stewardship Expert Visits NZ

Tom Galimberti, the driver behind the British Columbian Product Stewardship agreements will be coming to New Zealand in November. He will make a presentation at the Zero Waste workshop at the WasteMINZ conference. Zero Waste New Zealand Trust is sponsoring his visit and hopes to organise meetings with other key organisations while he is here. Tom was instrumental in developing beverage container deposit programmes in Canada and product stewardship programmes for tyres, pharmaceuticals, farm plastics and paint. These have been immensely successful and are now popular, even with industries that initially opposed them. One particularly successful example is the Saskatchewan Government's beverage container recycling programme which has achieved the highest return rate in North America – 92% - and which was the first jurisdiction in Canada to apply a surcharge to tetrapaks. For further information on the British Columbian Product Stewardship agreements see the Zero Waste website; www.zerowaste.co.nz, 'Resources & Links/ Reports & information'.

EMAIL YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS TO

lucy@zerowaste.co.nz

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

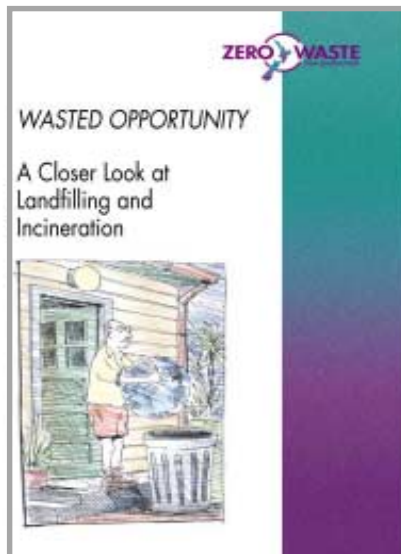
It can be downloaded from the Zero Waste website : www.zerowaste.co.nz under 'Zero Waste Philosophy/Landfills and Incineration' . A copy will be sent to every council and community group but additional copies can be ordered from the Zero Waste office (\$5 each).

Landfill & incineration - some facts:

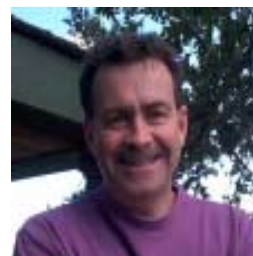
◆ Landfilling waste generates less employment than recycling; for the same amount of material, 3 to 5 times more jobs are created by recycling rather than landfilling. In a survey conducted in the Auckland region, approximately 2000 people are directly employed in the 64 recycling businesses surveyed, with a gross annual turnover of \$132,000,000.

◆ Recycling plastic saves 3.7 to 5.2 times more energy, recycling paper saves 2.7 to 4.3 times more energy and recycling metal saves 30 to 888 times more energy than is gained through incineration.

◆ Mixed waste incinerators are inefficient energy producers, capturing only about 20% of energy generated by the waste.



"Communities that implement Zero Waste strategies are aiming to switch from wasteful and damaging waste disposal methods to value-added resource recovery systems that will help build sustainable local economies. As such Zero Waste is in complete opposition to landfilling and incineration."



M o r e information on Tom's visit will be posted in next month's Update.

Guest Column

Ann Leonard, Northern Coordinator of GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives) based in the USA writes about Zero Waste: Sustainable Development in Action.

While the overall assessment of the recently completed World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in South Africa is one of disappointment, Zero Waste advocates are celebrating one shining example of sustainable development in action at the Summit. The South African NGO, Earthlife Africa, and GAIA collaborated to implement Zero Waste at the WSSD, focusing on the WSSD's largest event, the Global Forum. The Zero Waste programme included four critical components: designing waste out of the system by preventing waste at the source; keeping materials in the discard stream segregated; composting organic waste; and investing in education and outreach. Preliminary data from the event indicates a waste diversion rate of 70-80%. This programme provided an example of the viability and advantages of Zero Waste as well as the possibilities and power of international collaboration. "We hope our example inspires others around the world to implement Zero Waste programmes when they return home", said Muna Lakhani, coordinator of the Zero Waste Earth Summit team for Earthlife Africa in Johannesburg.

GAIA is an international alliance working both against incinerators and for alternatives which are environmentally, economically and socially sound. In less than two years since its founding, GAIA's membership has grown to 300 members in over 60 countries who share these goals and feel their work strengthened through international collaboration. GAIA members exchange information, block incinerator proposals, establish alternative demonstration projects, conduct public education drives, conduct research and disseminate information about incinerators and alternatives.

The WSSD demonstrated that we can't rely on the world's governments to save the earth's natural resources and prevent toxic pollution. GAIA, on the other hand, is one of the many examples of communities and civil society providing solutions that make environmental and economic sense.

If real solutions, like Zero Waste, are supported in the coming decade, the next Earth Summit may actually have global victories to celebrate. For additional information about GAIA, go to www.no-burn.org.

Community News

Wastebusters Trust Canterbury's Winter Waste Fest 2002 went off with a bang this year! The event, held in Ashburton, took place from 10th-24th August and attracted a huge number of visitors. Attractions to the event included the 'Glorious Garbage Wearable Art Parade' which was so popular there was standing room only. Other well-attended sessions included a Mosaics class and a Water Feature workshop, paper and card making and instant paving slab design. The Zero Waste workshop hosted an exciting array of speakers and provided an excellent opportunity for information sharing and networking. There was a record number of local businesses (48) entering the Clean Green Business Awards.



One of the masterpieces in this years Glorious Garbage Wearable Art Parade. A large number of young designers (Under 14's) took part.

Plastic Bag Update

Irish Tax

The Irish Environment Minister recently announced that the NZ30c tax placed on plastic shopping bags earlier this year has been highly successful. Distribution of the bags had decreased by 90% within three months and NZ\$7.2 million has been raised which will feed into an environment fund.

Degradable carrier bags have also been launched in Britain at a major supermarket. Currently 20 billion bags are distributed annually in the UK. Only 1 in 200 is recycled and each takes about 100 years to degrade. UK Environment Minister Michael Meacher is considering a tax on plastic bags following the success in Ireland. Go to www.zerowaste.co.nz, 'Resources & Links/ Reports & Information' or contact lucy@zerowaste.co.nz for the Zero Waste report on this issue.

Christchurch Campaign

Annelies Pekelharing and Cath Knight (featured in the July Zero Waste Update) are progressing well with their campaign in Christchurch. They have met with the CEO of a major supermarket chain and there is potential for other supermarkets and Christchurch City Council to discuss a proposal put together by Annelies and Cath. The team of two have also been looking at alternative materials (such as hessian) with which to make large shopping bags and are currently doing trials to see which one works best. Contact anneliesp@xtra.co.nz for more details.

New Position

Zero Waste Academy Coordinator

A challenging new position has been created to coordinate the activities of the Zero Waste Academy, a facility that will be the centre of excellence for training, education and research into the Zero Waste principles and practices. The Academy is being established by Zero Waste New Zealand Trust in association with Massey University in Palmerston North.

The successful applicant will need to have a good understanding of the Zero Waste philosophy and of community development issues. He or she will also need to have the passion, initiative and organisational skills to coordinate Zero Waste training programmes around the country and to help shape the direction of this significant new venture. Because the position is based in Palmerston North, and not at the Zero Waste office, the successful applicant will need to be able to work independently, as well as part of a wider team.

The position is initially a one year contract. A job description has been posted on our website under 'About Us' – or it can be obtained by contacting Jill Norman; at jill@zerowaste.co.nz. If you would like to apply for the position please send your CV to the Manager, Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, PO Box 33 1695, Takapuna, Auckland.

Project Manager

The Community Business & Environment Centre (CBEC) is looking for a senior management person to join their team in the Far North, based in Kaitaia. For more details please phone 09 408 1092

Zero Waste Council News in Brief

Wellington City Council

has adopted the Zero Waste concept and broad goals as a major part of its solid waste strategy. Although a formal target date has not been set at this point, Council aims to undertake a range of activities in the new year including a review of municipal recycling services, working with the community, waste minimisation initiatives and waste recovery opportunities.



North Shore City Council

is the second Zero Waste Council to set up a community environment fund. The **WasteWise** fund will enable the community to implement projects which assist in achieving the goals of the waste minimisation plan. The fund is open to any individual or organisation in North Shore City. Maximum amounts of \$5000 will be granted per project. The closing date for the first round of applications is October 18th. For more information contact Meredith Harrison, WasteWise Fund Coordinator, on 09 486 8000.

Otorohanga District Council: Zero Waste by 2010? No problem!

In August a workshop of Councilors, Council staff and Community Board representatives from Otorohanga District Council met to consider a new Solid Waste Management Strategy and Zero Waste plan. Council originally adopted a policy of Zero Waste by 2015 in 2000 but, following the workshop, this enthusiastic and motivated group has resolved to bring the date forward to 2010.

Workshop delegates were treated to a comprehensive exhibition, taking them on a journey through the whole spectrum of waste and issues associated with it, and were addressed by Don Riesterer (Zero Waste New Zealand Trustee) and Peter Fredricsen (Materials Processing Ltd).

Outcomes from the meeting are geared towards endorsing the Action Plan of the Solid Waste Strategy and to consider extra items to assist reaching their Zero Waste target by 2010. This means providing specific guidelines for the

recovery of materials from each waste stream including residential, commercial and industrial. A pilot project in Kawhia is gearing towards separating the organic fraction of the wastestream and in another development, recycling facilities will be extended to most District residents by establishing facilities at rural schools.

The Council will lead by example through their in-house Zero Waste plan, demonstrating what can be achieved.

For more details contact John Blake at Otorohanga District Council at; blake@otodc.govt.nz or call 07 873 8199.

Part of the Otorohanga exhibition



Other Council News

Auckland City Council In-House Waste Reduction

Auckland City Council have maintained 50% diversion of waste (paper, organics, plastic and metal) from landfill as part of the in-house waste reduction programme implemented by Waste Not in May. All levels of management are now supporting the programme and systems are being expanded to all libraries in Auckland.

The programme has received a huge amount of attention from other government bodies including Parliament buildings. For more information contact Jessica North, Resource Consultant, Waste Not at wastenot@xtra.co.nz or 09 486 3635.

Council staff welcome the waste reduction programme



Business News

The Recycled Rubber Crash Cushion

An Australian company, Saferoads, have recently completed testing of a crash barrier made from scrap car tyres. It is the first of its type to pass rigorous US, New Zealand and Australian safety standards. Each crash barrier is made of 250 car tyres. The potential for diversion of car tyres from landfill is therefore huge. Go to www.saferoads.com.au for more details.

Food Waste a la Carte

Restaurateurs around Melbourne, Australia are waking up to the fact that wasted resources also means wasted profit.

A series of programmes and initiatives have been established in Melbourne to assist businesses reduce their waste output. Materials diverted include organics, vegetable oil, corks and bottles. EcoRecycle manages the Waste Wise programme, a Victorian Government initiative that encourages businesses to audit their waste and divert as much as possible from landfill. Harvest Cafe has Waste Wise accreditation and has diverted 75% of their waste from landfill. The winner of the Environmentally Sustainable Traders Project, St. Kilda's Wild Rice restaurant, in the City of Port Phillip, showed its long term commitment to sustainability through composting restaurant scraps in the local community garden and giving surplus food away to those on low income. Restaurants in the central business district have their food waste collected which is eventually resold as compost. Vegetable oil is picked up and recycled into feed stock. Commingled recyclables are collected and recycled. Corks are collected by the Girl Guides and sold on to a company that reprocesses them into products such as flooring.

Some restaurants are involved in 'food rescue' programmes where donated and surplus food is baked into pies and distributed to charities who then pass it on to those in need.

The myth has been dispelled amongst restaurateurs that 'being green' costs them money. Some are actually discovering that the opposite is true.

(Source: www.theage.com.au)

Resources

Newsletters dedicated to Zero Waste are appearing from groups around the world. They all carry Zero Waste messages although they are using different approaches to get there. Check out the following samples for some international flavour:

'Towards Zero', the newsletter for the recently formed Community Recycling Network of Scotland. The aim of the newsletter is to highlight the work of community recyclers, composters and re-users of Scotland who are delivering local solutions to the waste problem bringing economic, social and environmental benefits to the community. Go to www.towardszero.com for more details.

'Beyond Recycling: Towards Zero Waste', a publication by the Regional District of Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. Go to www.rdn.bc.ca for more details.

'History of Recycling' book

Richard Tong is writing a publication about the history of recycling in New Zealand (supported by Zero Waste New Zealand Trust). The book will examine case studies of waste reduction and Zero Waste, recording successes and failures of recycling during the last couple of decades. The book is aimed at students, community groups and industry. Richard is looking for help. If you are involved in, or know of any unique or innovative recycling initiatives in New Zealand please let him know. The list includes: new collection arrangements, drop-off facilities or buy-back systems; new products or recycling techniques and any unique waste systems. Contact Richard on 09 445 0226 or tong.dev@xtra.co.nz.

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

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

International news

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Over 700 volunteers participated in helping make the recent WSSD a Zero Waste event. The Zero Waste team concentrated on the Civil Society Global Forum, the largest component of the Summit, which attracted 30,000 delegates. An extensive Zero Waste training manual was produced for the event and addressed a number of issues including packaging materials and appropriate food and beverage utensils. Go to www.earthlife.org.za for more details. The Zero Waste project supported small businesses and communities in and around Johannesburg and created 90 jobs for the unemployed on the Global Forum site. The Global Forum maintained a 72% recycling rate during the first four days of the event while overall the Summit achieved a 20% recycling rate. The main areas targeted were restricting the use of plastic, diverting organic waste and investing in education and outreach.

For more information contact Muna Lakhani from Earthlife Africa at muna@iafrica.com. Zero Waste team members pick up recycling bins on special bikes.



Europe increases packaging recovery targets

The European Parliament has recently increased packaging recycling targets to 65%. The legislation will come into force in 2006. The bill sets specific targets for paper, plastic, glass and metal. Parliament also adopted an amendment stipulating waste may not be exported to meet the targets. Until now businesses have taken on much of the responsibility of achieving packaging recycling targets but emphasis will now have to change in future with local authorities having to get more involved. (Source: Reuters, 5/9/02)

Events

Keep it in the Loop - RONZ Workshops

Exploring the Opportunities and Challenges presented by the New Zealand Waste Strategy'. The focus of these workshops is to provide a better understanding of what the strategy means to recycling and waste minimisation service providers, operators and educators.

September dates:

23rd - Whangarei, 24th - Auckland North, 25th - Auckland South, 26th - Tauranga, 27th - Hamilton.

Contact Julie Dennis at info@ronz.org.nz or call 09 488 9449 or go to www.ronz.org.nz.



WasteMINZ

6-8 November, Rotorua.

Keynote speakers include Hon. Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment, Jason Clarke & Brian Richards. Zero Waste New Zealand Trust will be running a workshop on 6 November where Tom Galimberti will be making a presentation. For more information contact Carole Inglis from WasteMINZ at wasteminz@xtra.co.nz or call 09 486 6722.

Scrap to Sculpture

October 26th - 28th, Whangarei. Sustainable Whangarei, in conjunction with Northland Craft Trust, are hosting this event creating sculptures out of recycled materials. For more information contact Jill Welch on 09 433 8734.

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.