

# Zero Waste Update

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September 2003, Issue 34

**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 Trust News**

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

The Zero Waste Trust office has been a hive of even more activity than usual since July's Zero Waste Update.

Most recently we relaunched the Zero Waste New Zealand website. [www.zerowaste.co.nz](http://www.zerowaste.co.nz) has a whole new look (some great photos of New Zealand landscapes) and feel (easy to navigate and find the information you're after). New sections worth a mention include: What is Waste - and what can we do with it?, What can you do to help?, How we can help you, the Zero Waste Academy, Education and Hot Issues. Take a leap into this new cyber space Zero Waste experience!

**Green Bags**

**Green Bags** are about to land in New Zealand. The Green Bag Foundation (of which Zero Waste NZ Trust is a partner) expects the bags to be in the country by September. These shopping bags are the latest reusable alternatives to join the growing range of cotton and other cloth bags already available from supermarkets throughout New Zealand. All of these bags are a quantum leap forward from disposable bags.

The Green Bags are made from non-woven polypropylene, have been designed with checkout stands in mind, are easy to keep clean, hold 3-4 plastic bags worth of groceries and are recyclable in New Zealand. They have already proved to be very popular in Australia and Ireland.

**Help us fund you!**

Community groups can order the bags from the Zero Waste Trust in batches of 50 at \$2.25 + GST per bag. This is an opportunity for you to raise funds for your activities while helping promote the use of sustainable alternatives to disposable plastic shopping bags within your community. Order forms can be downloaded from [www.zerowaste.co.nz](http://www.zerowaste.co.nz). Otherwise, the bags will be available in retail stores at \$2.95.

Ten cents from each bag sold will come to the Zero Waste Trust to help fund community projects.



*The Green Bag, soon to reach New Zealand's shores*

**Vodafone teams up with Zero Waste NZ Trust**

Great news regarding the prevention of toxic waste to our landfills as well as Zero Waste NZ Trust's coffers. **Vodafone NZ Ltd** is just about to launch a nationwide mobile phone recycling campaign. The Vodafone Foundation will donate \$5 per individual who recycles a handset, battery or charger to Zero Waste NZ Trust as well as give customers \$5 free airtime for every recycling envelope returned containing a handset or battery. Envelopes can be collected from participating Vodafone stores (or online from [www.vodafone.co.nz](http://www.vodafone.co.nz)).

All mobiles, irrespective of age, condition or network will be recycled by Vodafone. Equipment will be shipped to Singapore where they will be safely disposed of by ISO 9001 certified recycler Citiraya. (Go to [www.citiraya.com](http://www.citiraya.com)) Vodafone estimate that about 2.6 million Kiwis use a mobile phone and on average buy a new handset every 18 to 24 months.

**Changes to Zero Waste Trust staff**

And lastly, but by no means least, **Jill Norman**, our Office Administrator has left the Zero Waste Trust after 2 1/2 years. We would like to say a huge thanks to Jill for her dedication and hard work. She will be missed by the 'Takapuna Cluster' and wider Zero Waste NZ Network alike. We wish her well on her chosen path.

Sunshine Yates will be helping the Zero Waste Trust out on a temporary basis - she is well ensconced back in the Takapuna Cluster, also working part-time as a consultant for Waste Not Consulting.

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

**The new Zero Waste website has been re-launched.**

**New sections include Hot Issues, the Zero Waste Academy and looks at ways in which we can help you.**

**Check it out now.**

**If you have any stories you'd like to share with the network through the newsletter please email them to**

**lucy@zerowaste.co.nz**

## Community News

### Zero Waste Community Enterprise Network - Update from Gary Kelk

Most groups involved in the resource recovery network are entering into their quieter period as the volumes decrease (apart from those in winter holiday locations). What this also means is that now is an ideal time for improving current and developing new systems to ensure the summer period is not as crazy as last year.

A Zero Waste Community Enterprise Network meeting was held in Wellington at the end of July 2003. Representatives of the five initiating groups – Xtreme Waste Raglan, Innovative Waste Kaikoura, Wastebusters Trust Canterbury, CBEC Kaitaia and Clean Stream Waiheke and a representative from the Zero Waste Trust attended. The aim of the meeting was to move forward in the direction approved by community groups at previous hui i.e. Kaikoura, Kaitaia and Methven. It was a busy and hectic but very productive couple of days. A lot of discussion was had between the group on strategies, swapping of ideas and information, swapping of success and not quite so successful stories.

A key part of this network meeting was to positively introduce ZWCEN and outline the history and successes of the groups involved to key stakeholders. These included the Sustainable Industry Sector of the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and the Community Employment Group. As a result of the meetings the network now has the opportunity to develop some innovative and nationally significant projects that in particular we can present to the Sustainable Industry section of MfE.

The time spent in Wellington reinforced that this sector is unique because we work across borders. We work with and represent our communities, we work for environmental improvements (resource efficiency and conservation), social improvement (employment creation and training and fostering of youth), local economic

development (local spending and increased wages in the community) and cultural improvement (community empowerment, understanding and education). In so doing we have the ability to combine resources from different areas to focus on different projects that deliver improvements for our local community and environment.

### New contract for CBEC

Some more good news from the community waste minimisation sector this month includes a partnership between a community group and iwi at the top of the Far North. CBEC and Te Runanga O Te Rarawa successfully tendered for a one year contract for the transfer stations north of the Mangamuka Ranges. This has the potential to be an exciting example of a community-community partnership in action. As a network this should be one of our long-term aims - to foster and promote community-public partnerships and community-private partnerships. Contact Cliff Colquhoun on [admin@cbec.co.nz](mailto:admin@cbec.co.nz) or call 09 408 1092.



Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust



Oamaru has the go-ahead for a new Resource Recovery Park to be operated by the Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust. Consent was granted by the commissioner of a hearing committee but with conditions attached. The Trust will use the former Waitaki District Council depot for the public to drop off domestic or commercial recyclable materials, buy others' unwanted goods and leave waste to be taken to the landfill. There will also be a worm farming area and education facilities to teach people about the benefits of waste reduction. Marian Shore, manager of the Trust, can be contacted on 03 434 0999.

### Zero Waste Academy

Jonathon Hannon, Zero Waste Academy (ZWA) coordinator, has spent time during the last few months consulting with key stakeholders to



ensure the Academy meets as many needs throughout industry as possible. Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding a lot of progress has been made developing the structure of the Zero Waste Academy.

A Zero Waste Academy board has been developed from representatives from the three partner organisations; Massey University, Palmerston North City Council and Zero Waste NZ Trust. The ZWA will be administered as a Centre with the Institute of Natural resources at Massey University.

The current focus of consultation is the development of an Academic advisory and Industry/Community Liaison Group, which is where most of the action will take place. Active involvement of stakeholders in shaping the ongoing development of the ZWA strategy is invited and Jonathon is keen to hear from you. It is envisaged that this body will delegate into functional interest groups (such as education, technology, research, product development, business etc). Key industry bodies are being approached.

One goal of the Academy is to ensure that the approximately 4500 people employed within our industry who currently have little representation in the National Qualification Framework (NQF) are provided with training that properly informs and validates their career path. The Government's statement of intent is that as a cornerstone of the Tertiary Education Strategy, the number of New Zealand workers involved in industry training should increase from 106,000 in 2002 to 150,000 in 2005 and eventually to 250,000 in 2007. To enact this goal, the government has added a further \$84.3 million over 4 years to the Industry Training Fund. Therefore, it is an opportune time for all who are interested in developing training resources to work collegially and bring together the components of an industry-wide strategy for a holistic training and qualifications framework.

Please contact Jonathon by email at [jonathon@zerowasteacademy.ac.nz](mailto:jonathon@zerowasteacademy.ac.nz) or call 06 350 5016.

## Zero Waste Council News

Congratulations to **Marborough District Council** who recently adopted a **Zero Waste policy**. This takes the number of Zero Waste Councils within New Zealand to 39 (53%).

### North Shore businesses doing their bit for the environment

With increasing pressure on businesses to operate in a more environmentally responsible way North Shore City Council has teamed up with Landcare Research to develop a customised programme (called BusinessCare Enviro-Mark) for local businesses to achieve an Enviro-Mark Gold level and a range of environmental objectives within two years of joining the programme.

Nine North Shore businesses – Allied Concrete Albany, de Bruin-Judge Furniture Ltd, Lowery Supa Cutters Ltd, Mascot Diecasters Ltd, Phonak New Zealand Ltd, Rotational Plastics Ltd, Sony New Zealand Ltd, Troake Group and Vertex Pacific Ltd - are currently participating in the programme.

Businesses wishing to apply should view [www.northshorecity.govt.nz/Business/BusinessCare](http://www.northshorecity.govt.nz/Business/BusinessCare) or contact Kevin Crutchley on 09 486 8600 before September 5th 2003.

**Porirua City Council** is providing space for a new Environment Centre at the resource recovery centre, Trash Palace. The Sustainability Trust will operate the centre and will run programmes and hands-on workshops for school children and people interested in sustainable practices. Contact Helen Schafer at [hschafer@pcc.govt.nz](mailto:hschafer@pcc.govt.nz).

**Rodney District Council** has launched district-wide kerbside recycling as part of its Zero Waste plan. This follows on from a year-long trial in two urban areas. The service will now include all rural areas. Contact Parul Sood at [psood@rodney.govt.nz](mailto:psood@rodney.govt.nz) for more details.

### Kaikoura District Council

Environmental Development Officer, Ian Challenger, recently spent several days in the Commonwealth of Dominica in the Caribbean to make a presentation on Kaikoura's Green Globe programme.

Green Globe is the world's only global tourism certification programme that responds to environmental issues.

Kaikoura became New Zealand's first Green Globe benchmark community in 2002.

Dominica is looking at how it can achieve Green Globe status. Ian noted several similarities between Dominica and Kaikoura, the major one being that both destinations use the environment to differentiate themselves in the competitive tourism industry.

There are several environmental issues Dominica must address, particularly solid waste. It has been estimated that each resident and tourist in Dominica takes 230kg of waste to landfill each year compared to Kaikoura's 450kg per person each year. However Dominica has a huge problem with people dumping their rubbish, so before the level of waste can be reduced the issue of littering must be tackled.

For more information contact Ian Challenger at [ian.challenger@kaikoura.govt.nz](mailto:ian.challenger@kaikoura.govt.nz).

Congratulations to **Mackenzie DC** who has achieved 76% diversion of waste from landfill since the launch of their Zero Waste strategy 18 months ago.

## Business

### Sanitary waste disposal

From Palmerston North comes a new sanitary and bathroom waste disposal system, made from recycled cardboard. Inventor Helen Mays says her 'DisBin' picks up where commercial sanitary bins leave off.



DisBin takes the embarrassment factor out of sanitary waste disposal and reduces the amount of plastic waste going to landfills.

The bin can be composted, and is ideal for anyone on a septic tank.

"Boats, holiday homes, camping grounds, or small office toilets - there are so many places we need a discreet but affordable way to dispose of personal waste", she says. There are two Disbin models, a four litre for personal waste and a six litre for disposable nappies and bigger households.

Disbin comes with a commercial strength deodoriser and has a chute so the contents can't be viewed. Attractive artwork also adds to the appeal.

Helen says Local Authorities recognise the waste problem and have been most receptive to the idea. Contact Helen Mays, 027 2244154, [disbin@inspire.net.nz](mailto:disbin@inspire.net.nz).

## Job opportunities

### Zero Waste New Zealand

**Trust** is looking for a full-time Office Administrator based in Takapuna, Auckland.

Excellent administration skills are essential for this job and knowledge of the Zero Waste concept and philosophy are desirable.

Please send your CV and a covering letter to Jo Knight at [jo@zerowaste.co.nz](mailto:jo@zerowaste.co.nz).

### Enviroschools Facilitator, North Shore City Council

Part-time position guiding primary and intermediate schools in the North Shore region of Auckland through the Enviroschools programme. The role also involves coordinating Councils interactions with schools on environmental issues.

Call the Human Resources Department of NSCC on 09 486 8484 or visit [www.northshorecity.govt.nz](http://www.northshorecity.govt.nz) for more details.

## Schools

Clean Up NZ is running the Reduce Your Rubbish Clean Schools Challenge from 21 July to 15 September 2003. Every school to register goes into the draw to win \$1000. The grand prize of \$4000 goes to the school with the best overall waste reduction project. Schools already involved in waste reduction initiatives (through programmes such as Enviroschools, Wastewise and general Council programmes) can link to this challenge.

To find out more go to [www.cleanupnz.org.nz](http://www.cleanupnz.org.nz) or call 0800 315 000.

## Resources

### Events

#### WasteMINZ Annual Conference

3-6 November 2003, Nelson

The Zero Waste Trust will be hosting a workshop on 4th November. Presentations from the Zero Waste Academy, Zero Waste International Alliance and a joint forum with the Territorial Local Authorities Waste Officer's Forum.

For more information go to [www.wasteminz.org.nz](http://www.wasteminz.org.nz) or call 09 486 6722.



#### National Workshop for Zero Waste Communities,

October 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2003, Raglan.

One of the unique characteristics about communities is their ability to spontaneously pull an event together. Local organic food growers have planted kai and local band, Cornerstone Roots, has asked to play at the Workshop banquet. Personal invitations to key players working within community and corporate waste enterprises have been sent and registrations of attendance are flowing in.

The programme has been planned to inspire and enthuse attendees. The Workshop aims to strengthen communities involved in waste minimisation by: mentoring and problem solving; demonstrating alternative work with 'waste'; establishing an ongoing network for community waste minimisation groups; identifying strategic waste issues faced by communities; what the role of community groups is in achieving the national waste strategy; what needs to be done to maximize their potential and agreeing on who can represent community waste groups with a strong voice. For further information about the Workshop phone Susa 021 213 1044 [www.xtremewaste.org.nz](http://www.xtremewaste.org.nz)

An Art with Waste exhibition and Upcycled Glamour Fashion Show will run in conjunction with the Workshop. Tickets are available through Raglan Information Centre ph 07 825 0556. They can also assist you with accommodation and transport details.

### New Website

Businesscare has launched their comprehensive new website. Check out [www.businesscare.org.nz](http://www.businesscare.org.nz).

### C&D - New Report

The Centre for Building Performance Research at Victoria University in Wellington has released a report on the state of deconstruction in New Zealand. The synopsis examines the economic and environmental benefits of deconstruction techniques in the demolition industry. Contact Maibritt Pederson at [maibritt.pedersen@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:maibritt.pedersen@vuw.ac.nz) or call 04 463 6223.

### RONZ Symbols

RONZ has recently added seven new recycling symbols to the range already being used widely throughout New Zealand.

These are:

All Cartridges - Print, Toner, Ink & Ribbon; Mixed - Glass, Cans, Plastic 1&2; Paper - Confidential; Plastic - All Wrap (black & clear); Gypsum - Plasterboard; Treated Wood and Untreated Wood.

To download the entire range of symbols go to [www.ronz.org.nz](http://www.ronz.org.nz).



### Value-adding equipment

German recycling machinery company, Kudrass Maschinen & Werkzeuge have been in Nelson talking to local recyclers, Kahurangi Employment Trust. The company is interested in introducing technology to New Zealand to help develop local materials reprocessing. One example of the technology includes feeding any type of plastic into a system that extrudes a variety of products such as parkbenches and plastic posts at the other end. For more information contact Bernd Kudrass at [berndkudrass2003@yahoo.de](mailto:berndkudrass2003@yahoo.de)

### Bin Lids Supplier

Russ Loudon of Waste Works is no longer supplying the recycling bin lids suitable for events, public places and office recycling. The lids are now available from Calvert Plastics. Contact 04 563 7879 or [sales@calvert-plastics.com](mailto:sales@calvert-plastics.com).

### International news

#### South Africa Consumer Tax

South Africa is to introduce a new tax on consumer goods designed to discourage trash dumping and promote recycling. The tax would amount to a compulsory deposit on items such as bottles, cans, car tyres and plastic bags. The deposit could then be redeemed by taking the item to a recycling center or by returning it for reuse. The legislation containing the tax will also transfer control of landfills from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to the Department of Environment Affairs. The legislation has already been approved by the cabinet and will be considered by the parliament in the next two weeks.

(Source: Independent Online, Cape Times, 08 August 2003)

#### Behind bars for bag users

The Northern State of Himachal Pradesh in India has imposed a harsh new law stating that anyone found even using a plastic bag could face up to seven years in jail or a hefty fine of US\$2000. The new law bans the production, storage, use, sale and distribution of polythene bags. The law is based on legislation passed by the national parliament but Himachal Pradesh is the first state to have implemented it.

(Source: BBC News World Edition, 07 August 2003)

#### New fund focuses on Zero Waste goal in BC, Canada

A million dollar fund has been made available to the province of British Columbia to accelerate environmental and waste management research. Research will focus on finding alternatives to landfills with a view to the province's goal of Zero Waste and to improve the sustainability of coastal ecosystems.