

Zero Waste Update

July 2003, Issue 33

Please pass on

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

During the last few months staff at the Zero Waste Trust have been working on entering phase two of the zero waste campaign. Tremendous progress has been made with acceptance of the concept of zero waste in New Zealand during the last six years. However, this must now be followed by a period of consolidation and some work to win the hearts and minds of mainstream New Zealanders.

Since March, the Zero Waste Trust has developed the annual strategic plan, produced a budget, rewritten job descriptions, and scoped funding requirements. In addition, reports and applications for current funding have been processed.

There have been a number of changes made to the Trust's funding procedures, specifically regarding categories of projects that we can and can't fund. This is due to certain requirements from our funders. The application system will continue on a rolling basis and new funding forms and guidelines are available from Jill Norman (jill@zerowaste.co.nz or 09 486 0734) or from the website, www.zerowaste.co.nz. Progress towards zero waste has been excellent in some areas. There are only five councils in the South Island that have not signed up to zero waste. Two councils have signed up during the last couple of months, Waimakariri and Queenstown. Some areas are reporting 80% diversion of waste from landfill (eg. Opotiki).

During the coming year, we will revisit the Zero Waste councils and assess their needs and progress towards their goals. At the recent WasteMINZ workshops in Napier a number of councils reported to the conference and their progress, although surprisingly disparate, was encouraging. There is a great need for these stories to be shared to encourage the rest of New Zealand to join in.

The inaugural meeting of the Zero Waste Academy Board took place in June. Several courses are already underway (Resource Recovery Management training in Kaikoura and Zero Waste Education in Ashburton)

and this venture looks to have an exciting future. (For more information contact Jonathon Hannon, jonathon@zerowaste.academy.ac.nz)

Further development for the Zero Waste advisors is planned, as is working with business in preventing the creation of waste. The Trust is one of the sponsors of the forthcoming national Zero Waste workshop for communities, Life With Waste, being held in Raglan in October. This workshop is an important tool in helping to strengthen the community sector (see below for more details).

If you have any queries regarding the Zero Waste Trust please contact Jo Knight at jo@zerowaste.co.nz or 09 486 0734.

Zero Waste Workshop



life with waste

Xtreme Waste in Whaingaroa, Raglan, is hosting 'Life with Waste', a national zero waste workshop for communities. The workshop will take place from Wednesday 8th October until Friday 10th October.

The event offers representatives of community recycling enterprises from around New Zealand a unique opportunity to not only learn from each other's experiences but also to help develop strategic direction for the community sector's development. This follows on from the formation of the Zero Waste Community Enterprise Network (ZWCEN).

There will be an array of inspirational, challenging and wise presenters, a multitude of specialist workshops, field visits, art exhibitions, fashion shows and plenty more networking opportunities in the beautiful town of Raglan.

Fees for the workshop are \$80 per delegate for community groups and \$380 per delegate for Council officers (who are invited to attend if working in partnership with a local community recycling enterprise).

To register go to www.xtremewaste.org.nz or call 07 825 0017.

NOTICE

The Zero Waste Update and News Clippings will now be issued alternately every two months.

Please also notify us if you would prefer to receive the newsletter and clippings electronically.

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



Habitat for Humanity

The old Edmund Rd supermarket in Rotorua has been 'recycled'. Habitat for Humanity purchased this building to open a recycling and secondhand shop known as the Habitat ReStore. Donated goods including clothes, furniture, damaged or redundant stock and building products are resold, helping Habitat affiliates to become self-funding and self-sustaining.

The ReStore also aims to increase the organisation's profile in the community and provides a centre from where community activities such as budgeting and counselling will take place.

The Habitat ReStore opened in mid-January and welcomes volunteers to be involved with this amazingly successful charity.

Habitat Rotorua has been in operation for five years, offering a 'Hand up' and not a 'Hand out' to families in need.

Families selected to have a home built are required to undergo budgeting lessons, provide 500 hours of "sweat equity" and need a deposit of \$500 for the chance of owning their own home.

Some of these families are living in substandard housing and chronic conditions. Habitat aims to give them a hand-up, by providing a holistic approach that improves living conditions, lifestyle, and very often health.

"We now invite people of goodwill to donate unwanted "stuff" that will be recycled, repaired and resold, not only helping the environment but Habitat to be more effective in helping the poorly housed" said Chairman, Steve Watts.

To contact Habitat Rotorua; phone 07 343-9273 or go to www.habitatnz.co.nz.



Volunteers at Habitat ReStore

Employment opportunities

Kahurangi Employment Trust (KET) in Nelson recently won the kerbside recycling contract for Nelson City. The contract will cover 16,000 households in the area and initially comprise a service collecting most materials except glass. The contract is due to start in October.

KET is now on the lookout for a **recycling manager** to run this part of the operation.

KET is looking for someone with dedication to getting kerbside recycling off the ground in Nelson, computer skills, who enjoys working with people and doesn't mind getting dirty. Recycling experience is preferred but keenness is also recognised. The job is for 40 hours/week at \$15-20 per hour. Contact Andy Budd at ket@paradise.net.nz or phone 03 548 1778.

North Shore City Council is part of a consortium of Councils and industry groups working with the Ministry for the Environment to embark on a two year project examining ways to reduce construction waste destined for landfill.

They are looking for a **Project Manager** whose specific tasks will include managing consultants, budgets, reporting to the MfE and conducting evaluation. The position is a part-time contract and involves working closely with construction industries in the Auckland, Waikato and Canterbury regions.

They are also looking for a number of **consultants** with specialist skills in construction waste to help deliver some of the project objectives.

For more information contact Kevin Crutchley on 09 486 8600 or kevin.crutchley@northshore.city.govt.nz.

Queenstown-Lakes District Council recently adopted Zero Waste as their waste management strategy. They are now looking for a **Waste Minimisation Officer**. The Waste Management Strategy can be viewed on the Council's website www.qldc.govt.nz along with the full job description and application form. These are also available by contacting the District Secretary on (03) 441 0470, or ceo@qldc.govt.nz. Applications close Monday 21 July.

Seeking work

Nichol Slaven was a senior consultant with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for three years, previously working as a planning officer and environmental consultant. Nichol specialises in waste management, public consultation, planning and environmental policy development and implementation. Nichol will be arriving in Wellington in late July and looking for suitable employment. Any useful contacts and advice would be welcomed. He can be contacted at; nicholslaven@yahoo.co.uk from mid July.

Making a Material from Waste

Students at Victoria University's Schools of Architecture and Design have been working on solutions to the construction and demolition waste problem in New Zealand as part of the Sustainable Architecture course. Key 'problem' wastes were identified including plasterboard, rubber tyres, specific plastics and timber off-cuts. Students were then challenged to create new and innovative building materials from this waste.

A wide variety of ideas were explored and several prototypes are considered to be worthy of further development.

The top student was Stephanie Livick who designed the 'Gibrix' system after a rigorous and thorough design, development and research process.

'Gibrix' is a building block constructed from plasterboard off-cuts intended for use in internal walls. The blocks are designed to fit into each other easily and quickly and fit into standard wooden framing. The major benefits of 'Gibrix' are that any kind of waste plasterboard can be used in the product, reducing the complexity of the sorting process. Manufacturing processes would be simple and the resulting blocks have high thermal mass and some acoustic insulation properties also. Blocks are intended to be plastered over or simply left exposed, coated with a clear breathable coating to prevent dust.

For more information contact John Storey (john.storey@vuw.ac.nz) or Maibritt Pedersen (maibritt.pedersen@vuw.ac.nz).

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A Round Up on Plastic Bags

On World Environment Day (June 5th), the 'Great Plastic Bag Mail-In' was launched - an initiative developed by the 'Say No to Plastic Bags' campaign team in Christchurch. New Zealanders have been encouraged to mail a clean, flat and folded plastic bag to Environment Minister, Hon. Marian Hobbs, taking advantage of freepost to MP's at Parliament Buildings in Wellington. The campaign urges the Ministry for the Environment to take an active role in reducing the number of plastic bags used within New Zealand. (Contact cath.knight@clear.net.nz for more details.)

Green MP for Nelson, Mike Ward, also marked 5th June by announcing a **private member's bill** introducing a levy on plastic bags. He cited the successful scheme in Ireland, which slashed plastic bag use by 90%, as being an example that the New Zealand government could easily follow. (Contact mike.ward@parliament.govt.nz for more details.) The Zero Waste Trust is part of a consortium of organisations involved in the creation of the **Green Bag Foundation**. The Foundation is aiming to persuade New Zealanders to use sustainable alternatives to plastic shopping bags and are importing recyclable polypropylene bags, called the Green Bag, from Australia. They will be available shortly from the Zero Waste Trust office at around \$3 each. They will be available to community groups to sell. It is also planned that 10 cents in each sale will come to the Zero Waste Trust to fund community projects. Contact Jo Knight at jo@zerowaste.co.nz for further info. Meanwhile, in **Australia**, a national meeting of Environment and Heritage Ministers declared a renewal of their challenge to retailers to reduce the 6.9 billion plastic bags used in Australia each year. At a meeting in December 2002 Ministers challenged retailers and the broader community to work together voluntarily to reduce the number of bags used. Ministers have since expressed disappointment that the draft National Code of Practice prepared by retailers had failed to reach the original targets. Ministers will be

meeting in July to discuss nationally coordinated mandatory measures.

Marian Hobbs says she is watching Australia's moves "with interest" and is aware of strong community support within New Zealand for action on reducing plastic shopping bags.

Coles Bay, Tasmania, recently went one step further and banned plastic bags from their community altogether with the help of environmental organisation, Planet Ark. Every household in the town will be given five large calico bags and the local bakery has started to seal its loaves in starch based packaging. Tourists will have to depend on using paper or calico bags. Environment Minister for Western Australia, Judy Edwards, is supporting South Australia in their push for a ban on plastic bags. Victoria is supporting raising a levy of AU25 cents per bag. However, Ms Edwards believes a levy is only a short term solution as consumers will get used to paying for bags. The ultimate solution is to ban them altogether.

Elsewhere, in early May the **South African Government** introduced a levy on plastic bags. This is accompanied by new requirements for manufacturers to produce thicker plastic bags. All retailers have to comply with this new law and consumers will have a choice of buying new government regulated bags, taking their own or doing without. Some of the money raised from this tax will be used to fund the operations of a non-profit company which will manage the recycling of the plastic bags. Supermarket chains have also said that because they will not be paying for the manufacture of the bags they will be able to offer some discount on food prices.

Zero Waste Council News in Brief

Congratulations to Queens town-Lakes DC who recently adopted Zero Waste as their waste management strategy. The document is called 'Towards Zero Waste and a Sustainable District'. A target date of 2020 has been set. To see a copy of the waste management plan go to www.qldc.govt.nz and the 'What's New' section.

Masterton District Council has initiated a nickel rechargeable battery collection scheme throughout the Wairarapa. Retailers selling rechargeable batteries have set up collection points in their stores and there are bins located at all of the transfer stations in the district. The batteries are being sent to

Kemikara, a reprocessing company based in Manukau. The Council is also running a car battery collection programme during Clean Up NZ week in September with schools in the district acting as collection centres. (Contact philip@mstn.govt.nz for more details)

North Shore City Council has been working with all primary and intermediate schools in the North Shore on waste minimisation programmes. However, five of them have been officially named as WasteWise Schools working towards Zero Waste and awarded Zero Waste billboards to put on display outside of the school grounds.



The Mayor presented the Zero Waste billboard to the teachers, and heard the school's Zero Waste mission statement, written by the children themselves.

Other Council News

Tararua District Council has voted to turn streets into a weekly treasure trove for junk collectors. Under the council's new 'kerbside reuse policy' people will be able to leave unwanted household items against their fence so they can be taken away for free by someone who wants them. Anything not taken away must be removed from the street by nightfall. This kind of system has proved to be successful in cities overseas including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Venice, Sydney and London.

Manukau City Council is running a trial project to collect old mobile phones, batteries and chargers. These will be sent overseas to be broken down into components for reuse instead of sending them to landfill. The recycling box is located at the council's customer service centre. If successful, the project, funded by Nokia and Vodafone, will be extended to include drop off stations in libraries and supermarkets citywide.

Resources

Events

Wastebusters Trust Canterbury is hosting their eighth annual Winter Waste Fest, during July and August 2003. Creative workshops are the focus of the event and include wooden pallet furniture making, rag-rug weaving and reflective garden sculpture. There will also be a chance to participate in a Zero Waste workshop on Thursday 14th August. The Zero Waste Wearable Awards will close the event on Friday 15th August. For more details, contact Wastebusters Trust: phone 03 308 9998 or go online to www.wastebusters.orcon.net.nz

New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE) conference, 14-17 January 2004, Christchurch.

The conference will focus on:
- Enhancing environmental education knowledge, awareness and skills;
- Improving coordination of environmental education programmes and resources; and
- Developing networks to promote and expand environmental education.
For more information go to: www.nzaee.org.nz/conferences/

Abstracts for papers must be received by 1 August 2003.

Innovative Waste Kaikoura is running two more Resource Recovery Management Training courses this year: **4-8 August, 3 places left. 10-14 November, 4 places left.** The course has been designed to enhance the skills of managers or workers who have the potential to develop management roles in community recycling operations. For more information contact Jill Norman at jill@zerowaste.co.nz or 09 486 0734.

14 July 2003, GAIA's Global Day of Action. Spread the message asking governments and industries to stop the practice of burning waste and developing more sustainable alternatives to dealing with an escalating waste problem. Go to www.noburn.org/actionkit/gdaform.html.

Waitakere City's Trash to Fashion® Awards

Designers with a flair for recycling need to start thinking about turning the discarded into dazzling catwalk attire for this year's Trash to Fashion® Awards. Registration forms are due in by 11 July, and entrants have until the 27 September to deliver a completed garment. Show nights take place on 31 October and 1 November. For more information go to www.waitakere.govt.nz or call 09 839 0400.

Funding

Environment Bay of Plenty has plenty of cash to give away this year - \$900,000 to be divided equally between community and district council environmental projects. Call 0800 368267 or go to www.envbop.govt.nz. Applications close August 22.

Department of Internal Affairs

The Community Internship programme has recently received ongoing funding (of \$300,000) to provide grants for placing experienced and skilled people from the public, private and community and voluntary sectors on secondments with host community organisations. The main goals are capacity-building and relationship building.

If you wish to receive information about the programme, please email: internship@dia.govt.nz or phone (04) 495-9327.

Gaming machine societies are another potential source of funds for small projects, staff training, office equipment etc. You will qualify for such a grant if your organisation demonstrates that it benefits the community in a cultural, educational or generally philanthropic way. Go to www.dia.govt.nz and lottery grants for more information.

International news

Zero Waste South Australia
Following on from sessions at the WasteMINZ workshops in Napier, we have recently heard from our guest speaker, Vaughan Levitzke, that the South Australian Cabinet has approved the formation of the administrative unit of Zero Waste South Australia as of July 1, 2003. Legislation will be introduced into Parliament later this year. For more info go to www.epa.sa.gov.au.

E- Waste

Dell Australia and New Zealand has launched a voluntary recycling programme offering business, home and small business customers a way of disposing of used and unwanted PC's. To encourage participation, customers may receive a Dell Recycling Cash Rebate Voucher that can be redeemed against purchases with Dell. HMR Group Australia has been appointed as the recycling specialist. They will either strip the computers for valuable materials such as lead and mercury or re-market the PC's as whole, recycled systems for reuse. Call 0800 440 603 for more details.

The **European Union** has passed two new laws regarding waste electrical and electronic equipment obliging member states to:

- adopt measures to minimise e-waste and meet targets by Dec 2006
- adopt Extended Producer Responsibility by August 2004
- ban certain hazardous substances in electronic equipment by December 2006.

For more information go to www.europa.eu.int.

In **California**, legislation requiring electronics manufacturers to establish a recycling system for old computers, TV's and other electronic devices is working its way through legislature. The bill also prohibits any California e-waste included in this programme from being exported anywhere where the standards for dealing with it are lower than those in California. By 2010, the programme must result in at least 90 percent of all devices sold in the state being diverted into the programme.

(Source: www.ens-news.com)

Zero Waste International Alliance

ZWIA has made a big step forward with the election of an international, 12 member planning group to help develop the direction and activities of the organisation. The group will meet later this year to start moving Zero Waste forward internationally. At a recent meeting of local authority representatives from the San Francisco Bay area in Oakland, California, it was publicly voiced that New Zealand is 'an inspiration' to the rest of the world. (Contact jdickinson@zwia.org for more information.)