



ZEROWASTE
NEW ZEALAND TRUST

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Encouraging and motivating all sectors of New Zealand society to work towards a target of **Zero Waste**.

Up-date September, 2006

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1. Zero Waste Bus Tour, 2006 - just 4 seats left for late registrations!!

In the manner of our previous, well-received tours, the Zero Waste Trust is offering a BUS TOUR to view and experience the latest and best practices in waste management - especially in waste minimisation and resource recovery.

The tour is particularly aimed at those Councillors and Council Officers who know their Council faces challenges in waste management, but who have not seen or experienced the successful and innovative practices that have been put in place in many New Zealand communities in just the last 12-18 months. Including many site visits and discussions, this tour is focussed on providing the opportunity to experience up-to-date, working examples of the latest in 3-bin collection systems for domestic waste, the latest composting systems in action, and the latest initiatives and examples of excellence in new resource recovery centres.

At a reasonable cost, this tour provides a short but very full experience - details can be obtained from our web-site: www.zerowaste.co.nz

Are you needing to see some good, practical examples?
Want to know what others are doing?

Then register TODAY for the Zero Waste Bus Tour 2006.

Detail: Tour starts and finishes at Christchurch. Includes 3 nights accommodation, 4 lunches, 4 morning and afternoon teas, 3 dinners. Will visit Kaikoura, Selwyn, Ashburton, Oamaru, McKenzie and others. Cost \$1350.

We want more Councillors on this excellent tour! We urge you to ensure that all your Councillors have been given the opportunity to join us. On previous tours, we have also had on-board some members of community groups, sponsored by Councils due to their close working arrangements in the area of waste management - please also give this your urgent consideration.

Give us a call on 09 486 0736 if you require any further information.

2. Papakura District Council adopts Zero Waste

September 2006 represents another milestone in New Zealand's drive towards Zero Waste, with the Papakura District Council's district development committee adopting a policy of zero waste by 2020. Councillors unanimously supported the policy, agreeing that specific methods of reducing waste in Papakura would be identified during a review of the council's waste management plan next year.

"More than 72% of city and district councils around the country have now adopted a zero waste policy", says Jo Knight, CEO of the Zero Waste Trust, "and we are confident that several more councils will be joining them in the near future."

The Trust is keen to see central government taking a greater lead in waste minimisation, and has great hopes for the Waste Minimisation Bill currently being considered by a Select Committee. It is nevertheless delighted with the progress made by so many of the councils across New Zealand, and the new programmes that they have recently commenced. Last month we featured Timaru and its "3 – 2 – 1 –

ZERO” programme.

3. Lincoln plans their Zero Waste Week events.

For **eight** years, this Trust has promoted the possibilities for Zero Waste. We have seen The Government adopt the New Zealand Waste Strategy 2002, 72% of local Councils have adopted Zero Waste goals, and dozens of local community groups have become involved in waste minimisation through their Resource Recycling Centres.

To celebrate and mark these achievements, Zero Waste Trust has announced that

October 9th -15th is "National Zero Waste Week".

Prizes and Awards will be made to mark the occasion. We hope you will celebrate the occasion in your local community, at your work-place, where-ever you are.

To mark their celebrations, Lincoln community groups have organised a street-by-street zero waste challenge, with the goal of creating a truly sustainable town. Prizes will be given for the streets with the most innovative and successful waste reduction activities.

4. Wellington Hospital – Saving our world

In 1998, the Capital and Coast District Health Board achieved a ‘first’ for NZ hospitals, with the appointment of Caroline Evans as their environmental management co-ordinator. From our Trust perspective, her first major achievement was to obtain funding from us for a waste audit across the activities of the Capital and Coast DHB. As a result, waste stream components and volumes were measured, and a baseline thereby established for the future. Wellington Hospital and the DHB’s other facilities soon got stuck into the whole business of waste minimisation, and we are pleased that the results of those initiatives have continued to this day.

By far the majority of waste creation is at the Wellington Hospital, with smaller contributions from their other facilities, including Kenepuru hospital and their Kapiti clinic. They operate a recycling system and compactors for these services as well as the support building at the Newtown campus.

Before the audit they were disposing of 90,000 kg per months of general rubbish. With recycling and other waste reducing measures, the amount was substantially reduced, and it has been around 60,000 kg since late 1999. The other main category of their waste-stream is classified as ‘Infectious’ waste. At the time of the audit, this waste amounted to more than 20,000 kg a month, but with attention to this, volumes have been reduced to around 11,000kg. For many years infectious waste was incinerated, but from 2002 it has been rotoclaved (steam sterilised) and then land filled.

At the same time, the recycling system has grown, and they now consistently recycle over 20,000 kg per month, with the largest volume of 26,554 kg recorded in August this year.

Financial savings made from these measures add up to a considerable sum over these past 7 or 8 years; savings on the infectious wastes alone represent over \$100,000 each and every year. With incentives such as this, the drive for waste minimisation has continued, but it has also expanded over the past few years to address wider issues related to ‘health and safety’ and to environmental sustainability. Some of the outcomes have been:-

- The introduction of a “mercury-free” policy. The hospital has discontinued the purchase of mercury-containing products, such as mercury thermometers, where practical alternatives exist.
- The introduction of a Hazardous Substances policy - improved management of all hazardous substances and their disposal.

- Travel plan - first DHB in NZ to adopt a staff travel plan highlighting environmental benefits.
- Energy and water saving. Gas consumption at Wellington Hospital has been cut in half.
- The introduction of reusable items, such as plastic kidney dishes being adopted to replace disposable tin foil kidney dishes.

All these measures have greatly improved the management of wastes at Capital & Coast DHB, saving resources and making significant savings to their operating costs. We are delighted to know that the grant made by this Trust contributed to the implementation of such a successful programme, and put the hospital on the pathway towards 'zero waste'. We congratulate Caroline Evans, and Wellington Hospital's past and present staff for their continuing efforts. If you would like to know more about their current programme, please contact: Symond.Ross@ccdhb.org.nz

5. Report Sees Solar Ready to Shine on Consumer Energy Markets

DRESDEN, Germany, Sept., 2006 - Solar power has the real potential to deliver electricity to more than 2 billion people, and provide over 2 million jobs by 2025, according to a report just published by Greenpeace International and the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA).

The report concludes that thanks to advances in technology, increasing competition and investment on production facilities, solar power has now become a serious contender in the electricity market - able to provide low-cost, clean, CO2 emission-free energy.

The report, titled "SolarGeneration", also suggests that by 2025, up to 350 million tons of CO2 emissions would be cut - the equivalent amount from 140 coal power stations, and by 2040, with further government assistance, solar electricity could provide over 16% of the global demand.

The next two years are crucial for solar electricity to move out of the niche market and into mainstream energy production where it belongs. For the expansion of solar power to be successful, commitment is required from industry, but Governments must also play their part in the energy revolution.

In 2005 the total installed capacity of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems around the world passed the landmark figure of 5000MW (= 10 average size coal power plants). Global shipments of PV cells and modules have been growing at an average annual rate of more than 40% for the past few years. Such has been the growth in the solar electricity industry that the European PV industry alone in 2005 was worth more than € 5 billion; on a global scale the industry's turnover was approximately €10 billion.

Greenpeace International and the EPIA are urging Governments to secure those investments with support programs. Political support for the development of solar electricity has led to far-reaching promotion frameworks being put in place in a number of countries, notably Germany, Japan, the US and China. In addition, legally binding targets for the share of renewable energy in the EU for 2015 and 2020 are urgently needed. The most successful scheme is a "feed-in tariff" which guarantees a reasonable price for each Kilowatt-hour fed into the grid. The "feed-in policy" has already been introduced in 41 countries, states and provinces enabling consumers to operate a solar system on their rooftop economically.

"In the past consumers have had little or no choice about their source of energy. They have had to stand on the sidelines, watching their energy bills escalate as their utility companies invest profits into the very fuels that are causing energy prices to rise in the first place," said Sven Teske, Greenpeace International Climate & Energy Campaigner. "This report proves that solar power is a real option for consumers, offering freedom from rising energy costs and most importantly, electricity generated without the CO2 emissions. The day you install a solar generator on your roof, is independence day from your energy bill."

The title "Solar Generation" was adopted for the report because it aims to define the role that solar electricity will play in the future of the population that is born today.

Here in New Zealand we have the opportunity to tap much further into the use of solar energy for both PV applications and for water heating, while much more focus should be going into building design and the efficient passive use of solar energy. A requirement that power companies accept and pay for surplus electricity from independent PV systems, would also be a small step in the right direction.

Surprisingly, in light of our commitment to reduce CO2 emissions, the building of major new electricity generating plants using natural gas and coal appears to be proceeding regardless.

6. U.S. CEOs Overwhelmingly Concerned about Climate

SAN DIEGO, Sept. 6, 2006 - Nearly two in three Chief Executive Officers of American small and medium-sized businesses expressed concern about the prospects of global warming, according to the latest Vistage Confidence Index, a quarterly measure of economic, market and industry trends.

"The question is whether that concern will translate into the willingness to support legislation and regulatory requirements that impact their businesses." said Dan Barnett, CEO of Vistage International, the world's largest CEO membership organization. The findings come amidst heightened efforts by California and other states to enact stricter regulations on greenhouse emissions.

Meanwhile, while they think about it:

- All but 4 U.S. states now have incentives in place to promote renewable energy.
- California gets 31% of its electricity from renewable resources, including wind and geothermal energy.
- Annual global investment in "new" renewable energy has risen six-fold since 1995.
- Total investment in this area has been nearly \$US180 billion.
- Since 2000, wind generation has more than tripled, increasing now at 24% per annum.
- Solar cell production has risen six-fold, increasing today at the rate of 45% per annum.
- Renewable energy creates more jobs per unit of energy produced and per dollar spent than do fossil fuel technologies.
- Nearly 80% of the world's energy use comes from fossil fuels.
- In 2005, average atmospheric CO₂ concentration increased 0.6%, the largest annual increase ever recorded.
- 2005 was the warmest year ever recorded on the Earth's surface.
- Use of fossil fuels continues to increase.
- The U.S still will not ratify Kyoto.

'Developments in renewable energy resources are impressive and are likely to provoke far-reaching changes in world energy markets within the next five years,' says Worldwatch Institute president Christopher Flavin. "But the transition will have to move even faster to prevent the kind of ecological and economic crises that may be precipitated by continuing dependence on fossil fuels."

7. Zero Waste and BioFuels

Zero Waste is concerned that the government is considering a plan to produce ethanol and biodiesel from the so-called agricultural wastes of whey and tallow. The proposal involves the inefficient introduction of these liquid fuels at great cost, with the need to subsidise the ethanol due to its economic inefficiency. Zero Waste notes that the proposed measures will do nothing to reduce fuel consumption, and they will do nothing to increase efficiencies of use – such as we see in the use of hybrid vehicles. Further, we note that the burgeoning overseas production of biofuels is based on the use of food crops, such as corn and wheat, sugar cane and palm oil.

In the meantime, we have the technology to take off biogas from all our green and putrescible wastes – what are we waiting for?

For more on our viewpoint, go to www.zerowaste.co.nz/default,762.sm

8. Zero Waste, the Waste Min. Bill, and impact on Climate Change

The acceptance of the Waste Minimisation Bill, currently under consideration by a Parliamentary Select Committee, could lead to worthwhile measures being taken to reduce New Zealand's output of greenhouse gas emissions

For more on this subject, please go to: www.zerowaste.co.nz/default,719.sm , scroll to the foot of the page, and choose the relevant link.

9. Ivory Coast Tragedy Prompts Call for Stricter Toxic Waste Treaty

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast September 2006 – The recent toxic waste tragedy in the Ivory Coast has now claimed eight lives, and hospitals have been overwhelmed, with more than 80,000 seeking medical care. The events in the Ivorian city of Abidjan illustrate a sad fact that the world is failing to implement and enforce the international law created to protect people from the global trade of hazardous materials. The Ivory Coast tragedy is only the latest example of a resurgence of toxic waste dumping by rich nations in poor ones, according to Jim Puckett, a hazardous waste trade expert with the Basel Action Network. "We've been here before," Puckett said. "There is even more evidence now of death and disease from waste trade than ever before. Ironically, today we have the international rules to control or prohibit such global dumping but there is little enforcement."

The 1989 International Hazardous Waste Treaty, known as the Basel Convention, was designed to curb and prevent the developed world from transferring hazardous wastes to the world's poorer countries. It was forged in the wake of several international scandals involving the dumping of toxic wastes in poor nations by industrialized countries.

But the accord did not prohibit waste exports to any location except Antarctica! In 1995, an amendment to the treaty was established to prohibit waste exports from developed nations to the rest of the world.

The amendment has been implemented in the European Union, but has not entered into force globally. A long list of countries has failed to ratify the treaty. The list includes wealthy nations who oppose the ban, such as the United States, Canada and Australia, as well as many developing countries, such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines, and - ironically - the Ivory Coast.

According to the Ivory Coast government, the waste was shipped to the city last month by a Dutch commodities trading firm. Some 400 tons of the waste was then dumped in at least fifteen city sites, from where fumes from the oily waste, in particular hydrogen sulphide, killed and sickened many of the city's residents. Disaster relief and health experts from the United Nations, the World Health Organization and France, have gone to the city to help develop a clean-up plan.

The trading firm has denied any wrongdoing and blamed a company in the Ivory Coast for mishandling the toxic waste. The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) is investigating reports that the toxic waste may have been illegally exported and examining whether the Basel Convention's trust fund can be used to help pay for the clean-up operation, which could cost more than \$13 million.

The Basel Action Network said the situation in the Ivory Coast is only one example of the effects of exporting wastes. This month another ship load of oily residue waste was exported illegally to the Philippines, according to the watchdog group, and seaports in Asia and Africa are daily being inundated with container loads of hazardous electronic waste as old computers, monitors, phones, and other cast-off electronic devices from rich developed countries.

The organization said much of this electronic waste, ostensibly due for repair or reuse, is simply dumped or sent to primitive recycling operations that endanger workers and the local environment.

As global trade flows expand and tough domestic controls raise the costs of hazardous wastes disposal in developed countries, opportunities and incentives for illegal trafficking of wastes will continue to grow.

"Unfortunately, while it is still easy to dump our wastes on the poor, unscrupulous operators and businesses will do it," Puckett said. "That is why the Basel Convention and the Basel Ban were created - to prevent the affluent of the affluent being foisted onto developing countries. It is time for every nation to sign up and enforce those rules, and end this environmental injustice once and for all."

New Zealand is a signatory to the Convention, but a recent report indicates that electronic waste exports are not all thoroughly checked, and their final beneficial use could not always be guaranteed.

10. Employment Opportunities and Job Seekers

Fair Trade Association

The Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand (FTAANZ) is working to promote the development of fair trade markets in Australia & New Zealand

FTAANZ is recruiting for a Marketing & Communications Coordinator for New Zealand, to be based in Auckland. For more details and a full job description, see: www.fairtrade.org.nz or email: nz@fta.org.nz

"This is an exciting opportunity for the right person to put their mark on developing the strategy for the promotion of fair trade in NZ. It is a challenging position, with the opportunity to effect real change. We are looking for a dynamic, creative person with strong marketing and communication experience; someone who wants to make a difference within an exciting and growing work environment."

The closing date for applications is **Monday 2nd October 2006**, with interviews the following week. This position is being re-advertised, please do not re-apply if you have applied previously.

Please direct all applications to: nz@fta.org.nz

Applications should include:

- a covering letter
- an up-to-date curriculum vitae
- a document outlining your relevant skills and experience in relation to the competencies outlined in the job description.

Job wanted – Angela White

Angela is the Sustainable Development Manager at 'Yorkshire Forward', one of the UK's larger Regional Development Agencies. This agency promotes regeneration and economic development, and Angela has responsibility for the Resource Efficiency Policy and Programmes, which mainly focuses business/job opportunities around resource productivity and more effective resource management practices.

Prior to this, Angela worked for 7 years as an environmental consultant for a not-for-profit environmental consultancy called SWAP – Save Waste and Prosper. She worked with the retail sector, and with community sector WEEE refurbishers to establish Codes of Conduct and standards. She also did a lot of waste awareness work and project managed the national Rethink Rubbish initiative (the precursor to Recycle Now, which is WRAP's national awareness campaign).

She is passionate and enthusiastic, has a wide ranging background in policy work, funding regimes, project initiation, and project management. Her abiding interest is in behavioural change – both in individuals and in businesses.

She is currently planning a 12 month sabbatical, and would very much like an opportunity to work here in New Zealand for a few months commencing about Oct/Nov. If you think you may be able to help, and wish to hear more from Angela about this, please contact her at: Angela.White@ntlworld.com

For more information about the Regional Development Agency, go to: www.yorkshire-forward.com

Waste advisory service available

I am Lauren Maser, and I would love to do some of your work!

"Will Auckland meet its goal of zero waste to landfill by 2015? What sort of programs and policies does your community, company or organisation have in place to minimise, if not eliminate waste?"

My vision of New Zealand is as a zero waste country, and I can provide assistance to communities and businesses in the Auckland region on implementing practices that will substantially reduce landfill, particularly by removing organic waste from landfill with worm farming and composting. I have extensive experience in marketing and communication and can provide program development and implementation, education, advocacy and group facilitation services." For further information and a comprehensive CV, please contact me at lmaser@xtra.co.nz, ph 09 372-9172 or mobile 021 451 431.

Registration for this newsletter

Should you wish to register for this newsletter, or if you would like your name to be taken off our address list, please send a message to: the.editor@zerowaste.co.nz

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