

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

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust is pleased to welcome Jo Knight on board as Manager of the Trust. Jo has previously worked as a Curator at Auckland Zoo and was instrumental in setting up the education programme at Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World.



During a stint in Dunedin, Jo added Marketing to her qualifications. She has held positions of Marketing Manager at Dunedin College of Education, the Museums Unit as well as some consultancy work.

Jo says: "As a Zoology and Botany major I have always been interested in environmental issues. A closet ornithologist, I never travel without binoculars and a bird book, especially when on the annual tramp with friends around the New Zealand backblocks. I am a trustee of Te Araroa Trust, the long walkway, that is working with community organisations to build a walkway the length of New Zealand.

I come to the zero waste ethic following my extensive environmental focus."

Huge steps have been made in the last few years in terms of the numbers of councils signing up for zero waste. However, now is a time for consolidation, ensuring the infrastructure is there to handle the changes that zero waste will bring. Most of all there is a need to let the public know what is happening zero waste-wise and to gain their cooperation and enthusiasm for keeping and/ or returning New Zealand to a pristine state.

To this end we will be launching a fantastic new website this year which will be useful to individuals, councils, schools and community groups. We have recently

revised our funding forms so that people we have funded can help us by providing details of their successes. We plan to use this accumulated data to demonstrate that collectively, as well as individually, you are all making a big difference.

"I am looking forward to working in this area, to meeting the movers and shakers around the country, and to hopefully watching the rugby sevens in Wellington next year without a swirl of plastic bags catching around the victorious players legs!"

Zero Waste Events

WasteMINZ workshops, 27 & 28 May 2003, Napier

An opportunity to update, upskill and catchup is coming up

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust has invited Vaughan Levitzke from the Environmental Protection Authority, South Australia, to participate in a workshop on **May 28th** focusing on waste levies.

Vaughan is responsible for a number of specialist programmes including recycling and waste strategies, container deposit legislation and packaging waste. He is currently helping to set up Zero Waste South Australia.

For more details on workshops and registering contact WasteMINZ through www.wasteminz.org or call 09 486 6722

Zero Waste Hui

A Zero Waste Community Group Hui is to be held in Raglan from 8th - 10th October and hosted by X-treme Waste Raglan. For more details see Page 2.

Resource Recovery Management Training Course

The next course will be hosted by Innovative Waste Kaikoura from May 5th to 9th in Kaikoura. The course has been created to enhance the skills of managers or workers who have the potential to develop management roles in community recycling operations.

For more information on course content and registering contact Jill Norman at jill@zerowaste.co.nz or call 09 486 0734.

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.

EMAIL YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS TO

lucy@zerowaste.co.nz

Community News

Slash Trash

The Paihia School Gala held on 8th March 2003, made a great effort towards achieving zero waste.

Stall holders had to adhere to zero waste principles and the public had the opportunity to use different bins to dispose of their waste although had to be encouraged by the Slash Trash rep, Bronie Nicols.

Bronie's experience from organising the event is valuable knowledge that should be shared with you all.

Three areas to focus on when organising an event include: manning bins so the public cannot avoid sorting correctly; planning well ahead of the event to have recyclable/biodegradable plates etc and most importantly, remain focussed on your commitment to the cause. It only takes one stall operator to use a non-recyclable item and the whole event loses its credibility.

Paihia School recently set up a recycling system at the school, complete with worm farm and have already noticed a significant reduction in their waste disposal costs. This means more money is available for the school's resource materials.

For more information contact Bronie Nicols at bnicol@clear.net.nz.

Zero Waste Community Enterprise Network

A survey with the five members of the Zero Waste Community Enterprise Network was recently conducted. All the groups have long term contracts with councils to operate waste management and waste minimisation services. Combined results from the survey highlighted the following vital statistics of the groups:

- They are currently providing waste minimisation services to just over 1% of New Zealand's population;
- Have a combined turnover of \$3.5 million dollars annually ;
- Employment equates to 68 full-time positions (44% of the workforce is female which is high compared to other sectors of the waste industry) and
- Annually recover over 10,000 tonnes of materials which would have been landfilled.
- Where able to be measured, the groups are recovering between 30-58% of the waste stream from

their area by weight.

The next key output for ZWCEN includes a **Zero Waste Hui** which is to be held in Raglan. Dates for your diaries are **8th- 10th October 2003**.

The Hui will be aimed at community groups throughout New Zealand involved in waste minimisation and resource recovery operations. The programme of events will be based around why ZWCEN has been developed and ways to support and augment the community sector's position in the waste minimisation industry.

Many thanks to X-treme Waste who have offered to host the Hui. This inspirational team is a leader within the community sector in terms of resource recovery - they are currently diverting 70% of Raglan's residential waste away from landfill. There are many facets to this highly successful operation and the Hui will be a perfect opportunity for community groups to gain a greater understanding of the issues the team face.

Part of their success lies in a comprehensive community education programme run by Susa Kupa, public relations officer for the X-treme Team. Her role involves engaging the community on a number of levels, from school visits to producing inspiring and fun annual reports, hosting a weekly radio show and organising events such as the Recycled Trolley Derby and Recycled Raft Race. Both events (highlights in Raglan's summer events calendar) invited the local community to design and build trolleys and rafts from recycled materials.

The raft race attracted 65 people rafting on 14 rafts. Entrants included a floating garden shed, an upturned Ute canopy with a rudder (first prize) and an upturned urinal called Urin to Win.

For more information on the Xtreme Team contact Susa on tribe13@raglan.net.nz



Business



Sustainable Business Network

The Sustainable Business Network was officially launched in February of this year. The Network has designed a schedule to meet its mission of enabling businesses to flourish through sustainable business practice. The SBN is the result of a merger between the Auckland Environment Business Network and NZ Businesses for Social Responsibility. For more information go to www.sustainable.org.nz.

Fuji Xerox Auckland's aim of zero waste has seen a large diversion of waste from landfill as well as bottom line savings. The company is in the process of designing product recycling systems that cover the entire life cycle of their products. By refilling and refurbishing their print cartridges they have reduced the amount of cartridges going to landfill. On average they are recycling 25,000 cartridges per annum - this equates to an approximate 520 cubic metre reduction in landfill space. Other initiatives Fuji Xerox are operating at present include the reuse of machine cartons by Carton Traders and recycling of clingfilm, machine carcasses and cardboard and paper. For more information go to www.fujixerox.co.nz.

Oki Electric Japan

The Numazu plant of the Oki Electric Industry Co, Japan, is in charge of system development and manufacturing of bases for an advanced information telecommunication society.

After examining its waste they conducted research on recycling methods for various wastestreams and set a target of zero waste by 2005. The main challenge of this goal was to ensure accurate sorting of waste by employees. In order to achieve zero waste, regulations were imposed on employees for sorting waste.

Recycling figures rose from 30% in 1996 to 90% in 1999. As well as reduction of waste, Oki has achieved a 45% reduction in its waste disposal fee.

(Source: Warmer Bulletin E-news, issue #12-2003)

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

The recent media coverage of the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has prompted the preparation of this warning to all people involved in the collection, handling and disposal of waste materials. It has been prepared by Richard Tong, Managing Director, Tong & Associates Ltd, Resource Management Consultants. It is based on current information on SARS and Richard's earlier reviews of the risk of illness amongst refuse workers in New Zealand and overseas.

The number of reported cases of SARS seems to be increasing daily, however the identity of this disease is still not clear.

While we know little about the health effects of working with and around refuse and related products, one study has suggested that people working in composting operations and with domestic refuse had a greater risk of contracting respiratory diseases.

It is too early to make any industry specific comments about SARS other than those made for the general public, however, it is worthwhile emphasising the importance of basic safety precautions for those working with waste materials.

These include:

1. Wear face masks at all times when handling or near loose refuse.

Treat used facial tissues as a potential source of illness.

2. Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling or near loose refuse.

3. Wear eye protection at all times when handling or near loose refuse.

Infectious agents can enter the body through the eyes.

4. Be diligent with thorough hand washing after handling loose waste materials.

For more information contact Richard Tong at tong.dev@xtra.co.nz

Zero Waste Council News in Brief

North Shore City Council



Bucket drummers at the market

North Shore City Council hosted a week long eco-fest during March inviting residents, businesses and schools to participate in a number of fun events, the aim of which were to demonstrate that everyone can do something to protect the environment. There were a number of events during the week. These included an eco-awards evening where efforts of local people who have worked to improve their local environment were recognised, a debate about the place of composting toilets in the North Shore (between local councillors and a group of school pupils) and the week culminated in a green market. The market was an opportunity for green businesses and community groups to display their products and services to residents of the North Shore. Opportunities for learning included practical demonstrations on how worm farms can help you reduce your waste, how to collect rainwater from your roof to water the garden and how an all natural futon bed is made!

Other highlights of the market included the Eco-Fear Factor Challenge - a secondary schools competition which saw seven teams from North Shore schools take on some challenging environmentally themed contests including sorting compostable waste from non-compostable waste while your head is in a worm bin!

For more information contact Sarah Yarrow at North Shore City Council at sarah.yarrow@nthshore.govt.nz.

Waimakariri DC aims for Zero Waste

Congratulations to Waimakariri District Council who have recently adopted a zero waste strategy, setting a target date of 2030. Interim targets include 10% by June 2005, 30% by June 2010, 50% by June 2020.

Other Council News

Southland District Seek Tenders

Invercargill City and Southland District are seeking tenders for the combined services for kerbside recycling collection and drop off centres. Tenders close on April 30th.

Telephone Invercargill City Council on 03 211 1777 for more details.

Ministry for the Environment

REDUCE YOUR RUBBISH

www.reduceyourrubbish.govt.nz

The 'Reduce Your Rubbish' public campaign was launched on 11th April, focussing on how to solve the problem of 3.6 million tonnes of waste being disposed of in landfills each year. The emphasis is very much on encouraging the public to realise that rubbish is not going to disappear without effort from every member of society and that we can all do something to reduce it.

The campaign incorporates five TV adverts, supermarket and bus shelter adverts and a website and these will be enhanced by local and regional councils working further to spread the message within their communities.

The photo below shows a 'rubbish pyramid' currently on display in Wellington. This construction demonstrates that over two thirds of our rubbish can be recovered. The website is excellent, very user friendly and a good tool with which to engage your local community in waste minimisation and recycling practices. It contains a section where users can enter the region where they live and link to recycling pages of local councils.

For more information on the campaign go to www.reduceyourrubbish.govt.nz.



The 'rubbish pyramid'

Resources

Funding

The Sustainable Farming Fund supports community driven programmes aimed at improving the financial and environmental performance of the land-based sectors.

Any projects involved in rural community composting operations may be eligible to apply.

The fund will provide grants for projects lasting up to three years and will provide a percentage of the total project funding.

Applications are now invited for projects beginning in the 2003/4 financial year. The closing date is June 6th 2003.

For more information phone 0800 100 087, email sffund@maf.govt.nz or visit www.maf.govt.nz/sff.

Events

The New Zealand Earthworm Association presents 'Waste to Worms to Wealth' seminar on May 16th in Auckland.

Discussions include treatment of organic waste by vermiculture on a commercial scale, a progress report of worm-worked wastes in viticulture and test results on treatment of council organic waste by vermiculture in Rodney district.

Further information available from www.earthworms.co.nz.

International news

San Francisco

The San Francisco Commission on the Environment passed resolutions in March setting a goal of zero waste by 2020, directing the Department of the Environment to develop policies and programmes to increase producer and consumer responsibility in order to achieve the zero waste goal.

The Board of Supervisors previously adopted a resolution authorising the Commission to set the date once 50% diversion had been achieved.

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Zero Waste International Alliance

Julie Dickinson and Warren Snow recently attended a conference, 'Working together towards Zero Waste', hosted by GAIA (which stands for Global Alternatives for Incinerator Alternatives- as well as the Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance).

Representatives from 27 countries around the world gathered in Penang, Malaysia to share anti-incineration and pro-zero waste stories.

GAIA is an international organisation focussed on stopping the spread of incineration. Zero waste is a fundamental policy of GAIA. (See the GAIA website for more info: www.no-burn.org).

The Zero Waste New Zealand campaign won a 'Trashcan Award' at the conference, given in recognition of the nationwide scale of the Zero Waste campaign. No other country has adopted Zero Waste to the same extent. So congratulations to every council, community group, business, school, university and individual working towards Zero Waste - this award is yours! Your efforts are recognised internationally. For more information contact Julie Dickinson at jdickinson@zwia.org.

Z.E.R.I

The Zero Emissions Research and Initiatives was set up by Gunter Pauli in 1994. He established a network of scientists who translate high science into simple zero waste technologies which are quickly implemented. ZERI demonstrates that it is possible to generate more jobs while increasing productivity, reducing prices to consumers and eliminating waste. ZERI recently won a very prestigious award from the Architectural Institute of Japan for a pavillion made from sustainable construction materials (see photo). It was recognised as being the best example in the world for innovations in materials. This award is only given once every 10 years. For more information on ZERI go to www.zeri.org



Community Re>Paint Scheme, UK

The national network of Community Re>Paint schemes in the UK redistributed 88,000 litres of household paint, with a value of over £333,000 (equivalent to NZ\$900,000) to over 4350 community groups and projects during 2001-02. These figures are from a Community Re>Paint Survey report and based on 29 schemes out of an existing network of 44 operating across the UK. In addition, the survey showed that the network has created a total of 315 part-time jobs. For further information go to www.communityrepaint.org.uk

Japan - EEE Industry starts Takeback Scheme

From October 2003, residents of Japan will be able to drop off obsolete computers for recycling at any one of 20,000 post offices nationwide or request postal carriers to pick up the computer at home.

Japan Post has linked up with an industry group representing 21 major computer producers (95% of the Japanese computer market.) Consumers can expect to see a collection fee added to the cost of new computers. The action follows a new federal law mandating consumer computer recycling.

(Source: Warmer Bulletin e-news, Issue #13-2003)

Wales - Action on Plastic Bags

A three month pilot project to encourage shoppers to reuse their plastic supermarket bags is to be launched later this year by the Wales Environment Trust and a major supermarket, Asda, at its 14 superstores across Wales. It will be the first of its kind to be operated in the UK and will inform the debate on ways of combating the problems caused by the single use carrier bags. Britons get through an estimated eight billion of the polyethylene bags each year - equivalent to 133 per person.

Go to www.greenconsumerguide.com for more details.

(Source: London CRN News, 10/4/03)