

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

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Zero Waste Website

www.zerowaste.co.nz

■ Download the Conference Proceedings from the website at "National Campaign - Conferences and Workshops" - "Zero Waste Conferences"

■ **Job Vacancy** at All Brite's - Check out the "Bulletin Board" on the website

Zero Waste Conference

If you haven't heard already the Zero Waste Conference 2000 was a huge success! Held in Kaitaia from the 7th to the 9th of December, **Zero Waste: The Road Ahead** drew a crowd of 220 attendees from all around New Zealand and from Australia.

The conference included representatives from 19 Zero Waste Councils, 12 non Zero Waste Councils and 30 Community Groups along with recyclers, businesses, academics and government officials.

The warmth and hospitality of the Far North played a big part in the success of the conference with Te Rarawa (the local Iwi) opening the event with a stirring powhiri, followed by a welcome from Mayor Yvonne Sharp. Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment, used the conference to launch the eagerly awaited discussion document "Towards a National Waste Minimisation Strategy".

This was followed by a series of

presentations by Zero Waste Councils, outlining their waste reduction achievements and challenges to date. Highlights amongst these were the reduction from 10,000 tonnes to 3,500 tonnes per year to landfill achieved in Opotiki and the 67% recovery rate achieved in Kaitaia.

The other major contributor to the success of the conference was the range and calibre of guest presenters. Eight international guests provided inspiration and a wealth of practical experience and knowledge.

- Keynote speaker **Tachi Kiuchi**, former Managing Director and now Counsellor to Mitsubishi Electric and Chair of the Future 500 group of corporates, says that we have to accept that some of the underlying assumptions of business are wrong. We have to move away from the concept of perpetual growth, in favour of better products that don't degrade the environment.

- London-based economist **Robin Murray**, from the Centre of Global Governance at the London School of Economics, said that there is no reason why New Zealand cannot cut municipal waste landfilling by 80 per cent in the next three years, with potentially huge gains in foreign exchange savings and job creation.

- **Eric Lombardi**, the Executive Director of Eco-Cycle, Boulder, Colorado, the largest community based organisation in the USA spoke about Eco-Cycle's successes over the last 25 years. Eco-Cycle currently employs 56 people and has a turnover of US\$4 million/year.



Key Note Speaker Tachi Kiuchi and wife Kyoko with Warren Snow and wife Kim Reed and local Kapa Haka group at conference dinner.

- **Gary Liss**, President of Gary Liss and Associates, a consultancy that develops strategic solid waste and recycling policies, discussed the importance of local authority incentives and disincentives for waste reduction.

- The importance of community involvement in waste reduction was stressed by **Andy Moore**, CEO of the Community Recycling Network, a national umbrella organisation for over 250 groups in the community waste sector in the UK.

- **Dan Knapp**, the Founder and Executive Director of Urban Ore, a major resource recovery park in Berkeley, California, explained how Urban Ore focuses on reusing other people's rubbish and gains items to sell by scavenging at the landfill and purchasing second hand items. Urban Ore now has a turn over of US\$1.6 million per year.

- **Robert Joy**, Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Authority, Victoria, Australia, discussed Victoria's success to date in diverting 40% of its solid waste stream.

- And finally **Jim Malcolm** the Director of Waste Management, Department of Environmental Protection, Western Australia and a key member of the WASTE 2020 Task Force discussed the move to Zero Waste in Western Australia, but most memorably sang a musical version of the WASTE 2020 Strategy to the tune of Waltzing Matilda!

The final day of the conference was set-aside for community groups. The day included presentations from a number of groups, outlining their successes and problems, followed by presentations from Dan Knapp and Eric Lombardi on resource recovery and the role of community groups in waste minimisation. In the afternoon a

seminar was held on the possible need for a community recycling network in New Zealand. Guest speakers at this seminar were Andy Moore from the Community Recycling Network in the UK, Mal Williams from the Welsh Community Recycling Network and Karuna Douglas, Coordinator of the Recycling Operators of New Zealand.

Central to the conference was the opportunity to network and exchange information, allowing individuals and organisation from around the country to compare their efforts on the road to zero waste and establish support networks to further enable their progress.

The conference was hosted by the Far North District Council and the Community Business and Employment Centre (CBEC), and the hospitality of the Far North community was truly outstanding throughout the conference, culminating in the most extraordinary conference dinner at Ohaki Marae.

Conference proceedings can be downloaded from the Zero Waste website – under “National Campaign” - “Conferences and Workshops” – “Zero Waste Conference”.

On Tour

Following on from the Zero Waste Conference, a number of the international guest speakers toured around New Zealand, visiting a range of Councils and Community Groups.

- Dan Knapp and Gary Liss visited Whangarei District Council

- Dan, Gary and Eric Lombardi spoke at the Auckland Regional Waste Managers Forum

- Dan and Eric visited Palmerston North City Council and Massey University.

- Dan then visited Masterton District Council, Ashburton and Waiheke Resource Trust

- Gary met with the Ministry for the Environment

- Andy Moore and Mal Williams (CEO of Cylch, Wales' Community Recycling Network) went to Australia for three weeks, to visit the NSW Waste Boards.

- They then spent a week in the South Island visiting a range of community groups. The week was completed with a meeting at the Ashburton District Council, set up by Wastebusters Trust Canterbury, which 50 guests attended,



International Guest Speakers from left: Jim Malcolm; (Julie Dickinson, Zero Waste staff); Robin Murray; Andy Moore; Mal Williams; Pat Miller; Gary Liss; (Sunshine Yates, Zero Waste staff); Eric Lombardi; Dan Knapp.

including the Mayor of Ashburton.

- Andy also met with Marian Hobbs in Wellington, followed by meetings with the Wellington Regional Environmental Authority and Waste Management Wairarapa.

- Andy's tour was completed by visits to X-treme Waste in Raglan, Opotiki District Council, The ReSource Trust and 2nd Time Resource Recovery Park in Manukau and the Waiheke Waste Resource Trust.

North Shore goes Zero

North Shore City is set to become the first Council in the Auckland Region to adopt a zero waste policy. In November 2000 the policy was unanimously supported at a Works and Environment Committee meeting and comes after the announcement that the Rosedale Landfill will be closed by the end of 2002. Says Councillor Joel Cayford: "With the Rosedale Landfill expected to close, increasing future landfill costs, and with the average North Shore household rubbish having increased by 17 per cent over the last six years, the council must become more proactive." A year 2000 audit of North Shore waste showed that 91 per cent of North Shore's domestic rubbish should, in theory, be recyclable. The policy is now open to public submissions and will hopefully be ratified in late May.

Song Quest

Jim Malcolm's serenade at the conference brought the house down. His musical version of the WAste 2020 strategy sung to the tune of Waltzing Matilda - words attached - entertained us but also helped to get the message across in a highly memorable way.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

National Strategy Submissions

At the Zero Waste conference Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment, officially released a discussion document from the Working Group on Waste Minimisation and Management, proposing a National Waste Minimisation Strategy.

Submissions are now called for - with a deadline of March 1st.

This is your one-off opportunity to have a say - almost a case of speak now or forever hold your peace!

The report gives us an opportunity to call for a national target of Zero Waste - but submissions can't just come from Zero Waste New Zealand Trust. They have to come from every Council, business, school, community group, recycler, government institution and individual who sees the problem and understands the need to set a target of Zero Waste to achieve real change.

A Zero Waste Draft Strategy is currently being written with assistance from the overseas experts who attended the Zero Waste conference. Our guests saw the immense potential that New Zealand has to lead the world in sustainability and have committed themselves to assisting us in whatever way they can. The Zero

Waste document will be made available via the website and our email distribution list (please check with us to make sure you're on it) in early February. There are then several options available to you. You can:

a) Send an official letter of endorsement from you and/or your organisation supporting the document and its recommendation for adopting a national Zero Waste vision and target.

b) Use the document as a framework on which to base your own submission. The document will, by necessity, be brief so there will be plenty of opportunity to expand on areas of particular interest.

c) Make your own individual submission.

Copies of the Working Group's report can be obtained from the Ministry for the Environment (04) 917 7400 or at www.mfe.govt.nz

The Working Group will be touring around the country seeking input so we would encourage you to attend meetings if you can. We will send out the schedule for these meetings via our email distribution list or call us on 09 486 0734. We are more than happy to help you with your submissions so please get in touch with us if you would like information or assistance.

Remember deadline for submissions is March 1st so HAVE YOUR SAY!

Electronic Update and Newspaper clippings

If you are currently receiving a hard copy of the Zero Waste Update and would prefer to receive an electronic copy (pdf), please email

sunshine@zerowaste.co.nz

We are now also able to send the newspaper clippings electronically.

Resources

The **Waste Exchange** is a Waikato and Bay of Plenty free data base to help businesses swap and re-use their waste rather than dumping it in landfills. It is designed to help businesses find markets for industrial by-products, surplus materials and waste. You can register your products and be matched with others who can re-use these wastes.

www.nothrow.co.nz

The **Independent Designers Network** (indes.net) is a group of design consultants and mid-sized firms working in graphic and packaging design and their associated fields. Indes.net is very active in the promotion of green packaging and eco-friendly design. Rather than take a passive approach to design, member firms offer their clients practical ways of being a good world citizen. Indes.net encourages other design professionals to take an active roll and become more environmentally responsible in their design approaches. As a resource for its members as well as the design community at large, indes.net maintains a 'Design Resource' page full of useful design links.

www.indes.net/idnref.html

Email distribution list

Zero Waste has set up an email distribution list that will be used to distribute topical information that we feel should get out to our network as quickly as possible. If you are not already on this list and would like to be included, please email Sunshine at sunshine@zerowaste.co.nz

The Norwegian **National Institute for Consumer Research** (SIFO) conducts research and testing in support of consumer interests. Their website includes English summaries of a number of studies that they have done on consumer motivation for a variety of environmental topics, including recycling and people's environmental behaviour when shopping. www.sifo.no/sider/english/publications/environment/index.htm

International News

Target Zero Canada

On the 21st of November 2000, Target Zero Canada was official launched. They have a great website, which can be visited at www.targetzerocanada.org/ This site includes a number of great Zero Waste articles as well as a list of Zero Heroes from around the world.

Landfill Remediation in Germany

In Hoxter, in rural Germany, new regulations have been established for landfill operators, requiring higher remediation fees. A landfill of 1,200,000m³ must be remediated for 30-50 years at a cost of about NZ\$50,000,000 and the cost of leachate purification has been estimated at NZ\$35-45 per m³. The present cost per tonne to landfill is about NZ\$500 for general waste and NZ\$180 per tonne for composting organic waste.

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Landfill Snippets

1. The U.S. EPA has stated that: "...even the best liner and leachate collection system will ultimately fail due to natural deterioration, and recent improvement in municipal solid waste containment technologies suggest that releases may be delayed by many decades at some landfills." (US EPA, Solid Waste Disposal Facility Criteria).

2. G. Fred Lee & Associates, a California engineering-consulting firm, state in a report entitled 'Municipal Solid Waste Management in Lined, "Dry Tomb" Landfills: A Technologically Flawed Approach for Protection of Groundwater Quality', that landfill liners leak for a variety of reasons; that leachate collection systems clog up and thus fail to prevent landfill leakage; that landfill leachate will remain a danger to groundwater for thousands of years; that maintaining a single landfill's cap for the duration of the hazard would cost hundreds of billions, or even trillions, of dollars; that groundwater monitoring cannot be expected to detect landfill leakage; that groundwater, once it is contaminated, cannot be cleaned up and must be considered permanently destroyed; and that groundwater is a limited and diminishing resource which modern societies grow more dependent on as time passes. For the full report visit <http://members.aol.com/gfredlee/pap/flawtecl.htm>

Also visit: <http://members.aol.com/gfredlee/plandfil.htm>

Contact Zero Waste for more information on either of these quotes.