

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

Inside this issue:

Our Clean Green Image	1
WasteMINZ Conference	1
Buy it Back	1
Kawerau District Council	2
Radio Campaign	2
Clean Up New Zealand	2
Auckland Down-Scales	2
VCU Launch	3
BusinessCare	3
Zero Waste School Award	3

Our Clean Green Image: What’s it really worth?

The Ministry for the Environment investigates the value of conserving New Zealand’s Clean Green image. A recently released report commissioned by the Ministry, concludes that underpinning our clean green image with a clean green reality “will not only benefit New Zealanders’ quality of life directly, but will have clear long-term economic benefits.”

The report states in its ‘Assessment of Risks’: “The evidence available to date suggests that the generation of waste, including hazardous wastes within New Zealand, continues to pose a threat to the New Zealand environment. It is plausible that this in turn could impact on the perception of environmental quality that underpins New Zealand exports. The sectors most likely to be affected include:

- Tourism, particularly if the quality of waste management is such that the waste stream is allowed to degrade the quality of marine and freshwater resources (including groundwater)
- The agricultural and horticultural sectors (including organics) particularly if the hazardous waste stream results in chemical residues being found in food exports.”

The full report, “Valuing our Clean Green Image”, is available at www.mfe.govt.nz or by contacting the Ministry on 04 917 7490.

WasteMINZ Conference

Two leading international Zero Waste proponents will attend the 2001 WasteMINZ Conference in Christchurch this year. Dr Dominic Hogg, a leading UK economist, and Graham Mannell, the driving force behind Canberra No Waste by 2010 Strategy, are being sponsored by Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, to share their expertise with the WasteMINZ attendees. Dr Hogg’s visit is being co-sponsored by the NZ British Council.

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust is hosting a half day workshop on the first day of the conference, providing an opportunity for Councils and community groups to network and discuss progress, views and ideas. Graham Mannell will join the workshop, to provide insight into Canberra’s strategy. Dr Dominic Hogg, Director of Eunomia Research and Consulting, UK, will be providing a keynote speech on the economics of waste minimisation. Other keynote speakers include Brian Richards –New Zealand’s well known Brand Strategist, discussing “Repositioning Waste” and Hon Marian Hobbs, outlining how the government intends to meet its commitment to reduce the waste stream.

The WasteMINZ Conference will run from the 31st of October to the 2nd of November. For more information, please contact: WasteMinz Conference 2001, PO Box 31 580, Milford, Auckland or ph: 09 486 6722

Zero Waste Website

www.zerowaste.co.nz

■ A list of NZ’s Waste Exchanges is onsite under “Zero Waste Solutions”/ “Businesses”

Zero Waste Councils



In August, Waimate District Council adopted a target of Zero Waste by 2015

Updating Buy it Back Guide

Free listing for businesses making products out of recycled materials. The Buy it Back Guide is currently being updated. This guide is a database of businesses making products out of recycled materials. If your business uses recycled materials to produce products, or if you know of a business currently using recycled materials, please contact Zero Waste New Zealand Trust to be added to the database.

Contact 09 486 0734 or mailbox@zerowaste.co.nz

Zero Waste Council: Kawerau District Council

Kawerau District Council adopted a target of Zero Waste to landfill in 1999, and hopes to reduce waste by 20% this year and 50% in the 2002/2003 year. To achieve these reductions the council is recommending the introduction of a 50-litre kerbside-recycling bin, a 240-litre wheelie bin for fortnightly greenwaste collections and a 60-litre wheelie bin for other waste, to be introduced in October 2002.

On adopting a Zero Waste target, the Council's first initiative was to employ a person at the landfill to strip car bodies for scrap and spare parts. In January 2001 a drop off centre was set up at the landfill for paper, plastic, glass, metals and cardboard. This is currently being replaced by a Resource Recovery Centre, where staff members will assist the public in the separation of recyclable commodities and resalable items from residual waste. Green waste is being stockpiled and then chipped for use as an energy source for the boilers at the local pulp and paper industry.

In early 2002, a kerbside-recycling scheme will be introduced and the community will be consulted to determine the favoured waste collection system.

The Kawerau community has already undertaken a number of waste reduction initiatives:

- * Worm farming was introduced into primary and intermediate schools in the latter part of 2000 and has proven very successful.

- * Recycled fashion shows have been organised by the local Soroptomist Club for the last two years.

- * A small kitchen industry has also been set up to produce reusable calico bags to replace plastic shopping bags in the area.

For further information, contact Tom McDowell, 07 323 8779 or tom.mcdowell@kaweraudc.govt.nz



Auckland's new wheelie bin

Radio Campaign

A radio campaign raises environmental awareness in Timaru.

Timaru District Council is running a radio campaign made up of different environmental messages.

These messages are aired at the same time every week and have been an excellent and cost effective way to increase awareness of environmental issues, reaching up to 15,000 people. The environmental messages covered topics ranging from recycling and Zero Waste to global warming and resource depletion. The campaign costs Timaru District Council \$400 a month, for a weekly message preceded by six advertisements.

The transcript of this radio campaign is freely available from Timaru District Council, to anybody interested in conducting a similar campaign. Contact Briony Woodnorth on 03 684 8199 or brionyw@timdc.govt.nz North Shore City Council and Raglan's X-treme Waste have also used radio campaigns to promote their waste reduction initiatives.

Clean Up New Zealand

Clean Up New Zealand Week, 2001, is being held from 17th – 23rd September. Clean Up New Zealand Week brings together schools, families, friends and colleagues to tackle dump sites, polluted streams, littered walk ways and plant native trees.

For the past 12 years the Clean Up the World campaign has mobilised millions of people who have made a positive difference to their local environment and to the planet. New Zealand is just one of over 200 participating countries.

To find out how to get into action, check out the Clean up New Zealand website: www.cleanupnz.org.nz or phone 0800 315 000



Auckland Down-Scales

Auckland City Isthmus residents' 240-litre wheelie bins have been swapped for 120-litre red-lidded wheelie bins, as part of Auckland City Council's strategy to reduce waste by 50% over the next three years.

Auckland City residents currently produce more waste per household than anywhere else in New Zealand.

An innovative new greenwaste recycling scheme has also been set up, called "green.cycle". The 240-litre wheelie bin that was previously used for general waste is being kept on as a greenwaste recycling bin. Through "green.cycle", ratepayers are provided with six rates-funded coupons, which can be redeemed for greenwaste collections, compost and worm bins, or at green waste drop off centres. Auckland City Council has also encouraged the use of recycling

bins, allowing each household to order up to three 45 litre bins, for tin, aluminium, glass and plastic grade 1, 2 and 5. A paper recycling collection is also provided. To assist people to understand the new waste disposal system, Auckland City Council has employed eleven 'Waste Doctors'. These 'Doctors' have been touring the city in a travelling road show, educating people on the changes, and visiting some individual households. Changes have also been made on the gulf islands, particularly Waiheke which now has official refuse bags and an improved recycling collection service. Changes are also coming for the inner central business district area.

VCU Launch in Waitakere

In a first for New Zealand, Waitakere City has commissioned a new composting facility to turn its mountains of green waste into organic compost.

The new facility, called a vertical composting unit (VCU), has been installed at the Council's main waste transfer station in Henderson.

The VCU is capable of processing 30 tonnes of green waste into organic compost every day and could reduce the amount of domestic waste going to landfill by up to 52%.

The VCU is an enclosed, self bio-filtering system, which means the composting process does not smell. As well as green waste, the system can process food scraps, paper and cardboard, sewerage, waste cooking oils, and problem waste such as offal and meat scraps.

Current site consents mean Waitakere will process only green waste, although the possibility of handling a wider range of recyclable matter is being considered.

Waitakere City Council is also establishing a resource recovery park at the transfer station, where materials such as timber, tyres and furniture are being recycled on a daily basis. Native timbers are de-nailed, machined and re-sold, and pine timber is de-nailed, tanalised and resold. Currently 14,000 tonnes of timber enters the transfer station each year.

For more information, contact: Mr Peter Higgs, Manager, Perry Waste Services Ltd, Ph: (07) 829 9678, Mobile: (025) 968 200 or

Mr Paul Brown, Director, VCU Technology Ltd, Ph: (09) 571 0266, Mobile: 029 609 543



VCU at Waitakere Transfer Station

BusinessCare Trust

BusinessCare was established as a non-profit trust in December 2000, to promote cleaner production, waste minimisation and sustainable management to businesses nationwide.

Launched with funding from the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund and Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, BusinessCare's aim is 'For cleaner production and complementary programmes to be locally championed by community stakeholders groups all over the country, to help New Zealand companies implement cleaner production as mainstream business practice'.

BusinessCare seeks to provide support and assistance in three ways: 1) Through the establishment of a nationwide network of Local Coordinators whose role is to work with and support local businesses efforts. BusinessCare is developing relationships with local councils nationwide to encourage in-kind support to establish these coordinator positions.

2) Through the provision of Training Programmes focused on the use of Cleaner Production to achieve waste minimisation and implement

Zero Waste School Award

A set of criteria has been developed to help schools work towards Zero Waste. The criteria, developed by Zero Waste New Zealand Trust in association with Zero Waste Advisors, outlines the steps a school should take to implement a Zero Waste Strategy and allows a schools to apply for a Zero Waste Award.

The criteria will be available on the Zero Waste website (Under "Zero Waste Solutions"/ "Schools") or by contacting the Zero Waste office (09 486 0734).

The criteria can be used in conjunction with other waste minimisation programmes, and provides schools with the opportunity to outline their success on the Zero Waste website.



sustainable management practices. Programmes are being designed both for (a) local coordinators and (b) business managers and staff.

3) Through the collation and dissemination of information on Cleaner Production and business waste minimisation and sustainable management practices. BusinessCare intends to offer a "One Stop Shop" website and database for this information.

Sponsorship recently received from Industry New Zealand is enabling BusinessCare to upgrade their website and online database and also place their newly developed Cleaner Production training online. These changes are due to go live in October. For further information contact Peter Crosland, 04 801 9162 or peterc@businesscare.org.nz or visit their website www.businesscare.org.nz

Resources

Software for Businesses

Ecology Action in Santa Cruz, California has placed a 30-day trial version of its WasteNot Assessment and Recommendation software on its web site at: <http://www.ecoact.org>

This software has been used for over 500 Industrial/Commercial/Institutional waste assessments, assisting businesses to reduce waste and measure existing diversion.

International News

Zero Waste in Italy

A 'pay as you throw' scheme in Italy investigated a number of people who were reporting zero residual waste. A survey of families with a particularly low delivery of bags for disposal (16% of total householders), reported some 43% of zero waste cases were "true" or "justified", 29% were due to misbehaving (attempts to avoid waste disposal costs) and another 28% were suspected to be misbehaving.

This means 43% of 16% (6.5% or so) are already 'zero-wasters' in this community in Italy!

Used Nappies get Useful

A Dutch city has started collecting disposable nappies for recycling. The city of Arnhem is asking parents to drop disposable nappies sealed in plastic bags into special bins outside two nurseries and a recycling firm has been hired to extract wood pulp and plastic from the waste. The company (Knowaste BV) will treat waste water and turn sludge into compost during recycling.

Knowaste BV plans eventually to collect Arnhem's annual 200,000kg of nappies from 40 bins around the city, many outside childcare centres.

It is estimated that disposable nappies in landfills could take up to 500 years to decompose. *From NZ Herald, Thursday, August 16, 2001.*

Landfills linked to birth defects

Women living near landfills run a greater risk of giving birth to deformed babies than those who live elsewhere, a British study has shown. It found that 80 per cent of the British population live within 2 km of a landfill and babies of women in those areas have 5 per cent more neural tube defects such as spina bifida, 7 per cent more genital defects in boys and 8 per cent more abdominal wall defects.

The study, based on about eight million pregnancies between 1983 and 1998, is the biggest of its kind done in Britain and has been published in the British Medical Journal. *NZ Herald, Monday, August 20, 2001.*

Events

EcoFest 2001

Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council have this year joined forces to organise their first EcoFest, Festival of the Environment. It will run over two weeks, from 27 October - 11 November, with a whole range of events, walks, talks, seminars and workshops, on a variety of topics, including Zero Waste.

The aim is to increase environmental awareness and participation.

There will also be two EcoExpos, in Takaka and Nelson, which will be a one-stop shop of stalls and displays of all things environmental. If you want more information about the EcoFest or EcoExpos or want to book a stall, contact Susan Corry, at TDC, (03) 544 3484.

The NZ Association for Environmental Education

is holding a national environmental education conference in Hamilton in January 2002. The conference will bring together environmental educators to discuss, debate and demonstrate the practice and theory of environmen-

tal education in New Zealand today. The NZAEE is currently calling for papers to be submitted. If you would like to be involved, or would like further information, please contact NZAEE at

PO Box 9584, Hamilton, phone: 07 838 2442, or email: sixhats@wave.co.nz.

Website: www.nzaee.org.nz

International Ecological Engineering Society (IEES) Conference

on Ecological Engineering for Landscape Services and Products. 25-29 November 2001. Lincoln University, Christchurch
<http://events.lincoln.ac.nz/iees/default.htm>

Lincoln University Environmental Management and Design Seminar Series

* Sept 12th, Ian Luxford, "Energy conservation and efficiency: developing rational policy"

* Sept 26th, Caroline Larkin, "Recycling in rural areas: A process model for substantive design"

* Oct 10th, Rowan Hegglin, "Storytelling and environmental education"

* Oct 17th, John Reid, "Organics for Maori community development"

* Oct 24th, Scott Freeman, "Conservation management in New Zealand: control or care?"

* Oct 31st, Shane Roberts, "Place and sustainability"

* Nov 7th, Fiona Cox, "A Compost Toilet for Rural Samoans: a cost effective and environmentally sound sanitary solution."

* Nov 14th, Andrew Dakers, "EcoSummit 2000 Outcomes: Interdisciplinary projects essential for more sustainable relationships with ecosystem services"

* Nov 21st, Mark McGrath, "EM and an innovative composting toilet"

John Hayward Room in John Burton Building 3.40, Wednesdays. For further information contact Wayne McCallum mccallw@lincoln.ac.nz