



Update

& Clipping Service 28 July 2000

www.zerowaste.co.nz - is here at last!

Our new website is now one month old! It has so far had 1000 visits and from the number of international enquiries we are currently receiving, the site's being viewed from all around the globe. We've had some excellent feedback but need to keep hearing from you to make sure we're providing the information you need. The site is still under development and new reports and information will be posted regularly - so keep checking in - we'll flag what's new on the homepage and keep you informed through this update.

● Zero Waste Philosophy

- Incineration
- Statements of Support
- The History of Waste
- Waste and Employment
- Economics of Zero Waste

This section contains the philosophy behind zero waste, our position statements and issues surrounding zero waste such as jobs from waste and the economics of recycling.

● About Us

- Zero Waste Funding
- Guest Editorial
- Contact Us

Information on funding, guest editorial and our contact details.

● National Campaign

- Council Profiles
- Conferences and Workshops
 - Past Events
 - Upcoming Events

A description of the National Zero Waste Pilot Project and profiles of the 25 Zero Waste Councils. The profiles are accessible through our interactive map and outline the Councils waste reduction initiatives as well as their strategies for the future.

● Zero Waste Network

- Councils
 - Contracts
 - Waste Management Plans
 - Kerbside Schemes
 - Organic Waste
 - PR/Communication
- Community Groups
 - Funding and Support
- Zero Waste Advisors
- RONZ

This section provides information on the Zero Waste Network including Zero Waste Councils, Community Groups, Zero Waste Advisors and the Recycling Operators of New Zealand. Under the Zero Waste Council heading you'll find two newly released reports, one on Kerbside Recycling systems and the other on Waste Management Plans.

● Zero Waste Solutions

- Businesses
 - Waste Audits
 - Cleaner Production
 - C & D
- Hospitals
- Schools & Universities
- Households
 - Buying Guide
- Recycling

Zero Waste Solutions is a continually evolving database of the strategies and solutions that can be implemented to achieve zero waste. There is information for businesses, schools, universities, hospitals and households as well as recycling. Some sections are not yet complete, but will be added to in the near future.

Latest News and Events contains the most up to date information to come our way as well as a calendar of upcoming events. Sign up to our list serve and we will email you the monthly Zero Waste Updates. At this stage we are still unable to email the news clippings, so for a while you will be receiving both the hardcopy and electronic copy. We hope to soon be able to provide a purely electronic service to those that want it.

● Latest News and Events

- Products & Innovations
- Calendar of Events

A number of useful links to national and international sites are provided here. Each link comes with a brief description of the site's content.

● Resources and Links

- Legislation

● Bulletin Board

The Bulletin Board is the place to post news or information that you would like distributed, and any questions you may have that you think someone in the zero waste network may be able to answer.

WASTE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

On July 11th the Minister for the Environment, Marion Hobbs and the President of Local Government New Zealand, Louise Rosson announced the establishment of the eagerly awaited Waste Reduction Working Group.

According to the Minister the joint initiative will "ensure that central, regional and local government provide the leadership and support needed to make a difference to the current volumes of waste".

As well as defining a vision for New Zealand's waste minimisation strategy, the working group will advise on:

- Whether New Zealand should set targets for waste minimisation, and if so, what these should be.
- Public consultation and communication
- Methods of measuring progress
- Strengths and weaknesses of potential policy approaches
- Priority for development and implementation of policy
- Threats and risks to achieving the goal

The group is expected to produce a high level strategy including vision, goals and principle objectives before December 2000. A more detailed strategy including an implementation strategy is to be produced by 30 June 2001.

Don Reisterer, Mayor of Opotiki and Warren Snow, Trustee of Zero Waste New Zealand Trust have been nominated to be on the 12 member group and will be representing the Zero Waste Councils and Network.

Zero Waste Pilot Project Update

Although the Zero Waste Pilot Project is now at full capacity with 25 Councils on board, additional Councils are still being encouraged to adopt zero waste policies. A national momentum is definitely under way and Zero Waste New Zealand Trust is committed to assisting these Councils to achieve their goals. Ruapehu District Council is the first non-pilot Project Council to officially adopt a zero waste policy and Raglan is the first official Zero Waste Community.

Ruapehu District Council aims to reduce its waste to 75% by 2008 and 100% by 2015. Its first step in this direction is the construction of a new District recycling facility at Taumarunui Landfill.

Raglan is well on its way to zero waste with the assistance of X-treme Waste, a local community group who are now managing the community's recycling operations. X-treme Waste have a contract with Waikato District Council to manage the Recycle Centre, develop various recycle collection services and create education and monitoring strategies.

BIG BUSINESS IN ACTION

The New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development (NZBCSD) has launched a new waste reduction project. Through this project, member companies will measure their waste production and set ambitious quantitative targets for waste reduction. Championed by The Warehouse and Landcare Research, the NZBCSD aims to demonstrate sustainability in action and create case study material for future business waste reduction. Other businesses involved in this project include 3-M and Fletcher Challenge.

For more information on the NZBCSD check out their website at <http://www.nzbcscd.org.nz/>

PORIRUA LAUNCHES ZERO WASTE

A press conference is planned for August 2nd to launch Porirua City Council's Solid Waste Management Plan and Council's new commitment to the Zero Waste Target. Porirua is the first Wellington urban City to join the Zero Waste Network.

The launch signals a change in focus from *providing* waste disposal services to *leading* waste minimisation and waste management in Porirua City and \$75,000 has been earmarked for implementations in the 2000/2001 year.

A Zero Waste advisor, Louisa Palmer who is active in Waste Minimisation within the Wellington region will be on hand to explain the benefits of moving towards the Zero Waste target.

For more information contact Helen Schaeffer at Porirua City Council on 04 237 5089.

Zero Waste Resources

'Cutting the Waste Stream in Half'

In the United States a number of communities have now reached recycling rates higher than 50%.

To document these and learn from the experiences of these communities, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), through a grant from EPA, created the Waste Reduction Record-Setters project. The goal of the project was to identify successful waste reduction programmes in communities, businesses, and other organisations and to encourage their replication.

The ILSR have published a report with case studies of 18 communities, called "Cutting The Waste Stream in Half - Community Record-Setters Show How".

Other reports were created out of this study, including "Don't throw Away that Food" a fact sheet package oriented toward commercial and institutional food discard generators, highlighting record-setting food recovery programs.

These informative reports can be obtained from us (with a \$5 photocopying charge) or downloaded at:

<http://www.ilsr.org/recycling/wrrs.html>

Recommended Site

Recycle City Game - This is a novel interactive recycling game on the EPA website. You're the city manager and your job is to turn Dumptown into Recycletown. It's a great education tool, with descriptions of a range of waste reduction options and their effectiveness. The game allows you to keep track of your budget while measuring reductions in waste to landfill. You also get to check out changes to the town as it gets 'cleaned up'!

<http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/>

"COMPOSTABLE LOGO"

The International Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) and the US Composting Council (USCC) are to implement a "compostable logo" that will certify and identify plastics that meet the "Standard Specification for Compostable Plastic" set by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

Until now, the lack of a standard for biodegradable plastics has led to a range of supposedly degradable plastics that perform poorly and has created confusion and skepticism in the marketplace.

President of the BPI, Frederic Scheer states that the "Creation of a Compostable Logo, based on scientific standards, sets the stage for significant growth of biodegradable plastics in the US." The first products to carry the new logo are set to arrive on the US marketplace before the end of the year.

Contact us for the full story.

A HAPPY NEWS STORY

Thanks to the ingenuity of the Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust (EERST), the Bay of Plenty Times (part of the Wilson & Horton group) is set to save itself money while providing EERST and local schools with a steady supply of quality paper.

For every edition of a newspaper, each page gets copied onto up to five A3 sheets of virgin paper during the editing and publishing process. In the past this paper, which is only printed on one side, was sent directly to landfill.

EERST, a Trust based in Tauranga and providing schools throughout the Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga areas with waste reduction education programmes, have suggested an alternative disposal method to the Bay of Plenty Times. They have started collecting waste paper from the BOP Times and using it to print their waste reduction education materials on. Any extra paper is donated to schools for art projects.

Doug Hendry, Group Editorial Co-ordinator for eight Wilson & Horton newspapers, conducted a waste audit at the Bay of Plenty Times with Marty Hoffart of EERST. They discovered that about 85% of the waste stream was paper and cardboard. Most of this is to be reused by EERST and the schools, and the rest will be recycled. Options for can, plastic and organic waste recycling are also being examined by the newspaper. Once the system is fully implemented there may be potential for other Wilson & Horton papers to adopt a similar scheme. Wilson & Horton currently publish over 50 titles in NZ. The potential is there for the newspaper to cut its waste disposal costs by up to 90%, while enabling EERST and local schools to save money on purchasing paper.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NORWAY RECYCLING

Thirty-eight of Norway's Household Waste was recycled in 1999, up from 33% in 1998. This increase in recycling exceeded the increase in waste generation, resulting in a decline in waste to landfill or incinerator.

One factor that may have influenced the rise in recycling is a national landfill tax of 300 kroner per tonne of waste, implemented on January 1, 1999. This fee also seemed to have resulted in a significant decrease in commercial waste generation. Contact us for the full article.

HUNGARY RECYCLING

Recycling in Hungary severely lags European Union Countries, with only five to ten percent of its waste being recycled, compared with a EU average of more than 50%. Contact us for the full article.

GREECE FAILS TO CLEAN UP CRETE

The European Union's Court of Justice has ordered Greece to pay a fine of \$20,000 euros a day for failing to clean up a waste dump in Crete. A court ruling by the EU as far back as 1992 stated that the waste dump needed to be upgraded. Greece's subsequent failure to comply has resulted in the recent landmark fine. <http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=7352>

UK ECO-PLASTICS

Symphony Plastic Technologies, formed in 1995, develops and provides a wide range of degradable packaging products to a variety of markets. Its products are based on degradable compostable plastics additives, which, when blended with polythene during production processes, cause plastic to degrade into carbon dioxide and water at a controllable rate.

Their products are proving popular with an increasing number of companies, including Safeways and Wal-Mart. Fyffes, Europe's largest fresh fruit distribution business has recently announced that it will switch all its plastics to those produced by Symphony.

So far Symphony has factories in China and Singapore and will shortly opening factories in Spain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Story at:

<http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=7344>

JAPAN

Japan is currently recycling a record 78.5 percent of its aluminium cans. In 1999/00, 216,549 tonnes of aluminium was recovered from drink cans. About 3/4 of this aluminium was reused to make more aluminium cans, while the rest was used by the car part and steel sectors. Story at: <http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=7447>

WANTED - Old Hot Water Cylinders

'Our Energy' in Kaitaia is on the lookout for old hot water cylinders. The company, started just 6 months ago, manufactures low cost solar water-heating systems and is keen to expand into providing refurbished cylinders to low-income householders.

If you can help please contact Walter Breustedt on (09) 426 0518 or 025 280 6654, email breu@xtra.co.nz. For further information on this unique solar water-heating system that has created real jobs in the Far North, check out our website under "New Products and Innovations".