

## 19. PUTRESCIBLE PROCESSING PLANT UPDATE

<b>Officer responsible</b> City Water & Waste Manager	<b>Author</b> Tony Moore, Resource Analyst, Solid Waste, DDI 941-6426
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The purpose of this report is to update the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee on the investigations into alternative waste technologies. In particular, to inform the Committee of progress with Global Renewables Limited (GRL) investigating a putrescible processing facility.

### BACKGROUND

This report deals with matters arising from the Council resolution passed on 25 June 2002 relating to a putrescible processing plant:

1. *That the approach be to adopt a mix of technology best suited for the Council's needs and which can be integrated for the best overall solution towards the removal of putrescibles from the waste stream as discussed in the report.*
2. *That staff further investigate Global Renewables Ltd technology and other technologies to ascertain whether it (and in particular the organics processing module) is suitable for Christchurch and at what cost etc.*

The following progress has been made since the passing of this resolution.

### GRL PROGRESS

1. Council officers have **met with GRL staff** in Sydney to gain a greater understanding of the GRL technology and to provide GRL with detailed information about the Christchurch context (infrastructure, waste stream, costs etc).
2. Council officers also **met with the local consenting authority** (Planning New South Wales) for a proposed GRL facility in Sydney and received extensive information about environmental performance and related consent conditions.
3. Through an agreed memorandum of understanding GRL are currently undertaking a **pre-feasibility study** which is to include:
  - (a) A review of the available materials suitable for processing by their technology.
  - (b) A workshop on integrating the GRL technology into the Christchurch context.
  - (c) A report describing the proposal and realistic capital and operational costs.

The GRL pre-feasibility study will be completed by the end of November 2002.

### OTHER TECHNOLOGIES

Council officers have also been investigating other alternative waste technologies:

1. **A HotRot unit is being tested at Metro Place** for the processing of mixed putrescible and greenwaste material. The initial results are promising. After four days of composting in the HotRot unit the material is suitably stabilised and able to be matured in the open air windrows. Initial operational difficulties (such as, the ratio of putrescibles to greenwaste, suitable retention times in the unit and the optimal temperature and moisture levels) are being overcome and further refining the operation of the unit will continue.
2. **Vermiculture** (worm-farm) for putrescible material manufactured by Tryton Waste Services and in operation at Lismore City Council is being investigated. Council officers have spoken to Lismore Council staff and are in discussion with an independent consultant who is wanting to undertake a feasibility study. Initial discussions price this technology at around \$55 per tonne of putrescible material, but other factors such as flexibility and level of contamination able to be processed, need to be considered.

## **SUMMARY**

The Council is continuing to investigate alternative waste technologies and Global Renewables Limited is undertaking a pre-feasibility study on the suitability of its putrescible processing facility to the Christchurch context. The pre-feasibility study is due for completion in November 2002. It is hoped that this study will lead to a clear way forward on this project.

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the City Water and Waste Unit report back to Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee in early 2003 concerning progress on the Global Renewables feasibility study and a suggested way forward.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.