

## 8. WASTER PAYS: CONSULTATION AND EDUCATION

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The purpose of this report is to provide information about methods proposed for consultation and education related to moving to waster pays for domestic refuse collection.

### BACKGROUND

In considering a move to waster pays for domestic refuse collection the Council wished to ensure that an adequate consultation and education programme is established. This report outlines a proposal for this to occur. The part of the resolution (passed by the Council on 16 July 16 2002) of particular relevance to this report is:

*"1 That the Council change to a 'waster pays' system for rubbish bags with effect from 2004/05, on the following basis:*

*(a) Comprehensive public consultation and information supported by a budget of \$200,000 in 2003/04..."*

### PROPOSAL

1. Over the next year residents will have two formal opportunities to have their say on the proposed move to waster pays:
  - (a) During the annual planning submission process; and
  - (b) During the development of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan, where residents can submit ideas as part of the planning process. This plan is currently being reviewed and will go out for submissions around November 2002.
2. The **public will also be provided with the opportunity to submit ideas** to the Council on an ongoing basis (not limited to a month in the year surrounding the release of a plan), up until such a time as the decision has been made (these ideas will be captured by Council staff and reported to the annual planning process at the appropriate time). This is because the profile of waster pays and the related issues will fluctuate throughout the year and spark interest on an ongoing basis. This ongoing consultation could be done on the web ("have your say" currently available on the Council website) and through providing submission forms, at any time, to those that wish to submit an opinion. Responses to the submissions will be provided on an ongoing basis and would be no different from public requests that the Unit already receives.
3. It is intended to **increase the profile of solid waste, recycling, composting and waster pays** on an ongoing basis. For example, information will be provided to the public about the reasons for moving to a waster pays system, its impacts, what happens elsewhere and support for the proposal (Ministry for the Environment, Environment Canterbury, resident phone survey results, etc). This will be achieved through press releases, letters to the editor, on the Council web site and in the City Scene (an ongoing column on waste/sustainability is to be established in the City Scene).
4. Other consultative/promotional options:
  - (a) **A mobile display stand** on recycling, composting and waster pays etc is being developed, which could be located at various shopping malls around the city throughout the year.
  - (b) It is intended to **approach community groups** and existing community networks to spread the word on recycling and the proposed move to waster pays.
  - (c) Additional feedback about the waster pays issue through a resident survey will also be sought.
4. The availability of a **second 'free' recycling crate and composting** (at home or commercial green waste collection services) will be promoted.

5. Closer to the last distribution of rates funded black bags in April 2003 an **extensive promotional campaign** around the waster pays system will be initiated (eg why the Council is moving to waster pays, where and how to get the bags and how much they will cost).
6. This will be followed up by **providing information** about recycling, composting and waster pays in the last distribution of rates funded bags.
7. The promotion and consultation undertaken by the Council (as outlined above), will be planned and executed with the cooperation and input from related teams and organisations (eg The Communications Team, the Kerbside Recycling Promotions Team and Carat (Councils media consultant)).

## **SUMMARY**

Funding has been set aside by the Council for consultation and education activities related to the introduction of a proposed waster pays system for domestic refuse collection. This report outlines some proposed initiatives for this to occur. A range of options are available for public consultation on the waster pays issue. Formal opportunities for submissions are available with the release of the Annual Plan and the Waste Management Plan. However, other options will be established to capture public input throughout the year. A range of education initiatives will be established to inform the public about the reasons for moving to a waster pays system, how the system will work and what their options are for minimising the waste they produce.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.