

5. COMMERCIAL WASTE MINIMISATION UPDATE

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| Officer responsible City Water and Waste Manager | Author Christine Byrch, DDI 941-8856 |
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the progress made by Target Zero since our last report in November 2002 and seminar in October 2002.

CONTEXT

Target Zero is a waste minimisation initiative working with businesses to reduce environmental impacts through:

- Resource, energy and process efficiency,
- Waste minimisation,
- Environmental management and risk reduction.

Target Zero is an ongoing programme including waste reduction demonstration programmes, information/support to encourage businesses to reduce waste and the development of networks to support this programme and distribute information. The programme is funded and supported by Christchurch City Council through the City Water and Waste Unit.

PROGRESS SUMMARY

We have made some good contacts and progress with business over the last four months. These businesses range widely in size and sector. We have also been asked to participate in joint projects with other organisations and have won a competitive tender from Environment Canterbury demonstrating the standard of our work and that our expertise is well regarded elsewhere.

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

At the end of last year, the Target Zero team won a competitive tender to carry out a \$50,000 project for Environment Canterbury investigating the infrastructure for used oil collection in Canterbury and providing waste minimisation advice to garages.

We are proactively pursuing cooperative projects to reduce construction waste. Christine Byrch is working with staff from Hamilton City Council, North Shore City Council, the Recycling Operators of New Zealand and the Building Research Association of New Zealand, to prepare a final bid to the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund for a national construction and demolition project. She is also coordinating a proposal for a regional construction waste project for the Waste Minimisation Working Party which was formed by the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee. The Working Party has accepted the terms of reference put forward by Christine which has a focus on investigating the regulatory options council can use to minimise waste, and will feed into this Council's review of its solid waste bylaw. The Recovered Materials Foundation and Environment Canterbury are also contributing to this project.

Karyn Durham is discussing with Carolyn Cox, Environmental Affairs Manager with Plastics New Zealand Incorporated, how Target Zero could contribute to her bid to the Sustainable Management Fund to provide a cleaner production programme to plastics, paper and grocery sectors.

PROGRESS ON OBJECTIVES FOR 2002/03 FINANCIAL YEAR

The following data summarises our progress towards achieving annual plan objectives for this financial year up to the end of November 2002. A full report is included in the City Water and Waste five month report.

Objective 1 - To develop a commitment for positive environmental action

- 169 businesses are presently actively engaged in the Council's Target Zero programme.

Objective 2 - To create a demand for and supply of skills, technologies and services that reduce the environmental impact of businesses

- No income from commercial sources, although we are working on several bids as mentioned above.
- We are now recording reduction in outputs (waste to landfill and sewer) and reductions in inputs (raw materials energy and water consumption) and will include results in our next report.

Objective 3 - To advocate policy, legislation, requirements and controls that improves the environmental performance of business.

We have been involved in several advocacy events and projects include:

- An internal project to improve coordination of Council services to business.
- A project to develop cooperation between the Council, Occupational Safety and Health and Environment Canterbury.
- A Target Zero Award was presented as part of the Environment Canterbury Resource Management Awards.
- Two monthly seminars on issues of relevance to business and the environment.
- Garry Moore presented Enviro Mark certificates to six local businesses.
- Co-authored the runner up best paper at WasteMINZ, the paper promoted strategic approach to improving business practice.
- Investigating environmental purchasing for this Council.
- Work with paper recyclers has increased volume of paper collected by 53 tonnes per annum to date.

POINTS OF INTEREST OVER THE LAST FOUR MONTHS

Raising the Target Zero Profile

Jim Watt arranged a special Christmas edition of our club meetings in December last year, combining a show and tell for the finalists in the Target Zero Award and Sally Buck's excellent presentation 'The History of Waste'.

We continue our focus on providing services that meet the needs of business as well as Council. To help us to do this, and in response to a recent workshop with Dr Ian Brooks on customer responsiveness, Cathy Webb has developed a customer feedback form. We have just begun to use this and will report next time on its usefulness.

Cathy Webb has just left to go on maternity leave and has been replaced by Jane Butterfield.

Working with Industry – working with 35 manufacturing and construction companies so far this financial year.

Karyn Durham is negotiating with the Christchurch Polytechnic to take over running the waste minimisation workshops developed by the Target Zero team. This is in line with our plans to pass on successful programmes to other providers. The Polytechnic focuses on providing training for business and is very keen to offer this course.

Over the last few months we have refined our Resource Efficiency Visits - these half day visits are for Target Zero to get to know new companies and for the companies to learn how Target Zero can help them. This will be the beginning of a long term association with business. Karyn and Jim Watt have made ten Resource Efficiency Visits to industries in this new format and have been very well received. The visit was especially useful for Stuart Berryman, Operations Manager at Meadow Mushrooms, who has now appointed a business champion to deal with waste and energy issues.

Working with the Commercial Sector - working with 45 offices and commercial buildings so far this financial year

Laine Phillips has been working with Sam Bridgeman from the Ministry for the Environment to set up recycling for all businesses in the Price Waterhouse Coopers Building in Armagh Street. This is going really well. At the end of February Laine will work out how much waste is being diverted from landfill and whether the cost of recycling is less than disposal. This building's high profile will provide us with a persuasive case study.

Other interesting businesses that have made contact recently are The Arts Centre of Christchurch and New Zealand Post. Paul Bobby from the Arts Centre is keen to set up recycling on site. This raises some interesting issues regarding types of bins as the site has group 1 and 2 historic places listings. Michael Price from New Zealand Post spent a morning with Jane Butterfield and Cathy Webb visiting four processing floors at the New Zealand Post Mail Centre in Hereford Street, and is keen to set up waste minimisation on site. This will mean a few late nights for Jane as mail sorting happens between 6pm and 6am!

Cathy Webb has also made a good contact with HG Livingstone Ltd. This company manages many of the commercial buildings and malls around Christchurch. Jane will start off by helping to set up waste minimisation at Parklands Shopping Centre.

Karyn continues to work on producing waste minimisation guidance for event managers. Ongoing liaison with event managers will be the key to success for this project. At the request of event organisers, Karyn is organising a trial to decide on one system that will best suit these events.

Working with the Community - working with 89 schools, hospitals, Christchurch City Holding Companies and Christchurch City Council so far this financial year

Laine Phillips has made good progress working with Christchurch City Holding Companies since his report to this Committee in November 2002. Laine has visited the offices at the Red Bus Company, Lyttelton Port Company and Orion and made recommendations for minimising waste. Laine will keep in touch and follow progress with these companies.

Laine and Karyn continue to work with the waste minimisation team at QEII. So far the team has worked out exactly what is being put out in the waste and is now looking at projects to reduce waste. Laine also challenged all Council staff to set up recycling at Christmas parties, four groups took up the challenge.

Mike Heinemann, Facilities Supervisor at the new Art Gallery contacted Target Zero for advice on waste minimisation. Cathy and Laine were able to advise him on how to set up recycling for staff. Laine will follow up to see whether Mike would like help to set up waste minimisation at the café on site.

Karyn is investigating whether and how Christchurch City Council could implement an environmental purchasing policy.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That this information be received.