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Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste Recycling	

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress towards extending the kerbside recycling collection service to multi unit dwellings (high rises, blocks of flats etc).

### BACKGROUND

During the period when the operational details of the kerbside collection were being decided upon, information from North Shore and Auckland Cities (which already operated crate based collection systems) indicated that multi unit dwellings with more than about 12 dwelling units could present difficulties, if the crate collection was simply extended to them. Auckland City in particular had experienced problems, at the start of their kerbside recyclables collection, as they have significant numbers of these dwelling types. The problems related to large numbers of crates in one location on the footpath.

Accordingly the documents for the Christchurch City collection made provision for additional payment to the contractor for collection of wheelie bins of recyclables at multi unit dwellings. The concept was that residents would sort their recyclables into wheelie bins located in an agreed spot on the property (eg basement of high rise), and that someone would take responsibility to put the wheelie bins out on the street on the collection date. It was envisaged that for such a system to be set up, a Council officer would need to meet with representatives from the dwelling units and agree on the particular details of the system for that unit. Because of the time required to do this, it was decided that it would best be carried out directly after the phased introduction of the collection to the rest of the city, in May, June and July.

### CURRENT SITUATION AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

When the crates were delivered, many of the city's multi unit complexes of moderate size, particularly the ones that are not high rise, were delivered crates, and the kerbside collection from them has commenced without difficulty. Of those remaining, with more than twelve dwelling units per complex, the breakdown is as follows.

• Christchurch City Council Elderly Persons Housing (EPH)	58
• Christchurch City Council rental accommodation	12
• Housing New Zealand Units	10
• Privately Owned	<u>60</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>

### ***Christchurch City Council owned EPH Units:***

Discussions have been held with Property Unit's Elderly Persons Housing Officers. There was a strong feeling from the officers that a full recycling collection may not be appropriate for these units for the following reasons:

- Many of the residents have mobility problems
- A lot of the complexes do not have easy truck access
- The recycling demand and loading is expected to be low except for newspaper and glass bottles
- Some units would lack room to accommodate a crate

It is however proposed that following a consultation with Onyx, a trial be carried out for about twelve EPHs with wheelie bins for paper and glass only, located in a central position as convenient to as many of the units as possible. All EPH complexes currently have a 40 gallon drum green waste only collection service and the wheelie bins will be located in the same area.

The concept of a recycling coordinator elected from the residents to manage the collection within the complex was also considered but was thought would cause more problems than it would solve. Our Property Unit say that past experience has shown that such people have the potential to become a problem.

### ***Housing New Zealand Multi Unit Dwellings***

Discussions have also been held with the tenancy managers at Housing New Zealand. Further detail is being sought through questionnaires currently being completed by each manager. The following points have emerged.

- There are Housing New Zealand multi unit dwellings(MUDs) where the managers do not recommend crates due to the high tenant turnover. However crates will be supplied to individual tenants if requested.
- In most other cases the managers believe that a central collecting point with some form of rack or shelving system to accommodate crates would be the most appropriate solution.

The best solution for each complex will be pursued individually with the respective manager.

Other alternatives being considered are wheelie bins (MGBs), or simply issuing a crate to each unit and have them put out at the kerbside in the normal way.

***Private Apartment Multi Unit Dwellings and  
Christchurch City Council owned Rental Accommodation:***

Visits have been made to a number of these at the request of the residents. In some cases it has been appropriate to supply crates and commence the service. A trial is also proceeding with the 70 unit complex at 66 Armagh Street. A wheeled trolley is being constructed to accommodate crates. The contractor will wheel out the trolley close to the truck, empty the crates and return the trolley.

It is proposed to send out a questionnaire to residents of those MUDs that have not yet approached the Council, officers will then work with those that respond to find the best solution. As with the Housing New Zealand complexes it is expected that a shelf or rack system (fixed or on wheels) that will be best for most of the complexes.

**COSTS**

Supplying either a set of five wheelie bins, or a small rack/shelving system would cost approximately \$300. Larger racks have the potential to cost more but an estimate of \$400 per multi unit dwelling, is considered reasonable. If an average of two wheelie bins per EPH village is allowed for, plus \$400 for each of the rest of the MUDs the estimated additional set up cost for all the 140 MUDs not currently serviced is \$39,000.

There is currently \$70,000 budgeted for new and replacement crates in the 1998/99 year. The expected expenditure of this budget is as follows:

MUD set up (racks/MGBs)	\$39,000
Recycling crates for MUDs	\$13,000
Replacement recycling crates through the rest of city	\$18,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>

**TIMING**

Visiting the MUDs, reaching agreement with the residents and constructing any necessary rack system will be time consuming. It is not expected that all the 140 MUDs will be serviced by December, with contact being made with all of their residents during August.

**Recommendation:** That if the trial of the rack system proves successful, that installation of these or similar systems proceed in all MUDs.