

2. COMMERCIAL WASTE MINIMISATION - PROGRESS UPDATE

RR 10407

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Corporate Plan Output: Commercial Waste Minimisation	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of achievements in the last financial year and planning for this financial year, to promote waste minimisation to Christchurch businesses.

BACKGROUND

Councillors will recall that the budget for commercial waste minimisation for this year has been increased over the previous year to:

- (a) accelerate the development of the target Zero Regional Network to better promote and sustain commercial waste minimisation, eg more seminars with industry leaders, professional educators, consultant education, joint industry programmes, information dissemination etc.
- (b) provide assistance to companies in waste auditing as a first step to reducing waste.

This Council's role is to facilitate commercial waste minimisation initiatives by raising awareness, and increasing understanding and appreciation of the benefits of waste minimisation as opposed to providing consulting services to individual businesses. Our role is depicted by the left hand side of the diagram.

SUCCESS TO DATE

The main components of the Christchurch City Council waste minimisation programme for Christchurch businesses are:

- demonstration projects as the basis for preparing waste minimisation information, case studies and service provider contacts etc
- developing the Target Zero Business Network to distribute this information and advice through existing networks to all Christchurch businesses.

Demonstration Projects

The following lists some of the successes from these programmes.

Target Zero Results

- Alliance Group has identified savings of around \$140,000 per annum through regulating hot water flows which has reduced waste water volumes and water and energy consumption on site.
- Leiner Davis Gelatin (NZ) Ltd has reduced water consumption, despite an increase in production, by around 36 million litres per annum, which in turn reduces the volume of waste water discharged to sewer by the same amount.
- Mainland Products Ltd has identified savings of around \$35,000 per annum through isolating and removing redundant pipe to reduce milk wastage and use of cleaning chemicals.
- GL Bowron has reduced solid waste by 50% (a reduction of around 352m³ per annum) saving around \$30,000 per annum in disposal costs, and has reduced hot water usage saving \$30,000 per annum in energy costs, and has reduced overall water consumption by 47 million litres per annum.
- Lion Breweries has reduced wastage of CO₂ (a green house gas) by 36 tonnes per annum with a saving of around \$10,000 per annum.
- The Press identified that around \$16,000 of energy is wasted through leaks in the compressed air system that can be fixed at relatively low cost, and has halved paper waste, a reduction of 18,000 tonnes per year.

Green Retail Results

- AbFab bookshop has reduced solid waste by 3 tonnes per annum by recycling paper
- Farmers High Street store has reduced solid waste by around 75% (by volume) around 225 m³ per annum, has replaced disposable cups and stirrers with reusable cups and tea spoons saving around \$750 in the purchasing costs
- McEwings Mountain Sports is in the process of installing energy efficient lighting which will save up to \$5,000 per annum in energy costs and improve store lighting
- Ballantynes previously collected around 30 tonnes of corrugated cardboard per annum for recycling (pulping), that is around 75,000 boxes estimated to be worth around \$180,000. These boxes are now collected and reused by Whitcoulls Office Products, saving around \$36,000 per annum in the cost of purchasing new boxes.

Target Zero Business Network

The Target Zero Regional Network will be the key to raising awareness and understanding of the benefits of waste minimisation, and how to achieve waste minimisation, amongst Christchurch businesses. This will be facilitated through existing business networks, and will comprise:

- A task force providing information and local case studies (developed from Target Zero and Green Retail programmes), on site advice, access to consultants/specialists and waste auditing services
- A programme of events targeted at business managers, to raise awareness of waste and the services available to them through the task force

The Solid Waste Manager is negotiating with a very experienced and highly regarded consultant in the UK to move to Christchurch to lead the network. Further development of the Network and employment of staff has been made possible by the increased funding of \$160,000 for waste minimisation included in the 1999/2000 budget.

KEY PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

The key problems and suggested solutions are:

1. There is little guidance/facilitation from central government to coordinate waste minimisation programmes for businesses nationally, and to establish links with other programmes internationally

There are two initiatives underway that may bridge this gap:

- Support the Environment Waikato staff initiative to establish a national cleaner production body.
- The Christchurch City Council initiated a remit by Local Government New Zealand to Central Government requesting a working party be established to investigate and advise Government legislation and other national initiatives to ensure waste minimisation is achieved nationally. This remit was passed and the Working Party has yet to be set up.

2. The waste minimisation programme is broader than just solid waste, it also includes minimising wastewater, energy and raw materials. It should also be linked to other environmental/business issues eg climate change/carbon trading.

It is proposed to broaden the scope of the team promoting waste minimisation to Christchurch businesses and formalise links with other Council Units and the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority. This may be achieved by drawing up a service level agreement with Water Services and Wastewater Section of Waste Management Unit within the Christchurch City Council, and an agreement to cooperate with the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority.

3. More detailed information on waste is needed to plan the most effective programme and to measure success

The Waste Analysis Protocol survey planned for later this year will provide detailed information on the source and types of waste produced by Christchurch businesses, enabling the waste minimisation programme to focus on large waste producers.

SUMMARY

Commercial waste minimisation initiatives by the Christchurch City Council over the last two and a half years have developed a significant body of local case studies where local businesses have reduced their waste at source and saved money.

The Target Zero Business Network has been established to coordinate the work of many agencies with a common interest in this work. Direct involvement by a key Councillor in the Target Zero Business Network could significantly raise the profile and enhance its success in encouraging businesses to reduce waste at source. It is also considered essential that this Council is pro-active in working with the Local Government New Zealand Waste Minimisation Working Party.

- Recommendation:**
1. That this Council work towards the early convening of the Local Government New Zealand Waste Minimisation Working Party.
 2. That Councillor Ian Howell be appointed the Council representative for the Target Zero Business Network.