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Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Council on the feasibility of collecting batteries as part of the kerbside recycling collection.

BACKGROUND

In November 1998 a report on options for recycling batteries waste presented to the Council. This report concluded that *“It is estimated that there are 120 tonnes of batteries landfilled in Christchurch each year. Only the Ni-Cd batteries pose a significant threat to the landfill leachate. Of the 120 tonnes of batteries around 10 tonnes are Ni-Cd. Two viable options emerge for dealing with Ni-Cd batteries. Either continue to co-dispose them in the landfill (where the risk is very low) or collect them for recycling overseas.”* The Committee recommended that a report be prepared on the feasibility of collecting Ni-Cd batteries as part of the kerbside recycling collection.

COSTS

The Onyx original tender provided for the collection of household batteries at no extra cost. This was based on collecting all household batteries, mixed. By specifying Ni-Cds only, Onyx will have to carry out some additional kerbside sorting to ensure only Ni-Cds are collected (it is anticipated that despite an education programme people would commonly put out all household batteries). This extra sorting work has been estimated to cost an additional \$89,000 per year.

We could alternatively collect **all** household batteries (at no cost from Onyx) but the RMF would then have to sort out the Ni-Cds, again at extra cost, and we would then be left with the additional problem of how to dispose of the non Ni-Cds. This alternative is therefore not considered viable.

The Recovered Materials Foundation have advised that the cost of storing and transporting the Ni-Cd batteries to Tredi New Zealand Limited for shipping overseas for recycling would be \$12.00 per kilogram. Assuming 20% of the estimated ten tonnes total Ni-Cd batteries were collected the annual cost would be in the order of \$24,000.

The annual cost of recycling Ni-Cd batteries through the kerbside recycling collection would therefore be approximately \$108,000 (\$84,000 plus \$24,000).

SUMMARY

In view of the cost involved and as Ni-Cd batteries are unlikely to cause significant adverse effects in the landfill (when distributed and co-disposed in the landfill as explained in the previous report) it is suggested that no further action should be taken regarding Ni-Cd battery collection.

Recommendation: That no action be taken on recycling Ni-Cd batteries at this time.