

1. REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Officer responsible Waste Manager	Authors Zefanja Potgieter
Corporate Plan Output: Regional Waste Initiatives	

The purpose of this report is to recommend a way forward for regional waste minimisation initiatives.

BACKGROUND

When considering the "*Waste Management Plans/Strategies in Canterbury*" report on 20 July 2000 the Subcommittee resolved as follows:

1. That the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee agree in principle to form a new subcommittee, consisting of one representative from the Christchurch City Council, one representative from the Timaru District Council, and one from the remaining councils, supported by appropriate staff, to investigate regional waste minimisation initiatives and report a draft action plan to the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee in September 2000.
2. That prior to developing the above action plan, the Subcommittee investigate commissioning the Recovered Materials Foundation, using its existing business development funding, to assess and report back to the Subcommittee in September 2000 on the following:
 - (a) The effectiveness of the various existing waste minimisation initiatives in Canterbury.
 - (b) The viability of a regional approach to recovered materials, having regard to a transport equalisation scheme and "coat tailing" onto any refuse transport systems which are currently being developed.
 - (c) Which materials would be appropriate to be processed by local groups and which would be better processed on a regional basis.
3. That a representative of the rural councils on the Committee be appointed to the Board of the Recovered Materials Foundation.

PROGRESS

After the Subcommittee meeting on 20 July 2000 the Staff Group met and resolved to produce a draft action plan for the new Waste Minimisation Subcommittee to consider. This was seen as a means to advise the Committee and speed up the process of achieving results.

The draft action plan below focuses only on suggested *regional* waste minimisation initiatives. While there are important local waste minimisation initiatives that councils and local community groups are either already busy with or are being planned for the future, this report only focuses on Canterbury-wide initiatives. Local initiatives will continue to be important to help achieve substantial reduction of waste streams in each area.

	Priority level assigned for action A= High, B= Medium, C= Low	Comments
ORGANICS		
Landfill ban of kitchen organics	A	
More research into putrescible issues required	A	Eg. recommended location of contracted combined shredder; use of digester / In-vessel composting; digging into verges, etc.
REUSE/RECYCLE		
Explore synergies between community and commercially driven initiatives	A	Subject to outcomes of Recovered Materials Foundation report
Regional waste exchange	A	
Construction and Demolition removed from waste stream	A	Timaru already has a surcharge on C&D to landfill (more than double the general charge) plus consents for major demolitions are reviewed by Solid Waste Manager
Source separation by Business/Retail	B	
EDUCATION		
Expansion of Target Zero/Business Care	A	
Report on jobs through waste in Canterbury - current and future	A	
Uniform education programmes	A	
Reduction of on-farm disposal/silage wrap	B	
Industry producing items in readily recyclable form	B	
HAZARDOUS WASTE		
Produce less hazardous waste	A	Currently done through reduction programme
Best practice guide for storage at refuse stations	A	<i>Refer to Hazardous Waste Working Party for further action</i>
Agrichemical container reuse scheme	B	<i>Refer to Hazardous Waste Working Party for further action</i>
COLLECTION/TRANSPORT		
Integrated kerbside collection systems	A	Report on issues, options, size v. viability, etc
Coordinated material transport systems	A	
GENERAL/MANAGEMENT		
Materials flow analysis - Input/output balance	A	Currently being done
Centralised core team to achieve outcomes	A	How can results best be achieved?
Lobby- "market way" or "green way"	A	
Comprehensive approach to packaging/producer responsibility	A	
Landfill tax and carbon tax/credits	A	
Bylaws to ban landfilling of certain wastes	A	
Staff training for refuse stations and landfills to ensure consistency/ Dissemination of information to achieve quality standards	A	
Regional/local awards for achievements	B	
More research into 'closing the loop'	C	
Extensive use of bio-mimicry	C	Incorporating the philosophies of the <i>Natural Capitalism</i> book of Hawken and Lovins.
Stopped importing rubbish	C	
Life cycle analysis	C	

THE WAY FORWARD

The new Waste Minimisation Subcommittee needs to have members appointed and meet as soon as possible. It is suggested that the first meeting of the new Subcommittee take place in time to report to the 11 September meeting of the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee. The first priority of the new Subcommittee will be to determine what financial and staff resources will be required to achieve the necessary outcomes.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS/STRATEGIES BY THE RECOVERED MATERIALS FOUNDATION

The Chief Executive Officer of the Recovered Materials Foundation and staff from the staff group have reviewed the initial three tasks listed under recommendation 2 in the background section of this report.

The assessment of possible options on structure, funding and changes to the Recovered Materials Foundation for a regional approach contained in the recommendations below should include the following:

- The expectation that territorial local authorities retain ownership of kerbside recyclable materials and where appropriate contract private/community groups for collection and sorting services;
- The Recovered Materials Foundation to facilitate material flows, marketing and local enterprise development for recycling across the region.

The Recovered Materials Foundation report is expected in October 2000.

SUMMARY

Achieving substantial regional waste minimisation is the main goal of the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee, and the proposed recommendations below will add further impetus to existing initiatives undertaken by many sectors of the regional community.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Christchurch City Council appoint Councillor Denis O'Rourke as its representative to the Waste Minimisation Subcommittee.
 2. That the first meeting of the Waste Minimisation Subcommittee be scheduled to take place in time to report to the 11 September meeting of the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee.
 3. That the first task of the Waste Minimisation Subcommittee be to consider the financial and staff resources required to achieve the necessary outcomes.

4. That the Recovered Materials Foundation assess and report back to the subcommittee in October 2000 on the following:
 - (a) The effectiveness of the various existing waste minimisation initiatives in Canterbury.
 - (b) The viability of a regional approach to recovered materials, having regard to a transport equalisation scheme and utilising the refuse transport system that is currently being developed.
 - (c) Which materials would be appropriate, at this stage, to be processed by local groups and which would be better processed on a regional basis, recognising environmental, social and community benefits in each district.
 - (d) Possible options on structure, funding and changes to the Recovered Materials Foundation for a regional approach as indicated in the report.
 - (e) The steps and timeframe required to achieve a regional approach.
5. That the Recovered Materials Foundation trust deed be reviewed to reflect a regional focus and include territorial local authorities and appropriate private sector representatives from the Canterbury region. Representatives to be approved by the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee.