



# 1. THE REGIONAL HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMME

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Corporate Plan Output: Hazardous Waste	

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the Regional Hazardous Waste Reduction Programme which commenced in January 2000.

## PROGRESS TO DATE

To recap, the initial report circulated at the beginning of February detailed the scope, aim and objectives of the Programme, developed preliminary priority rankings for the seven identified waste types and outlined the work programme and implementation steps designed to meet the key outputs of the contract. The identified waste types include chlorinated solvent sludges, timber treatment sludges, metal processing and cyanide wastes (the industrial waste streams), domestic hazardous waste, redundant agrichemicals, and used oil. The contract refers to the Sustainable Management Fund ‘contract for project delivery’ agreed to by the Ministry for the Environment and signed by Mike Stockwell and Mike Freeman.

To avoid unnecessary re-iteration, what follows is a selection of the work that has been completed following on from the initial report.

## Confirmed Assessment of Priorities

The seven identified waste types have been prioritised based on three criteria: environmental risk (hazard versus exposure); quantity; and the potential for reduction. Each criterion carries a subjective weighting of ‘high’, ‘medium’ or ‘low’. As a result of this analysis, the priorities have been confirmed as follows (see Table 1). Full details of the rationale used to determine these priorities can be seen in Appendix A (tabled).

**Table 1: Confirmed Assessment of Priorities**

Waste Type	Risk	Quantity	Potential for reduction	Confirmed Priority
Domestic Hazardous Waste	Medium	Medium	Medium	<b>MEDIUM</b>
Redundant Agrichemicals	High to medium	Medium	Medium	<b>MEDIUM</b>
Used Oil	High to medium	High	High to low	<b>LOW</b>
Timber Treatment Sludges	High	Medium to low	High	<b>HIGH</b>
Chlorinated Solvent Sludges	High	High	High	<b>HIGH</b>
Cyanide Wastes	High	Medium to low	Medium	<b>HIGH/MEDIUM</b>
Metal Processing Wastes	High	Medium to low	Medium	<b>HIGH/MEDIUM</b>

Note: Used Oil carries a high priority ranking in the assessment, however, due to the extent of work being carried out by the Ministry for the Environment and Environment Canterbury, it has been assigned a low priority for the Programme.

## **Industrial Waste Types**

Significant progress has been made in regard to the industrial waste types. A survey (questionnaire) conducted on selected generators of all the industrial waste streams in Christchurch to collect data on their hazardous waste profiles has been undertaken. To date, there has been approximately a 90% return rate. This information is being used to construct Material Flow Analyses for the chlorinated solvent sludges and timber treatment sludges waste streams. Further analysis will determine best practice benchmarks and enable opportunities for self-auditing. Based on the success of this trial in Christchurch, the surveys have been distributed to Timaru and Ashburton, with the remaining Districts to follow in due course.

## **Working Groups**

As part of the industrial waste and domestic hazardous waste implementation plans, two working groups have been established. These are a chlorinated solvents and a pharmaceutical waste working group. Initial meetings to explore options for key players in each sector to reduce hazardous waste at source have been held, the response from which has been positive and further meetings are to be scheduled shortly.

## **Network Groups**

An extensive contact list of hazardous waste practitioners in New Zealand has been compiled and distributed to all those concerned. From this list, an e-group has been established to enable information dissemination and the sharing of ideas. In addition, a summary of 'what's going on' around New Zealand in terms of hazardous waste management has been formulated (see Appendix B - tabled).

## **Education**

Educational material has been developed primarily for the domestic hazardous waste stream. This includes information 'packs' for both domestic and commercial customers at the City's Refuse Stations, information for the public in Canterbury on alternatives to domestic hazardous substances, and the preparation of an interactive exhibit at the Science Alive "Zero Waste" exhibition.

## **Target Zero**

The Hazardous Waste Reduction Programme has been fully integrated with the Target Zero Programme. This means that hazardous wastes will be included in new initiatives, such as the M2M (measure to manage) project. In addition, a hazardous waste component has been added to Task Force Visits, Target Zero 'walkthroughs', and Target Zero club meetings.

## SUMMARY

Significant progress has been made in the first six months of the Hazardous Waste Reduction Programme. Action plans have been developed to address each of the seven priority waste types identified before commencement of the programme. Progress has also been made in regard to the industrial waste types (chlorinated solvents, timber treatment sludges, metal processing and cyanide wastes), and work is under way to address domestic and agricultural wastes.

Examples of the progress made includes:

- formation of industry working groups
- collation of information required for materials flow analyses for the four industrial waste types
- development of hazardous waste profiles for targeted industry groups
- addition of a hazardous waste component to the existing Target Zero Programme
- development of educational material for domestic generators of hazardous waste
- the establishment of an email network of groups with key hazardous practitioners throughout New Zealand

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That as soon as possible a bylaw be prepared to ban known hazardous substances from landfill dumping especially where alternative methods of disposal are already in existence.
  3. That the Plant and Building Services Manager be asked to report on the possible use of re-refined oil for environmental reasons within the Christchurch City Council motor vehicle fleet.