

4. INFORMATION SHARING BY MEMBERS

The opportunity was taken to allow members to provide a brief update on matters concerning solid waste disposal and waste minimisation in their areas and oral reports were received as follows:

Mackenzie District Council - Councillor Bronwen Murray

Councillor Murray reported that they currently had three resource recovery parks which were working well but were considering a reduction in this number. Her Council had recently considered the best means of disposal of compost being produced by its vertical composting unit (VCU) and were of the view that sale by trailer loads would be the best option.

As a consequence of the high charges for disposing of solid waste at the landfill in Timaru they were actively encouraging recycling and black bag rubbish had been reduced by 60%. As previously reported they had a three bag collection system comprising a small black bag for rubbish disposal at a cost of \$1.50, a biodegradable bag at a cost of 20 cents for putrescibles and a bag at a cost of 50 cents for recyclables. She confirmed that high charges for disposal of solid waste had provided a direct incentive for avoidance of waste charges.

Hurunui District Council - Mayor Tony Arps

Mayor Arps commented on the consultation which had taken place as part of his Council's Annual Plan on the proposal to introduce a "waster pays" charge of \$1.50 per black bag. He advised that as a result of the large number of submissions received opposing this move his Council had decided not to introduce a waster pays charge on a black bag basis for the interim but to increase the uniform annual charge from a previous \$82 to \$110.

In addition he advised that their recyclable budget had received a significant increase and they had just purchased additional land next to the recycling station to allow for expansion and better organisation of the site.

In response to a question from the Chairman he confirmed that they currently had no organic waste collection but did collect some green waste which was taken to Southbrook. A household putrescible collection trial had been proposed, which would have involved using worm farming, but not proceeded with and the issues of cost were very significant for his Council.

It was noted that preparation of their waste management plan was soon to commence.

Selwyn District Council - Mr Dave Hock

Mr Hock reported that a recycling collection would start in a few months' time using the services of Onyx and a uniform annual charge of \$46.65 would be applied to all users to fund this.

He advised that from the end of June 2003 no further waste dumping would be allowed in pits within their area and the current charge for a rubbish bag was \$1 with charges for a wheelie bin being increased from \$135 to \$192 with an increase to \$250 possible in two years' time.

Their longer term objective was for wheelie bins to be used for green waste only, which would mean a reduction in the yearly charge to \$160 and would provide an incentive to separate waste and to recycle. His Council had purchased land for a resource recovery centre and resource consents were currently being sought. A short list had been prepared for composting plants and would be investigated further.

Waimakariri District Council - Councillor Robbie Brine

Councillor Brine reported that there had been no recent significant issues. His Council had introduced waster pays from 1999, although some submissions were still received in the Annual Plan consultation seeking free bags. He reported that mobile depots had been used over the Christmas period at sites such as Woodend and Waikuku and these would be considered again for the forthcoming period and for other areas. A waste management plan was currently being finalised but had yet to be formally approved by his Council.

Banks Peninsula District Council - Councillor Bryon Porteous

Councillor Porteous noted that his Council had at one stage had a large number of outside dumps which had now closed and Mr Birss then updated members on the current situation. It was noted that kerbside collection was available to some 65% of the population (3,000+ households) and there had been a 4% increase in recycling but waste volumes were not trending down and they had a problem with green waste and illegal dumping. They were currently working with community groups to try to achieve a solution but he felt that they did not have a sufficiently high population to fund a VCU but their recycling operation was running satisfactorily.

He advised that street side recycling bins were to be installed in Akaroa along the foreshore.

Ashburton District Council - Councillor Bev Tasker

Councillor Tasker reported that she did not have any significant items to comment on and there had been no submissions on waste issues in the Annual Plan.

Her Council had a \$25 uniform annual charge for Ashburton and some other centres for recycling and currently they used fish crates for recycling collection which seemed to be working satisfactorily.

The uniform annual charge varied from between \$25 to \$50 for some centres, plus \$1 a bag, and Rakaia also collected wet and dry waste and had a green waste shredder plus worm farming.

Her Council had successfully managed to convert from a rates funded supply of rubbish bags to a waster charge.

Christchurch City Council

The Chairman, Councillor Denis O'Rourke, briefed members on the current issues in the Christchurch City Council area and in particular the decision to change to the provision of 26 rates funded rubbish bags only. It is intended to report to the July Council meeting on the regulation of clean fills by way of a bylaw. Intended charges associated with this would be \$2 for rubbish, \$9 for construction/demolition material and \$12 for wood, which reflected the availability of alternative options.

Mike Stockwell, City Water and Waste Manager, reported that the Council's Annual Plan for 2003/04 contained the last of the three step increases in general refuse charges and he spoke regarding the amended charging regime for 20 tonne compacted loads being taken direct to the Burwood landfill.

The Christchurch City Council was currently updating Part 2 of its Waste Management Plan and in addition it was looking at technologies for a putrescible plant.

The Subcommittee **received** the information.