

4. REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION

The Subcommittee considered a report from Zefanja Potgieter, Resource Planner Solid Waste, Christchurch City Council, providing information on the current programmes for waste minimisation, previously approved by the Subcommittee, on a regional basis relating to regional organics and construction and demolition materials.

The report provided an update on the present position with these two projects and also further information on new projects being undertaken by the Recovered Materials Foundation (RMF) on glass and plastics in Canterbury.

Mr Richard Lloyd, Chief Executive Officer, RMF, attended and provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Subcommittee on the initiatives and programmes being undertaken by the RMF in respect to:

- Whole bottle processing
- Glass washing and drying
- Plastic chipping and washing
- Plastic film recovery

Mr Mathew Darby, Range Industries Ltd, also attended and provided an introduction to his company and its proposals for the utilisation of industrial wrap, plastic shopping bags and silage wrap for the production of plastic products by a "thermo fusion" process. Mr Darby envisaged this waste material being used to produce:

- Plastic pallets
- Plastic board (suitable for edge kerbing)
- Plastic fence posts

Mr Darby noted that from September 2003 woollen pallets would not be able to be shipped overseas unless they were fumigated and certified whereas plastic pallets would be exempt from these requirements.

His company would require a minimum of 190 cubic metres of waste material per month and he was currently examining the feasibility of establishing his operation in Christchurch as opposed to Auckland.

Benefits which would result from the establishment of a plant would be:

- Diversion of material from landfill.
- A financial return to territorial local authorities.
- The utilisation of all Canterbury's plastic waste.

Mr Darby indicated that approximately 30 jobs could be established initially and he confirmed his preference for Canterbury in view of its existing infrastructure for waste material collection and lower establishment costs.

The opportunity was taken to allow members to ask questions and these related to the long term planing for the company and contamination of waste material especially industrial waste and silage wrap. Mr Darby confirmed that their process would be able to handle a degree of contamination.

Indicative financial returns per tonne were discussed and Mr Yates, Hurunui District Council, advised that Environment Canterbury were also currently looking at a use for silage wrap and it would be desirable for them to be consulted in respect to possible use of this waste material.

The Subcommittee **resolved** that the options contained within the report be investigated, costed and reported back to the October 2003 meeting of the Subcommittee.