

5. REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION INITIATIVES

Officer responsible City Water and Waste Manager	Author Zefanja Potgieter, DDI 941-8271
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The purpose of this report is to propose new regional waste minimisation initiatives for consideration.

BACKGROUND

Staff from member councils met on 5 July 2004 to consider proposals for new regional waste minimisation initiatives for 2004/05. Currently projects include contributing towards a national study of construction and demolition waste, and the regional seminar held in Timaru on 19 April 2004.

As requested at the Timaru seminar a report with up-to-date statistics and information on regional organics will be circulated before the meeting. Consideration of further future projects for consideration are likely to flow from that report.

PROPOSALS

1. Tyres

This is potentially big issue for Canterbury. On a national level the Ministry for the Environment has recently introduced the TYRETRACK project which aims to collect information on the flow of used tyres. In order to plan for the local situation good information is required on the Canterbury situation and staff recommended that the Recovered Materials Foundation be requested to provide a report on practical issues and options for used tyres in Canterbury, as well as direction on what could be achieved locally.

2. Participation in Recycling

Some initial investigations have already been made into the barriers to higher levels of participation in recycling and composting services provided by Waimakariri and Christchurch Councils (Snook 2004, Kerbside Recycling Market Evaluation). Further detailed work is suggested including a desk-top study followed by focus groups and surveys to establish the top barriers to recycling/composting so that an effective campaign targeted at these barriers can be implemented. This work could be aligned with research planned by a masters student working with the Recovered Materials Foundation (Stuart Clarke) and investigations planned by the Christchurch City Council.

3. Use of Recycled Wood Products

Use of recycled wood products including treated timber should be promoted as currently wood makes up about 10% of the waste sent to landfill. The extent of possible markets for recycled wood products need to be assessed, and guidelines on how to achieve use of such products are required. Otherwise there would always be uncertainty and reluctance amongst designers and builders to use such products. The Recovered Materials Foundation may be well placed to do an assessment for the CWSC.

Quotes for these proposed projects still need to be obtained. A budget of \$75,000 is available for 2004/05.

4. Advancing Waste Minimisation Through Levies

Consideration could be given by *all* councils to the imposition of a waste minimisation levy in their own areas as part of their waste management plans. The option of a regional waste minimisation levy was also discussed however the promotion of a levy within each territorial authority was considered to be the first step.

5. Recycling in the Work Place

Typically half the waste landfilled is from commercial sources. Christchurch City Council is developing a business recycling programme and this could be expanded to the region or exhibited for authorities to take it up themselves, if interested. The approach could be two fold:

- (a) promote existing commercial recyclers (e.g. business waste minimisation directory) and investigate barriers for their services; and
- (b) help businesses establish recycling systems in the workplace.

There is a need to target individual industry sectors and business types – much of this information already exists but should be pulled together for the region then rolled out as a programme.

The CCC proposes that its Resource Efficiency Team carry out the function as they are already interacting with business promoting waste minimisation. This service could be offered regionally by them.

6. Regional Information Sharing

As part of its role in regional waste minimisation the CWSC could act as a centre that holds relevant regional waste minimisation information – possibly via a website. This would enable member councils to share information and policies already available in a more efficient way and could include available data on all relevant waste streams, policies such as Christchurch's policy on public events waste reduction and recycling, policies on waste minimisation within Councils, etc.

7. Placing of Refuse and Recycling Bins

There appears to be a need to develop a consistent approach throughout Canterbury on placing refuse bins and recycling receptacles along through-routes, in conjunction with RONZ and TRANSIT NZ. A uniform approach on this could be practical example of how members work together.

8. Solid Waste Remit

CWSC could support a solid waste remit that has been proposed by North Shore and Waitakere City Councils (see report attached).

SUMMARY

Various options have been identified to advance regional waste minimisation in Canterbury, which need to be considered by the Subcommittee.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That quotes be obtained for the following activities: 1, 2, 3, tyres, participation in recycling and recycled wood products.
 2. That the proposed actions for activities 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 be supported.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.