



Christchurch City Council

CANTERBURY WASTE JOINT COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2006

AT 10AM

IN THE NO 3 COMMITTEE ROOM, CIVIC OFFICES

(Morning tea available at 9.45am. Lunch available at 11.30am)

Committee: Councillor Sally Buck (Christchurch City Council)
Councillor Robbie Brine (Waimakariri District Council)
Councillor James Gibson (Waimate District Council)
Mayor Kevin Heays (Kaikoura District Council)
Mayor Garry Jackson (Hurunui District Council)
Councillor Ross Little (Environment Canterbury)
Councillor Pat Mulvey (Timaru District Council)
Councillor Lindsay Philips (Selwyn District Council)
Councillor Dave Pullen (Mackenzie District Council)
Councillor Bob Shearing (Christchurch City Council)
Councillor Bev Tasker (Ashburton District Council)
Councillor Judy Waters (Environment Canterbury)
Councillor Sue Wells (Christchurch City Council)

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1. **APOLOGIES**

Mayor Garry Jackson

2. **MINUTES OF MEETING - 11 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Attached.

3. **UPDATE ON THE COMPOST PROGRAMME AND COMPOST STANDARD**

General Manager responsible:	Jane Parfitt General Manager City Environment DDI 941 8656
Officer responsible:	City Water and Waste Manager
Author:	Tony Moore, CCC, Brian Gallagher, Timaru District Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide results to the Committee of a Crop and Food Research market appraisal for municipal compost in Canterbury and to provide an update on other compost related matters.

COMPOST MARKET APPRAISAL IN CANTERBURY

2. In the 2004/05 financial year the Committee allocated funds to identify and quantify target markets for the use of municipal compost in primary production in Canterbury. Accordingly, Crop and Food Research Limited were commissioned to:

Review Information

- (a) Review relevant published national and international research about the application of municipal compost to a range of crops and soils typical of the Canterbury Region. This included identifying the benefits of the compost to the productive system, identifying the barriers to the use of municipal compost and identifying any significant gaps that a research programme could address at a later stage.

Identify Target Markets

- (b) Use the information collected in (a) to, where possible, identify the major soil/crop combinations in Canterbury that would benefit the most from the application of municipal compost.

Quantify target Markets

- (c) Use the information in (b) to quantify the area of soil/crop combinations in Canterbury that would benefit from the application of municipal compost.

Assess the Viability of Target Markets

- (d) Assess the viability of the target compost markets identified in (b) and (c) using the following variables:
 - (i) **Compost price.** Calculate the viability of compost applications using three compost values: 1. zero value for the compost where the Council pays for the delivery and spreading of the compost; 2. zero value for the compost where the farmer pays for the delivery and spreading of the compost; and 3. \$20 per tonne for compost product with farmer paying for the delivery and spreading.
 - (ii) **Distance to market.** Combined with standard transport costs calculate the economic outcome of applying municipal compost to major soil/crop combinations within two transport zones (10 - 50 km, 60 -100 km) from compost production centres; and
 - (iii) **Application rates.** Using three rates of compost application (15 tonnes per hectare, 50 tonnes per hectare and 100 tonnes per hectare).

3 Cont'd

3. This research (full report attached) identified potatoes as a target market for Canterbury and based on this information the recommendations below are recommended to the Joint Standing Committee.
4. The Committee has already authorised the required expenditure for this programme up to June 2007, and the Action Plan for the following three years (July 2007 onwards) has provisional allocation of funds to continue with it. Note that the current funding and research could possibly be complemented by other organisations eg Envirowaste Services Ltd, Horticulture New Zealand and Compost New Zealand etc.

NEW ZEALAND COMPOST STANDARD

5. In December 2005, Standards New Zealand finalised the New Zealand Standard 4454, Compost Soil Conditioners and Mulches. The standard is voluntary and was developed by a technical working group of stakeholders for composts, soil conditioners and mulches. It is based upon the equivalent Australian Standard, which was modified to suit New Zealand.
6. The Standard is aligned with the New Zealand Waste Strategy 2002 and related guidelines issued by the Ministry for the Environment. With a large percentage of organic waste still being landfilled throughout the country, there is the potential to divert this material for composting and beneficial use.
7. It is important that as more organic is diverted and turned into compost and other products, that these products do not present a hazard to potential markets, the environment or to public health. The Standard prescribes compositional requirements, compliance requirements, sampling and testing methods for composts, soil conditioners and mulches. Health warning labels have been adopted from current labelling for the potting mix industry. The Standard does not have limits on acceptable levels of amine herbicides as this matter was still to be finalised at the time of printing the Standard. It was envisaged that future testing be undertaken to determine this.

COMPOST NEW ZEALAND

8. Compost NZ is an industry sector group that was established in December 2005 to promote organic resource recycling in New Zealand. It is a voluntary group established by representatives from organisations in the waste and composting industries.
9. The Goals of Compost NZ are to:
 - Establish a credible group to represent the compost industry.
 - Establish and support programmes for the development of the compost industry.
 - Identify common industry priorities and advocate for their implementation.
 - Encourage training and increased professionalism.
 - Actively support the development of new markets for compost products.
 - Establish and maintain relationships with key stakeholders including similar international organisations.
 - Support the development of relevant product standards and encourage their adoption by both producers and end users.
 - Establish effective communication channels.
 - Provide formal response and comment on issues and policies affecting the industry.
10. A Steering Committee has been formed and a Strategic Plan has been developed. Funding from the Ministry for Environment Sustainable Management Fund has been granted to:
 - Help finalise the Strategic Plan, develop the industry group, create a website, gather industry data.

3 Cont'd

- Conduct a Research and Development Forum.
- Facilitate progress on certification of the compost Standard NZS4454 for the compost industry.
- Develop a series of "tool kit" workshops on the compost standard with the intent to inform and equip the compost industry to adopt and use the standard.
- Develop a series of workshops to inform potential end users about the new standard.
- Conduct a Regional Council Forum to assist Regional Council staff with information about compost operations and site conditions.

11. Achievements to date include:

- Development of:
 - a website link under the Waste Management Institute web site.
 - Industry contacts and survey to collect data on the industry.
- A research forum was held in Wellington. Processors agree that market development of potential rural markets needs developing.
- Compost Industry training standards have been drafted and are soon to be finalised with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.
- Planning is underway for the NZS4454 and end user workshops. Liaison with Compost Australia is being carried out to avoid duplication of work and to pool resources to achieve similar outcomes.
- The Regional Council Forum is planned for next year.

12. Identified Issues:

- Most work is being undertaken by the steering committee on a voluntary basis. Experience from Australia has shown that greater progress can be achieved with a dedicated staff person to coordinate National projects.
- Funding for market development and trials for national benefit was not approved.
- There is a willingness of compost NZ members to work together for the national good. As an organisation a joint approach with others will help progress future market developments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (a) Staff proceed with arrangements for stakeholder meetings with representatives of the potato growing industry (eg McCains, Horticulture New Zealand, key Canterbury potato growers, farm advisers etc) to determine their interest and need for research and to determine how best to influence the use municipal compost in this sector.
- (b) Based on a positive response from this sector, staff proceed with arrangements for the trials necessary to verify and demonstrate the costs and benefits of the application of municipal compost to potato production in Canterbury.

4. INTERACTIVE COMPUTER BASED EDUCATION TOOL

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	City Water and Waste Manager
Author:	Darren Patterson, ECAN. 372 7072

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek funding to develop an interactive computer-based education tool, focusing on 'reduction'.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The proposed education tool will increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of 'reduction', promoting the power of 'personal choice' and encouraging behaviour change to make a difference to waste generation.

On 11 September the Committee approved \$2,000 from the \$20,000 budget for this regional waste minimisation education project to allow the further development of the proposal prior to final approval.

Objectives

- to contribute towards a reduction in waste produced in Canterbury
- increase community awareness, knowledge and **understanding of waste reduction** - get reduction message out into the wider community
- encourage behaviour change through personal '**choice**' aspect of the resource and the consequences of the those choices
- support existing schools/community education programmes
- alignment of messages regarding reduction – same message from all councils in Canterbury
- to evaluate the interactive resource
- to evaluate the effectiveness of the resource and message(s) in schools and community groups through 'survey style' evaluations.

Rationale

3. It is recognised that waste education programmes and/or activities are already undertaken by a number of councils in Canterbury. This proposal is not to compete or replace existing education programmes and/or activities, but to develop a tool that will support and help meet identified regional waste education 'gaps'.

4. Canterbury Waste educators (Sally Cracknel, Molly Anderson (Hurunui District Council); Briony Woodnorth (Timaru District Council); Tricia Wood (Mackenzie District Council); Andrea Taylor; (Christchurch City Council); Kitty Waghorn (Waimakariri District Council); Sian Carvell; (Environment Canterbury) have met to discuss their waste programmes and identify whether there is a need for this new tool and if so where it would fit within their current programmes. White Horse Recycling (Ruth Clark) and Wastebusters Canterbury (Anita Coghill) were also invited but were unable to attend. District specific comments are provided in Appendix A but in general the following gaps were identified.

- lack of understanding by schools (students and teachers) of 'reduction' being the first option when it comes to waste – not recycling and, therefore, what personal behaviours can contribute to waste reduction.
- supporting schools in undertaking an 'action' component to reduce waste within the school environment. The Christchurch City Council educators are not in a position to work with teachers and students in schools and currently are working with Environment Canterbury educators to see how collaboratively this need can be met.
- lack of awareness, understanding and knowledge of waste 'reduction' in the general public. When people think waste, they think recycling!

5. The overwhelming response was very positive and all openly supported the venture.

4 Cont'd

6. The key messages that the group felt integral to the success of the programme were:
 - (a) The understanding and importance of reduction and where it sits in the hierarchy of the Five R's.
 - (b) The power of choice when making everyday decisions about waste reduction and the consequences of these choices.
7. The interactive resource will be targeted at 10 to 12 years olds. It is consider that this age range will give us the flexibility to expand it both for use by the general public and be able to direct its use for younger age groups. Its primary method of distribution would be via CD-ROM to be used by the waste educators. However, it will also be hosted on the Environment Canterbury website for all within the region to access.
8. As a group, the example of an everyday activity that created waste and would have most appeal and relevance to a wide audience was the concept of 'what is in your lunch today?' Current thoughts are that users will provided with information on the impacts of various lunch items and different packaging options. They will be asked to choose items for their lunch and then graphically shown the impacts of their choices (see Figure 1). These ideas will be developed further as the project progresses and could be expanded to other items in a later module (e.g. to clothing). There has also been discussion on links with healthy eating programmes and discussions with the Ministry of Health and the Canterbury District Health Board will be undertaken once funding is approved to determine possible synergies.

Figure 1. Example of Environmental Themes Related to a Lunch Box



9. By focusing on the reduction message we will not be doubling up on existing information, ie recycling and composting. Reduction is the most important of the '5R' messages and one where through personal choice individuals can make a difference to their waste contribution. The resource would also ensure a consistent message on reduction coming from all councils in the region.
10. Sixty hours of an educator funded by Environment Canterbury would be available to develop the content of the resource. Teachers and students from Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti Secondary School have expressed an interest in working on the resource to ensure the way the messages are delivered will engage the target age group.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

11. The cost of the resource development, excluding the Environment Canterbury educator's time (to be met by Environment Canterbury), is \$20,000 which allows for us to contract Hot Pyjama Productions Ltd to co-ordinate the development of this tool. Costs include concept development, project management, character and scene development and illustration, web design and development, animation sourcing including sound, CD production and printing of associated written material. A limited number of CD ROMs for each council will be produced. Should a Council require a greater number of CD's, the reproduction costs should be borne by the individual Council.
12. It is important that commitment for this project is given at this meeting if we are to produced and distribute an effective education tool before the end of the financial year.

4 Cont'd

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee commit a further \$18,000 towards the development of an interactive computer based education tool on 'reduction'.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

The opportunity will be taken for all members to share any items of concern or interest.