

4. REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION ACTION PLAN 2007/08

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend regional waste minimisation projects for 2007/08.

BACKGROUND

2. On 11 September 2006 the Committee approved an action plan for the 2006/07 year (year one) which was based on the comprehensive four year strategy prepared for the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee by SKM – as contained in the July 2006 agenda papers. Building on the learning points of year one, this report addresses projects for 2007/08 – year two.
3. The underlying principles of the four year action plan are still considered relevant and appropriate, and as various of the year one projects were planned to extend beyond year one, the year two action plan includes some projects from year one.
4. The Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill is likely to be considered by Parliament late in 2007 and is likely to contain important provisions not previously part of waste minimisation planning tools/resources. It is, however, not advisable to delay year two projects until the contents and impacts of the new Act have been assessed. This report therefore recommends approval of certain year two projects at the 13 August meeting and subsequent approval of the remainder of year two projects at the 8 October meeting.

PROJECTS PROPOSAL FOR 2007/08 (YEAR TWO)

5. The table below summarises the proposed projects for year two, in the context of the overall project budget.

Proposed Project	Proposed Service Provider	Project Spend to Date	Budget Plan for 07/08 at Sept 2006	Proposed Budget Plan for 07/08
		\$	\$	\$
1. Business Resource Efficiency and Paper and Cardboard project	SKM for Part 1. Part 2 to be determined (October meeting)	42,250	49,500	50,000
2. Compost product development and marketing and compost facility resource consent guides	To be determined (October meeting)	0	40,000	40,000
3. Promotion of REBRI C&D industry guidelines	SKM, plus Richard English	14,594	20,000	24,500
4. Support waste to energy trial (previously timber to energy project)	CCC/Holcim	0	10,000	17,000
5. Regional transfer station operators workshop	META NZ	0	500	500
6. Evaluation of Interactive web-based resource	ECan and Hot Pyjamas	25,691	0	5,000
7. Completion of plastic bag free Kaikoura project	Kaikoura District Council	5,000	0	5,000
8. Policy/planning/bylaw co-operation amongst councils	Staff	0	0	0
<i>Contingencies</i>				8,000
TOTAL				150,000

(1) Business Resource Efficiency and Paper and Cardboard communications campaign (\$50,000)

This project is one of the multi year projects and has received the largest allocation of funding in year one due to the high priority given to this waste stream in the overall assessment of projects. It is proposed that year two of the project proceed as follows: Approval of \$15,000 for the continuation by SKM of delivery of the project in Waimakariri and Ashburton districts as set out in Attachment 1. Based on the recommendation by SKM in their progress report for year one, it is proposed that the balance of this project funding (\$35,000) be allocated to not just business sector paper and cardboard waste but be expanded to include water, energy and all waste, therefore addressing overall business resource efficiency. A proposal for this holistic second part of this project is being prepared by the City Council's Resource Efficiency Team for consideration at the 8 October meeting.

(2) Compost Product Development (\$40,000)

As indicated in the action plan update report the original proposal to focus trials on use of compost by potato growers did not proceed. A principal concern was uncertainty surrounding micro and macro contaminants in the compost product. An apparent zero tolerance for any contaminant and a potentially low financial return (or an un-quantified benefit for the application of compost) from this sector means that a less sensitive and potentially higher value markets should be considered first.

The revised proposal for proceeding with developing compost markets is being developed and will be provided to the 8 October meeting. The proposed budget for this project for year two is \$40,000. It is important that this project proceeds as future kerbside collections in the region will produce substantial tonnages of compost which needs to be used to the greatest possible benefit to the region.

(3) Promotion of REBRI guidelines (\$24,500)

As mentioned in the Action Plan Update report \$24,500 should be allocated to this project in year two. It is estimated that approximately \$13,500 will be required for completion of the three existing C & D projects that are under the REBRI Canterbury Programme. Assuming one more project can be recruited at an estimated \$5,000 the total for the REBRI Canterbury Programme would be \$18,500, with the service to be provided by SKM. In addition, promotion to District Council technical staff is recommended. It is estimated that such further work would require approximately \$6,000, with that service to be provided by Richard English, bringing the total to \$24,500.

(4) Waste to Energy Trial (\$17,000)

As noted in the previous report this project, for which \$10,000 had been allocated, did not proceed in 2006/07. However City Council officers recently met with Holcim who are interested in proceeding with a trial to utilise some alternative materials as partial feedstock for their cement kiln. It is proposed that some funding be allocated to assist in this project which may have long term diversion potential.

(5) Regional transfer station operators workshop (\$500)

This workshop could not be held during year one and has been included in year two. There is potential value in transfer station operators from across Canterbury and further afield on the South Island to discuss common issues and challenges regarding maximising diversion of materials from the waste stream.

(6) Evaluation of interactive waste minimisation resource storyboard (\$5,000)

In order to evaluate the success of this project, staged evaluation is required, the first of which will occur during year two. An amount of \$5,000 has been earmarked for this.

Below is an indication of the process we believe would be required to achieve valid and rigorous evaluation of the facilitated waste reduction programme.

Timeline of evaluation:

- Milestone 1 - Beginning of 2008 (school term one) – This is based on the programme being taught for approx six months from September 2007.
Include any findings from evaluation before implementation of milestone 2.
- Milestone 2 - Beginning of 2008/09
Include any findings from evaluation before implementation of milestone 3.
- Milestone 3 - Beginning of 2009/10
Collation of all findings from previous milestones and milestone 3 presented to group.

(7) Plastic Bag Free Kaikoura project (\$5,000)

Refer to the Project Update report which contains a full report on this project for which \$5,000 had been allocated in year one. It is proposed by Kaikoura District Council that in order to complete the project a final \$5,000 be allocated in year two.

(8) Policy/planning/bylaw cooperation (No expenditure - staff time only)

Collaboration and sharing of ideas on waste policy development/waste management plans and bylaw development between territorial authorities in Canterbury would have various benefits and should be encouraged. This is likely to be influenced by the pending waste minimisation bill. However there is no reason why a start cannot be made to have some common policies. For example landfill bans on certain materials that can be easily recycled.

6. Note: An evaluation will be done by staff to determine whether there is still a need to investigate options for "Timber to Energy" which is a potential project identified in 2006, with a report back scheduled for the December meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The annual budget for regional waste minimisation projects is \$150,000 to which all members contribute according the provisions of the Committee's Constituting Agreement.

SUMMARY

8. Eight regional waste minimisation projects have been included in the year two action plan, to commence as soon as approval has been obtained at either the 13 August or 8 October meetings of the Committee.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee approve the 2007/08 funding of the following regional waste minimisation projects as set out in the report: Project 1 (Part 1), Projects 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.