

5. REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION ACTION PLAN 2008/09

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To recommend regional waste minimisation projects for 2008/09.

BACKGROUND

2. On 13 August 2007 the Committee approved an action plan for the 2007/08 year (year two) which was based on the comprehensive four year strategy prepared for the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee by SKM – as formed part of the July 2006 agenda papers. Building on the learning points of the first two years, this report addresses projects for 2008/09 – year three.
3. At a workshop of officers held on 4 June 2008 the table below with proposed projects for 2008/09 was drawn up and is presented for consideration.
4. Note: The Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill is likely to be passed by parliament by July this year and includes positive provisions for *inter alia* regulated product stewardship schemes and a national waste minimisation levy on disposal. Due to repayment of levy provisions from central to local government territorial authorities will in future have additional funds available to advance waste minimisation in their own districts.

PROJECTS PROPOSAL FOR 2007/09

5. The table below summarises the proposed funded projects:

Proposed Projects	Proposed Service Providers	Budget \$
Compost product development - agricultural uses	Crop and Food Research	25,400
Promotion of waste management at events	To be determined	38,000
Promoting worm composting in schools	Each council to choose	20,000
Business resource efficiency (outside Christchurch)	Target Sustainability	25,000
Treated Timber options – desktop study	To be determined	5,000
Evaluation of web based education tool for schools	Hot Pyjamas/ECan	1,000
<i>Still to be allocated</i>		35,600
TOTAL		150,000

6. Compost Product Development

Refer to the separate report in this agenda on the 2007/08 financial year projects, which includes the proposals for this composting project for 2008/09. The costs to the Committee is substantially lower than planned due to the participation in the project (and sharing of costs) by ECan and Transpacific Industries (TPI). A projection of costs up to 2010/11 for the completion of this project is also included.

The use of compost on sports fields, golf courses etc is a further option to be considered for compost use and it is recommended that staff report to the next meeting of the committee on this. A portion on the 2008/09 budget still to be allocated could be considered for allocation towards this objective.

7. Promotion of Waste Minimisation at Events in Canterbury

- (a) Public awareness of waste and its environmental impact is beginning to move beyond the household to public places and at public events. The Ministry for the Environment recently launched a pilot programme that is designed to provide opportunities for the public to recycle in public places, such as central Kaikoura and Christchurch central city.

- (b) Promotion of waste minimisation and recycling at events is another way to enable people to continue their good habits when they're out and about. Some promotion is already underway within the region but there is scope to do much more.

Proposed project

- (i) Christchurch City Council has purchased equipment that is available for Christchurch event organiser to use at no cost. There is a reservations system managed by Council staff with support from Meta NZ staff at the Parkhouse EcoDepot. Currently the equipment is stored at Parkhouse.
- (ii) There is increasing demand within Christchurch for the use of this equipment. At the same time, Council resources are stretched to meet current and anticipated future demand from Christchurch events. Given available resources, Christchurch cannot extend this service to organisers outside of Christchurch.
- (iii) It is proposed that the Canterbury Joint Waste Committee fund a Events Waste Minimisation project, which is intended to aid in promoting recycling at events where it isn't already occurring, and improving waste minimisation in areas where some promotion of event recycling and waste minimisation is occurring.
- (iv) The project would consist of two parts:
- the purchase of equipment that can be used by event organisers and
 - a workshop to up-skill council staff and event organisers on beginning and improving on waste minimisation at event.

Equipment

- (v) Equipment that can be provided on loan to event organisers can provide an incentive for event organisers to incorporate waste minimisation and recycling in their planning. It is suggested equipment is purchased and distributed to member districts as follows:
- 40 recycling bin lids and flag sets – for use by Hurunui and Waimakariri event organisers. Centralised storage would be needed, as well as an agreed system of reserving equipment.
 - 40 recycling bin lids and flag sets – for use by Selwyn and Ashburton event organisers. Centralised storage would be needed, as well as an agreed system of reserving equipment.
 - 40 recycling bin lids and flag sets – for use by southern Canterbury event organisers. Centralised storage would be needed, as well as an agreed system of reserving equipment.

(vi) **Recycling bin lids**

These lids are designed to fit over open wheelie bins, most 200 litre drums and small fadges. They are made from HDPE, so they can be recycled at end of life. Stock colours are green, yellow, blue and red. The approximate cost of these bin lids is \$65 to \$75 each. Cost per unit is dependent on the colour and number of bin lids that are ordered.

(vii) **Labels**

Labels for the lids are recommended, and should be made with a durable plastic-coated surface and high quality adhesive suitable for outdoor use. Costs for labels will vary depending on dimension and size. The costs for labels on all three vertical surfaces of the bin lid would be approximately \$75 for design and \$15/set of three for printing.

(viii) **Flags**

Flags or signs to bring attention to the recycling bins are also recommended. There are a variety of sign and flag types. Christchurch City Council selected flags that are mounted on extendable poles with screw-in bases and storage bags. The costs for recycling flags are approximately \$50 for design and \$215 per flag set (flag, base, pole, extender arm, carry bag).

Workshop

- (ix) It is suggested that the project include a workshop for council waste and events planning staff, and if space permits, external major event organisers (eg Rangiora A & P Show, Waipara Valley Art and Wine Festival). The workshop would include sessions run by those who have run minimum waste events as well as those provided waste minimisation advisory services. The cost for a half or whole day workshop is estimated at up \$500 depending on venue and speakers.

Project cost

- (x) Costs for the project as suggested are:

- 120 Labelled recycling bin lids - \$11,550
- 120 Flag sets - \$25,900
- Workshop - \$500

The total cost is expected to be approximately \$ 38,000

8. **Worm composting project**

- (a) A project to advance worm composting received approval from the committee in April (\$18,000 reallocated from other budgets) but could not be implemented in the two month window before 30 June.
- (b) Subsequently the following approach for a worm composting proposal was proposed by Mayor Garry Jackson:
- (c) "The idea is to split the \$18,000 approximately as follows, \$3,000 for Christchurch and \$1,500 for each other member councils
- Each council to use the funding to set up worm farm initiatives with schools or kindergartens who are presently not operating one. This should allow councils such as WDC, SDC and ADC to participate, because whilst I accept they have already taken action I am sure they don't have 100 percent coverage.
 - Councils choose to work with either Earthly Delights or Waste Busters
 - Each council sets up say 5 schools initiatives using the seed money (Christchurch 10)
 - Councils, schools and the suppliers encouraged to promote and leverage the school initiatives into the home
 - We create some competition between the two suppliers in terms of providing marketing back up, parent contact and follow up programs etc, all designed to achieve maximum leverage from the initial school installations
 - We measure the success of the program as a Joint Waste Committee in 12 months time (or whenever) in terms of the number of domestic installations created off the back of the school project (ie the five identified trial schools)
 - We encourage some form of inter council competition, is via status reporting at future Waste meetings
 - In 12 months time we are able to report not only the total result in terms of domestic worm farms in place, we have a great PR story of how we leveraged \$18000 to achieve the result, and we have a small accolade for the "winning" TLA."

- (d) Environment Canterbury staff pointed out that rather than ECan having its own portion of funds to use to work with schools it would better to distribute the funding to the territorial authorities only. Staff also proposed that some money would be needed to monitor the programme.
- (e) It is therefore proposed that staff proceed to implement the project a budget of \$20,000, with \$3,000 going to Christchurch, \$1,500 each to the other eight district councils, and \$5,000 for monitoring.

9. **Business resource efficiency (outside Christchurch) - Target Sustainability**

On 8 October 2007 the committee gave early approval for the 2008/09 budget of \$25,000. It is recommended that this remain in place.

10. **Treated Timber: desktop study**

- (a) Discussions with Holcim indicated the need to first establishing the size of this waste stream, the sources of the waste, and assessing whether there is likely to an ongoing 'supply' of such waste. Further work is being done by officers, to be reported back to the committee in due course
- (b) After detailed consideration a proposal from *Wastebusters Canterbury* for funding to research a solution for treated timber was not supported by staff.

11. **Evaluation of interactive web based resource for schools**

In March 2008 the committee received a detailed presentation by Hot Pyjamas on the completed project. A post completion evaluation of the project is proposed in order to gauge its impact (\$1,000 proposed).

12. **Waste surveys in Canterbury**

Christchurch has commenced another comprehensive waste stream survey and together with other existing surveys in the region an assessment will be done in 2009 upon completion of the Christchurch survey as to the current status of recycling and recovery in the region. The officers group has discussed the option of possible future funding by the Committee to assist smaller authorities to complete regular surveys as this will assist in having available up to date waste stream data across the region. Depending on feedback from member councils the Committee may wish to consider whether staff should be requested to prepare a proposal for this, and whether part of the \$35,000 to yet be allocated should be set aside for this objective.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13. 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

- 14. Six regional waste minimisation projects have been included in the proposal for this year's action plan, two new projects and four projects being continuations. The remaining \$35,600 is still to be allocated, and two potential projects will be reported on at the next meeting of the committee.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee approve the 2008/09 funding of the regional waste minimisation projects as set out in the report.