

#### 4. REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION ACTION PLAN 2009/10

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#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend regional waste minimisation projects for 2009/10.

#### BACKGROUND

2. The 2008/09 action plan was year 3 into a comprehensive four year strategy prepared for the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee in 2006. Building on the learning points of the first three years, this report addresses projects for 2009/10 – year four.
3. Staff workshops held on 8 May and 8 June 2009 considered options for regional waste minimisation projects for 2009/10. The table below summarises the proposed projects which are presented for consideration. Additional projects will on an ongoing basis be considered and presented.
4. Staff also discussed the concept of motivating, by way of a future report, that the Committee widen its focus to include not only solid waste minimisation and reduction, but to add the accompanying issues of energy conservation and water use conservation (i.e. resource efficiency). Should the Committee, without prejudice, support staff commencing work on this, a report will be presented at a future meeting addressing all related issues, including the required changes that will need to be made to the committee's Constituting Agreement.

#### PROJECTS PROPOSAL FOR 2009/10

5. The table below summarises the proposed projects:

Proposed Project	Proposed Service Provider	Budget \$
Compost product development (third year of a three year project)	Crop and Food Research	33,750
Promotion of waste management at events	District Council staff	38,000
Business resource efficiency (outside Christchurch)	Target Sustainability	26,000
Evaluation of web based education tool for schools	ECan/Hot Pyjamas	5,000
Collection of used Eco-bulbs	Joint project with certain retailers	32,000
Investigate use in the region of bylaws to restrict disposal when other options are in place	In-house staff project - no funding required	0
Promoting sustainable procurement options to member councils by way of workshops	Staff	500
Options for currently non-recyclable plastics – proposal being developed by SIFT for joint action with CWJC. Update to be provided at the meeting	SIFT and CWJC	???
Public place recycling infrastructure. Update to be provided at meeting	Under investigation by staff	???
Unallocated to date		14,750
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$150,000</b>

## **Compost Product Development**

6. Trials performed by Plant and Food Research, aimed at quantifying the costs and benefits (i.e. the business case) of municipal compost applications in primary production, have been underway since 2007. These trials have been jointly funded by the Regional Standing Committee (approximately 45 per cent), Transpacific Industries Group (45 per cent) and Environment Canterbury (10 per cent) with the support of Andrew & Julie Kerr, the owners of the Karina Downs farm near Timaru. Initial results from Kale and Ryegrass trial include:
  - (a) marked increases in dry matter yields of both kale (12.5 t/ha with 100 t/ha compost + standard fertiliser vs 8 t/ha with standard fertiliser) and ryegrass (dry matter production @ 50 t/ha compost was 2-4 times higher than under standard fertiliser);
  - (b) improvements in soil fertility and quality (e.g. chemical fertility, water content at field capacity and earthworm populations); and
  - (c) increases in the nutrient content and feed quality (ash and lipid content) of kale dry matter with increasing rates of compost.
7. These results have attracted substantial interest from farmers and enquiries concerning compost availability, costs and appropriate management practices. Interest has also been sparked from the large billboard and information brochure available on the roadside adjacent to the trial site.
8. In May 2009 a bid for \$277,000 pa over 3 years, has been made to the Sustainable Farming Fund to continue this Karina Downs trial for another 2 years (a total of 5 years) and to expand the trial to include a further 3 demonstration sites (on different crops and soil types, with billboards on the roadside etc) and more detailed field trials at Lincoln. This bid has been successful. This expanded trial commencing in 2009/10 for 3 years will attract additional funding from the Foundation for Arable Research, Balance Agri-Nutrients and the Sustainable Farming Fund. Farmers field days, articles in relevant journals, scientific papers and guidelines for farmers and farm advisors are also planned as part of this proposal. The contribution from the Joint Standing Committee, a total of \$33,750 pa plus GST until 2011/12, represents approximately 12% of a much larger trial and market development programme for compost in the region and can be considered great value for money for the Committee.

## **Promotion of Waste Minimisation at Events in Canterbury**

(Project carried over from 2008/09 year)

9. 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.
10. 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**

11. The Christchurch City Council has purchased equipment that is available for Christchurch event organisers 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.
12. 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.

13. 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 is not already occurring, and improving waste minimisation in areas where some promotion of event recycling and waste minimisation is occurring.
14. 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**

15. 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.

### **Recycling bin lids**

16. 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.

### **Labels**

17. 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.

### **Flags**

18. 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**

19. It is suggested that the project include a workshop for council waste and events planning staff, and if space permits, external major event organisers (e.g. 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**

20. 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.

21. A report is expected shortly from the consultant that provided guidance, and auditing services to the event organisers of selected events run in Christchurch during the 08/09 year. The recommendations from this report may result in a reconsideration of some aspects of the above proposal. As it is expected that this report will be available by the time of the 10 August meeting, any proposed changes will be tabled at the meeting.

## **Business Resource Efficiency (outside Christchurch) - Target Sustainability**

22. Funding is sought to continue work with the following businesses:
- *Selwyn business members:* CMP and Mountain River;
  - *Waimakariri District:* Waimakariri Construction and Demolition waste reduction project for the Dudley Pool development.
23. Additional Canterbury business members:
- Designline in Selwyn have signed up to the Target Sustainability Programme;
  - Aim to recruit at least two more business members.

Estimated Cost \$26,000.

## **Evaluation of Interactive Web-based Resource for Schools**

24. Due to the newness of the programme 'Tip the Balance' it is felt that, other than the informal evaluation conducted by individual councils, the proposed 2008/09 was too soon for a comprehensive evaluation which is now proposed for 2009/10. It is therefore recommended to do an in-depth evaluation of the interactive CD, its use and success in raising awareness of waste and reduction and influence in change attitudes and behaviour is undertaken. Estimated cost \$5,000.

## **Collection of Used Eco-bulbs**

25. A trial for drop-off facilities at 60 locations throughout the region for household fluorescent light bulbs by partnering with certain retailers of the bulbs (supermarkets, Bunnings, Mitre 10) and the recyclers of the bulbs (Interwaste). See **Attachment 1** for full information.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

26. 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**

27. Various regional waste minimisation projects have been included in the proposal for this year's action plan. A further \$14,750 is still to be considered for allocation at a future date.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Canterbury Waste Joint Committee:

- (a) Approve the 2009/10 regional waste minimisation projects.
- (b) Instruct staff to prepare a report for future consideration by the committee on enlarging the focus of the committee from regional solid waste minimisation to regional resource efficiency.