

Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.

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Your Submission:

Submission to Christchurch City Council's Draft Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2004.

This submission is from the voluntary group called Public Events Waste Management Initiatives Group.

Members of the group are professional environmental educators and communicators.

The group has been operating for 3 years and has researched the area of waste management at public events by:

1. Undertaking a waste audit at the 2002 Christchurch A&P Show
2. Conducting surveys of attitudes of stall holders and members of the public who attend public events
3. Completing literature searches of waste management programmes for public events by local authorities in Australia and New Zealand
4. Producing of a draft set of guidelines for stall holders to minimise waste at public events
5. Producing a report for stakeholders entitled "Waste Reduction & Recycling at Public Events", Dec 2002,

This submission relates to the Draft Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2004 Part 2 - Action Plan".

We congratulate the City Council on a comprehensive and far-sighted Action Plan for tackling the management of solid waste. In general the plan addresses most of the major concerns related to waste minimisation.

The group particularly applauds the council for including provision for waste management and recycling at public events (see section 6.6.1 (d) "Recycle at major events" and section 7 in table 6 Total Solid Waste point 6.6.1 d "Facilitate recycling at major public events").

We note with enthusiasm the provision of \$50,000 per annum for this activity.

From our own work in this area and from our study of similar initiatives in New Zealand and Australia we suggest there are additional ways for the council to be effective in this area.

Although the volume of material from public events may seem a minor part of the general waste stream, a significant portion of this waste stream is recyclable. There are huge opportunities for public education that reinforce recycling practices. Public events are a major part of Christchurch's way of life and people who attend these events should be provided with the same quality of waste management system as is provided for kerbside recycling. To do otherwise sends ratepayers conflicting messages about the City Council's commitment to waste reduction and sustainability.

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

Public events also attract significant numbers of visitors outside of Christchurch; it is important that Christchurch establish itself nationally and internationally as a leader in sustainability. Major public events produce large volumes of waste and recyclable in a short period of time. Unsustainable management of these resources is obvious to visitors and locals alike, therefore an effective recycling system is needed.

We therefore suggest the following additions to the draft plan.

Specific changes that should be made;

1. Section 6 "Programme for Action" - reword bullet point 2 to read "refuse collected at the kerbside and at public events"
2. Section 6.6.4 Advocacy and Lobbying part (a), we suggest the addition of another point - "effective waste management and recycling at public events".
3. Section 6.6.4 Advocacy and Lobbying part (b), we suggest that the Leisure Unit of Christchurch City Council be added to the list of organisations given as examples). The reason we suggest this is that it is important that CCC lead by example in recycling at public events.
4. Section 6.6.8 Utilise opportunities within the Council, we suggest the addition of a point (e) "effective waste management and recycling at those public events organised by Christchurch City Council staff and those events for which event organisers require permission from the City Council".
5. Section 8.1.3 Service to Businesses we suggest that in Christchurch event organisers are a growing sector within the business community and therefore a 5th point should be added as follows; " A range of appropriate services should be made available to businesses engaged in organising public events. Those services will include - waste minimisation guides for stall holders, a pool of recycling bins that can be hired or borrowed by event organisers, draft contracts between event organisers and stall holders, draft waste management policies for event organisers, inducements to encourage recycling by event organisers".
6. We support the trial (section 6.6.1 Take Direct Action (d)) to compare options for reducing organic waste. An effective scheme would also be able to cope with putrescible materials produced at public events.

General changes that should be made -

1. That performance targets be produced to measure whether the amount of material destined for landfills from public events is changing.
2. That as well as actual recycling at public events that the City Council commit itself to combining those recycling activities with public education activities that support and enhance recycling and waste reduction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your plans. We welcome the opportunity to work with the council on this activity in the future and look forward to your response.

Sincerely

Dr Pip Lynch
On behalf of Public Events Waste Management Initiatives Group