

<p>Officer responsible Waste Manager</p>	<p>Author Mike Stockwell, Waste Manager</p>
<p>Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste: Compost</p>	

The purpose of this report is to apprise the Committee about progress on this project.

BACKGROUND

In 1998 Mike Stockwell (Waste Manager) and Mike Bourke (Wastewater Manager) travelled to Japan at the invitation of Mark Bartlett (Global Foods) to view the Hazaka Compost System. This is an invessel system which can process putrescibles, greenwaste and biosolids to a high quality compost product in 25 days only (as opposed to around 110-125 days for the Council’s windrow system).

This system is very big in Japan where the government has invested billions of dollars in setting up Hazaka Compost Plants throughout the country. Mr Hazaka is an environmentalist who is very keen to establish a plant in the western world and is interested in Christchurch as his first site. He has investigated other possible sites, so this is quite a compliment to Christchurch. His system has considerable interest to us in terms of moving into putrescible and biosolids composting.

CURRENT POSITION

Our dialogue with Mr Hazaka has moved quite slowly over the past ten months (as is typical with the Japanese) but is likely to crystallise one way or the other in the early part of this year.

There is a further development in terms of a Dr Ochi (a friend of Mr Hazaka’s) who has purchased land near Christchurch to establish an Institute of Organic Farming. There could be considerable synergy in establishing a relationship between the Council’s composting operation, the setup of a new Hazaka Compost plant and a college of organic farming. A significant additional attraction may be that the Japanese are willing to contribute most or all of the capital costs of a Hazaka plant. If this new plant eventuated the Council’s ongoing costs would be operational costs for processing our waste which may be significantly below existing costs.

KERBSIDE COLLECTION

It is my personal view that if the Council moves towards kerbside collection of putrescibles for subsequent composting (refer my memo to 11 January City Services Budget meeting), then we should be considering replacing our black refuse bags with a split wheelie bin collecting putrescibles and greenwaste in one side and rubbish in the other (leaving the existing recyclable collection which is operating very successfully and creating jobs, to remain unchanged at least in the meantime). Such a system we are told operates successfully in Melton near Melbourne. This would of course need to be carefully costed, timed and negotiated with our current refuse collector (Onyx).

VISIT TO CHRISTCHURCH

Mr Hazaka and Dr Ochi are interested in visiting Christchurch in April to view our operations and meet staff and Councillors. (Note that Councillors O'Rourke and Wright have already been involved in preliminary discussions).

SUMMARY

Discussions are progressing concerning the possible establishment of a Hazaka invessel compost system to either replace or work alongside the Council's existing windrow system. The Hazaka system has considerable advantages including:

- it is invessel and therefore has virtually total odour and dust control
- it can handle putrescibles as well as greenwaste and biosolids
- production time is very rapid
- synergies could develop with a proposed college of organic farming
- synergies could develop with Japan for recyclable material outlets (ie advantageous for RMF operations)
- the Japanese may provide capital

(Note: There may be merit in a visit to Melton, Victoria to check out their putrescible waste collection system.)

Recommendation: That the Waste Management Unit pursue this initiative and report progress back to City Services Committee.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.