

43. DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN RMF AND TARGET ZERO

RR 10890

Officer responsible Waste Manager	Author Councillor Denis O'Rourke
Corporate Plan Output: Recovered Materials Foundation	

The purpose of this report is to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the RMF and Target Zero.

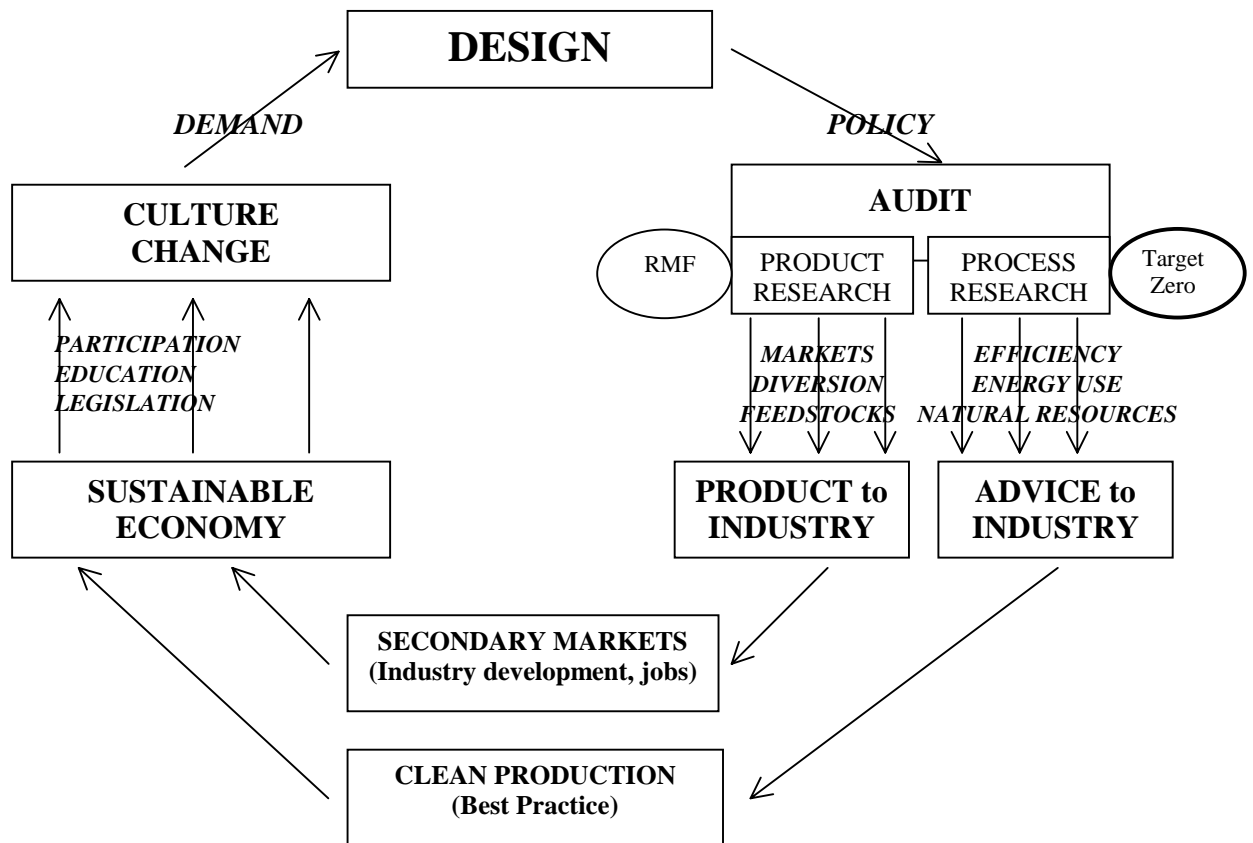
The Council facilitated the establishment of the Recovered Materials Foundation about two years ago, as a vehicle to find ways of diverting recoverable materials from the waste stream and to find markets for and means of re-using those materials, as far as possible within the Canterbury region. Initially it has concentrated its efforts on materials collected by the Council from the kerbside collection service.

Recently the Council has also established the Target Zero programme to assist local industry to implement cleaner production principles. This involves an audit process undertaken on a business by business basis. As a result of this audit, the business concerned is offered the facilities of appropriate consultants to advise the business on ways to achieve cleaner production, including energy savings, reduced requirements for natural resources eg water, and how to reduce solid and liquid waste within the business.

Businesses can also work together to reduce waste, especially solid waste capable of being recycled rather than landfilled. Currently it is not clear which Council agency is responsible to assist businesses to achieve this, although the RMF does already administer the Council's Waste Exchange Programme as agent for the Council.

The following diagram shows the full picture. I have put 'Design' at the top, because if the community is to fully realise a sustainable economy and to avoid landfilling valuable resources, then both products and processes need to be designed to do so from the beginning. Another report to this month's meeting describes the RMF's intention to stage a national conference next year which will be entitled 'Redesigning Resources'. One of the lead speakers will be Paul Hawken who agreed to attend when I saw him in San Francisco last month. Ray Anderson ('Mid Course Correction') is also expected to be a keynote speaker. The objectives of the conference will be to encourage both the government sector and the business sector to implement these principles and to establish 'best practice' guidelines with appropriate supporting legislation. The concept is that following the audit process, the Target Zero team will continue to target cleaner production aims through advice on better processes. Where the audit identifies an opportunity to businesses, then it would be the RMF's responsibility to find those other uses for the material by way of re-use or recycling. The RMF already has staff employed for these purposes.

As shown in the diagram, Target Zero would concentrate on process within targeted businesses, and the RMF would concentrate on product as between businesses. In order to achieve clarity and to avoid duplication by the RMF and by Waste Management Unit staff, especially those employed in Target Zero, it is necessary to adopt a scheme of responsibility as described.



Chairman's

Recommendation:

1. That the roles and responsibilities of the RMF, and of the Waste Management Unit and Target Zero staff, be as described in this report, and that this be recorded in the Policy Register.
2. That the RMF be requested to take responsibility for diverting commercial waste capable of being re-used or recycled, within its existing Council funding provision, and that the RMF confirm accordingly.