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Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to present for consideration, options for domestic hazardous waste disposal at the Refuse Stations.

## 1. BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Previous Seminar

A City Services seminar was held in August 1998 at which there was a general consensus that the Council should only consider accepting those wastes for which we have viable and better alternative disposal methods than those currently used. It was felt that it would be difficult to justify an expensive collection system for hazardous waste which was then re-mixed with other waste for co-disposal at the Landfill.

### 1.2 Previous Report and Resolutions

From the August 1998 Seminar a report was prepared and submitted to the Council for approval. A number of specific actions were noted and presented as an Action Plan. The points to this Plan were consideration of:

- Collection of dry cell batteries at the kerbside (this has since been the subject of a separate report).
- Acceptance at Refuse Stations of wastes for which a suitable alternative to co-disposal exists including labelled solvents, garden chemicals, paint, and engine oil.
- Improved education and publicity of the services available.

### 1.3 Investigation

Proposals for the acceptance of hazardous waste as in the above Action Plan have been investigated. These proposals have been investigated in terms of technical, legal and financial aspects from various sources including the City Solicitor, the Council's Insurers, officers of the Council's Environmental Services Unit, Treatment Works Laboratory, and from officers of the Auckland and Waikato Regional Authorities. Reference was also made to a hazardous wastes report commissioned by the Canterbury Regional Council.

### 1.4 Existing Practice

Before examining some issues and options associated with the proposals for the acceptance of household hazardous wastes, an outline of the existing Council practice is set out below for information on how the present system works.

1. Most toxic or hazardous wastes are presently **not** accepted at the City's refuse stations. The exceptions are waste oil, car batteries, refrigerants (refrigerator units), and LPG cylinders (liquid petroleum gas).

**Note:** Procedures for the acceptance and disposal of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and for the collection and disposal of refrigerant gases have been formulated and are in place. Specialist equipment for the extraction of refrigerant gases has been purchased and basic training in its use given to several station staff.

2. The exclusion of hazardous waste has been a Council practice since the inception of the Refuse Stations in the 1980s. Only in recent years have facilities been provided for the above listed materials.
3. For those wastes not presently accepted, enquiries regarding their disposal are referred to the Council's Environmental Services Unit.
4. This referral service is listed in the Waste Disposal section of the Yellow Pages under Special/hazardous wastes. It is also listed in a Ready Reference handout available from Service Centres and the Refuse Stations. Disposal services by commercial firms specialising in the area of liquid and hazardous wastes disposal are also offered in the Yellow Pages listings.
5. The service offered by the Environmental Services Unit includes the handling of enquiries, providing advice, examination, collection, recycling, and disposal of toxic and hazardous wastes. This Unit deals with both commercial and private enquiries, but the commercial service is limited to advice.
6. Officers of the Environmental Services Unit act in a facilitating role to bring together persons wishing to dispose of their waste with others willing to accept it for reuse or recycling.
7. The Council's Treatment Works Laboratory provides a support service to the above Unit for identifying unlabelled or suspect wastes.
8. Each Refuse Station has a Dangerous Goods store for the temporary storage of hazardous wastes such as solvents that arrive at the Stations.
9. A further Dangerous Goods store is located at the Treatment Works. The purpose of this store is to keep hazardous goods for which there is no immediate disposal option.

## 2. **LEVEL OF SERVICE PROPOSED FOR CHRISTCHURCH:**

It is proposed that the public have available at each Refuse Station, facilities for the acceptance and disposal of labelled household hazardous wastes as follows:

- The provision of appropriate well sign posted collection and storage facilities at each Station and acceptance of household hazardous wastes except medical, pharmaceutical, and wastes of commercial quantities.

- Staff trained in customer service and in the acceptance, inspection, and handling and correct storage of waste.
- Appropriate support service to staff by the Council's Environmental Services Unit and the Treatment Works Laboratory.
- Regular servicing of the storage facilities to prevent accumulation of hazardous waste.
- Clearly advertising the services and facilities available to the public.
- Disposal of waste identified as suitable for reuse to community groups or other appropriate users (e.g. agricultural users).

Note: that Auckland Regional Council has been running a similar successful scheme for just over one year. Details of this scheme are attached (Attachment 1).

## **2.1 Product Specifics**

### *2.1.1 Waste Oil (Reuse)*

The existing collection and disposal path for waste oil at the refuse Stations continue as at present and to be reviewed following the outcome of the Chief Inspector's receipt of the Working Party's report.

### *2.1.2 Solvents (Recycling)*

The existing commercial disposal paths for solvents in the Christchurch City area be listed in Council promotional material on recycling and that there is continued provision for the acceptance of solvents for disposal at the Refuse Stations.

### *2.1.3 Paint (Reuse/disposal)*

Accept labelled household paints for disposal at the Refuse Stations either through reuse by distribution at no charge or treatment (subject to resource consent) and disposal to Landfill. This service to be listed in the Council's Solid Waste Recycling promotional material.

### *2.1.4 Household Garden Chemicals (reuse/disposal)*

Accept labeled household garden chemicals for disposal at the Refuse Stations either through reuse by distribution at no charge, treatment and disposal to Landfill, or to store materials until suitable disposal can be arranged.

Details of quantities of materials, which may be received, together with details of disposal options considered are attached as Attachment 2.

## **3. ESTIMATED COST**

**Operational \$89,900** additional to current annual cost of \$42,000

(Promotion, additional advisory/inspection services, transportation, treatment, storage, disposal)

**Capital \$47,500**

(Modular storage units - refuse stations, Treatment Works, paint treatment area).

Details of the estimate are shown in Attachment 3.

#### 4. BUDGET

There is no operational budget item in this years budget for this service. However if it was introduced at the same time as the trailer weighing, there is sufficient surplus revenue from that proposal to fund this service. There is also no capital expenditure in this years budget for this project, but again if associated with the introduction of the trailer weighing, the cost can be readily accommodated.

#### 5. RISK DISCUSSION

Implementation of the proposed system to accept household hazardous wastes at the Refuse Stations involves the council in the following risks.

- The Council could receive more wastes than it has the resources to cope with.
- There is the potential for claims against the Council under consumer protection legislation.
- There may be difficulties in preventing commercial operators using the system.

The Auckland Regional Council experience indicates that the first two of these risks are very low. They found that the first month of operation and the Christmas month resulted in higher quantities received, but they remained manageable. They also had no claims of any kind during their first year of operation, having given away a considerable quantity of materials. It is recommended that Christchurch follow this example and give away materials rather than sell them.

The Auckland Regional Council has had some difficulties with commercial operators dumping material as the drop off points are not closely supervised. However, if the Christchurch system is introduced as proposed, as part of the trailer weighing project close supervision of material drop off will be achieved. It is therefore felt that this aspect will be adequately controlled. Further details of legal/insurance risk and their management are included in Attachment 2.

#### Natural Step Assessment

Following a recent report to Strategy and Resources Committee, it was resolved that Waste Management Unit would pilot the use of a Natural Step assessment as part of its committee reporting structure. The assessment for this report follows.

<b>Natural Step Assessment</b>				
<b>Conditions:</b>	<b>1.Reduce Mining and fossil fuel use (extraction rate not greater than redeposit rate to earth's crust)</b>	<b>2.Eliminate hazardous substances (production rate not greater than treatment rate)</b>	<b>3.Protect biodiversity and ecosystems</b>	<b>4.Efficient and equitable resource use</b>
Meets condition	partially	yes	partial	no
How it helps meet condition	Some products will be reused	By reducing amount of untreated hazardous waste going to landfill	Potential to keep hazardous waste out of ecosystem	

## SUMMARY

- This report is based on an Action Plan approved by Council in 1998 for the acceptance of household hazardous wastes at the City's three refuse stations.
- A number of legislative issues associated with the distribution of waste products for reuse through sale have been identified requiring additional insurance cover and possibly exposing the Council to legal actions. Such action is largely overcome by distribution of these products without charge, and taking on some additional insurance cover.
- The Council's insurers suggest the use of a disclaimer notice also be used with the distribution of waste product for reuse.
- The amount of material able to be accepted and stored before disposal may be limited by legislative and City Plan requirements and consent conditions.
- Additional storage facilities and staff training will required, in addition to the existing amenities and services provided by the City's Environmental Services Unit and Treatment Works Laboratory.
- There are existing acceptance and disposal paths for waste oil and solvents in Christchurch but those for paint and household garden chemicals will need to be developed.
- The level of promotion of services at the Refuse Stations needs to be managed to control the amount of incoming material that can be safely handled and disposed.
- By introducing this service in conjunction with the proposed trailer weighing system the hazardous waste acceptance service can be funded through surplus revenue from the trailer weighing.

**Recommendation:** That approval be given to set up a household hazardous waste acceptance system at the Refuse Stations at the same time as the trailer weighing/sorting system is implemented and funded from surplus revenue from this system.

### Chairman's

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.