

5. WORKING PARTY FOR WASTE MINIMISATION

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Corporate Plan Output: Regional Waste Initiatives	

The purpose of this report is to refer a recent resolution of the Christchurch City Council to the Subcommittee for consideration.

BACKGROUND

On 25 May 2000 the Christchurch City Council resolved:

“That this Council asks the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee to establish a Subcommittee to work with the working parties established by the Redesigning Resources Conference in June with the intention of influencing the government to introduce appropriate national waste minimisation legislation”

The Redesigning Resources Conference, hosted by the Recovered Materials Foundation and the Canterbury Employers’ Chambers of Commerce, will take place from 25-27 June 2000 and various working parties are planned to operate between the June 2000 conference and a follow-up conference in 2002.

The Subcommittee is reminded of the Regional Waste Management Agreement that all Canterbury Waste Subcommittee councils recently adopted which has as its purpose:

To work together towards promoting waste minimisation:

- *To ensure optimum effectiveness of waste management.*
- *To pursue maximum efficiency in waste management.*
- *For the benefit of Canterbury’s environment and people.*

A further noteworthy initiative is the 1999 Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Remit which recommended

“That Local Government New Zealand approaches central government proposing that LGNZ establishes a working party involving a community representative involved in waste minimisation from each of the Metropolitan, Provincial and Rural Sector areas and appropriate representatives from local government, central government, and industry and commerce with a brief to investigate and advise government on what legislative and other national initiatives are needed to ensure that waste minimisation is achieved in New Zealand. The Working Party to report on the outcome of their investigation to the 2000 Annual general Meeting”

As a first step in taking the Remit further, the Ministry for the Environment and LGNZ jointly hosted a one-day seminar on 24 May 2000 which was attended by Brian Gallagher of Timaru District Council and Zefanja Potgieter of the Christchurch City Council. Mollie Anderson of Hurunui Recycling Inc. attended on behalf of the Hurunui District Council. Those invited to this workshop were mainly staff drawn from central government and local government, with minor representation from other sectors such community representatives, commerce and industry, and tertiary education and research institutions. The outcome of the seminar was to reaffirm the need for a national working party focussing on waste minimisation, and to recommend to the Minister for the Environment that it be established as soon as possible.

SUMMARY

The Christchurch City Council recommendation to the Subcommittee, the Regional Waste Agreement adopted by all participating councils, and the follow-on work done on the LGNZ Remit all focus attention on widespread agreement on the importance of national initiatives to advance waste minimisation.

It is therefore recommended that the Subcommittee seize this opportunity to contribute towards this crucial debate.

Recommendation: That the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee appoint a subcommittee to contribute towards follow-up work resulting from the 2000 Redesigning Resources Conference and other relevant waste minimisation initiatives.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted and that the subcommittee comprise the Chairman and Mike Stockwell (or his nominee) plus a Councillor and senior staff member representing the Canterbury rural authorities.