

## 7. THE REGIONAL HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMME

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Corporate Plan Output: Hazardous Waste	

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the progress of the Regional Hazardous Waste Reduction Programme.

### BACKGROUND

The management of hazardous waste reduction initiatives on a regional basis in Canterbury is co-ordinated through the Canterbury Hazardous Waste Working Party. Funding has been obtained for a two-year pilot programme (named as above) to advance reduction of hazardous wastes in Canterbury. The funding is provided in part by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund, by the Canterbury Regional Council, and by the Territorial Local Authorities in the Canterbury Region.

The aim of the programme is to:

**minimise the adverse effects of hazardous wastes on the environment by pro-active facilitation of hazardous waste reduction at source**

In order to achieve this aim the following objectives have been derived:

1. Collect and disseminate hazardous waste minimisation information;
2. Prioritise action to minimise environmental effects of hazardous wastes;
3. Provide advice;
4. Encourage source reduction/cleaner production;
5. Assess the need, if any, for further legislation; and
6. Provide a programme that is directly applicable nationally in terms of the regional model of co-operation between stakeholders.

The above aim and objectives correlate with the Hazardous Waste Management Strategy for Canterbury (see Part II, Table 3) currently being prepared by Territorial Local Authority staff.

### WASTE TYPES

Attention will be focused on, but not limited to, the following seven wastes identified as high priority (Royds, 1996 and Opus, 1997):

- Agrichemicals
- Cyanide
- Chlorinated Solvents
- Domestic Hazardous Waste
- Timber Treatment Wastes
- Metal Processing Wastes
- Used Oil

## PROGRESS TO DATE

After review of previously prepared reports (Royds 1996 and Opus 1997), an initial investigation of the environmental 'risks' of each waste type, a preliminary review of initiatives by other Councils in New Zealand, and personal communication with each District Council in Canterbury, a preliminary prioritisation of the seven key hazardous waste types has been developed, as outlined in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Preliminary Assessment of Priorities**

WASTE TYPE	PROPOSED PRIORITY	RATIONALE
Timber Treatment	High	Environmental risks (hazard and exposure) high. Relatively high potential for success of source reduction initiatives.
Chlorinated Solvents	High	Environmental risks (hazard and exposure) high. Only half of solvents produced are known to be disposed of correctly.
Cyanide	High/medium	Environmental risk (hazard) high. Volumes low. Relatively high potential for source reduction initiatives.
Metal Processing	High/medium	Environmental risk (hazard) high. Relatively high potential for source reduction initiatives.
Agrichemicals	Medium	High perception of agrichemicals as key concern. Reduction efforts relatively difficult (requires technological and attitudinal change).
Domestic	Medium/low	Drop off points to be established in Christchurch at each of three refuse stations in April/May 2000. Reduction efforts relatively difficult (requires attitudinal change).
Used Oil	Low	Recent Canterbury Regional Council initiative underway to reduce risks and improve disposal options. Reduction efforts difficult (requires fundamental shift in attitude).

Subsequent to this preliminary assessment of priorities the following actions have, and continue to be, undertaken:

**Table 2: Current Actions**

<b>KEY OUTPUTS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Develop a prioritised action plan (to be confirmed June 00)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to refine the assessment of environmental risk of each hazardous waste type.</li> <li>• Continue discussions with key practitioners and industry groups.</li> </ul>
Develop National networks (email)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate a summary of initiatives undertaken by other TLA's and Regional Councils, problems encountered, and what they intend to do in the future as a result.</li> <li>• Disseminate information via email to interested groups.</li> </ul>
Promote Cleaner Production within Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate existing benchmarks (conduct site visits; utilise industry Codes of Practice, OSH guidelines, etc.).</li> <li>• Facilitate audits in conjunction with Target Zero Business Network Taskforce visits.</li> <li>• Recruit companies for planned Target Zero Programmes.</li> <li>• Participate at Target Zero Business Network meetings.</li> <li>• Establish industry working groups as appropriate.</li> </ul>
Promote Cleaner production within the domestic and agricultural sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in the preparation of publicity material and participate in public education events as appropriate.</li> <li>• Establish an agrichemical working party with key industry and agricultural groups.</li> <li>• Conduct site visits to farms and key agrichemical suppliers.</li> </ul>

**SUMMARY**

The Regional Hazardous Waste Reduction Programme is a two-year pilot programme aimed at reducing hazardous waste at source, funded jointly by the Sustainable Management Fund and all Councils in Canterbury. Work is currently underway to confirm the proposed priorities for the seven identified hazardous waste types. In addition, networks are being developed with other practitioners throughout New Zealand. Efforts to promote Cleaner production in conjunction with existing Target Zero initiatives and by the development of educational material for the domestic and agrichemical sectors have already commenced.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.