

## 10. REGIONAL ORGANICS

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Corporate Plan Output: Regional Initiatives	

The purpose of this report is to present a report on regional organics in Canterbury.

### BACKGROUND

On 19 February 2001 the Regional Waste Minimisation Working Party considered the following report and resolved to make certain recommendations to the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee.

#### ***“BACKGROUND***

*At the Working Party meeting of 21 September 2000 a suggested goal was "to ban the disposal of organics to landfill by 2005". The Working Party also resolved "that a strategic template for organics be developed for the region and that the template be presented at the next meeting of the Waste Minimisation Working Party".*

#### **WHY A STRATEGIC TEMPLATE?**

*The purpose of a template is to provide a structure so that various scenarios for organic waste management may be considered. This will help determine the most suitable options for the various councils and the region as a whole.*

*Some of the possible objectives to be achieved are:*

- Collaboration on investigations and research (to avoid repetitive work e.g. collection trials and system evaluation).*
- Co-ordination of projects and systems (similar systems could be tendered as one package).*
- Co-ordination of collection contracts to fully maximise plant.*

*These are just a few objectives and no doubt there are more, but overall the main objective for the region is to achieve a range of economies whilst ensuring quality services to protect our environment.*

#### **ORGANICS BAN**

*The year of 2005 has been suggested as a target to ban organics from landfill. As we are now in 2001, a more exact date should be finalised. A realistic timeline to investigate and implement organic collection and processing systems could be three to four years. Allowing four years would be February 2005. The remainder of that year should be allowed to implement and fine tune the systems to achieve the ban. Therefore a more definite date for the ban could be 31 December 2005.*

*For the co-ordinated management of organics throughout the region, it could be preferable for all the Councils to agree to the above target date. This then creates a common focus for all involved. Without this focus, the structure becomes fragmented and the potential to achieve the range of economies is possibly lost. The Regional landfill is a shining example of working together.*

*However how specific should the ban be? Garden waste and household kitchen waste only? What about commercial sources of organics, food processing factories and restaurants? What about food scraps in street and park litter bins?*

#### **STRATEGIC TEMPLATE**

*There are a range of possibilities for organic collection and processing. No doubt throughout the region a variety of systems will be utilised.*

*Potentially all Councils have the capability to collect and process mixed organics i.e. garden, kitchen organics etc. The scale of the various processing facilities would be sized relative to the quantities to be processed.*

*Alternatively there may be several central processing facilities for mixed organics. This then leaves scope for much simpler garden organic processing facilities at small satellite sites.*

*It is likely that mixed organic processing facilities will be constructed in Kaikoura, Christchurch, Selwyn, Ashburton and Timaru within the next two to four years.*

*Because there are a range of options, the respective Councils will need to conduct cost benefit analysis to determine their final options.*

*Now is the time to improve communications, to collate and share information about organic options. For example some areas are considering collection trials. Timaru conducted a garden collection trial in 1997. This information is available for dissemination and sharing.*

*For some Councils there may be other priorities, but if all agreed to the 2005 target date, then we all have a common priority in respect of organics.*

*This then allows the organic strategic template to be developed as a meaningful tool.*

## **COLLECTION CONTRACTS**

*With the introduction of kerbside organic collections, it is possible to have one or possibility two collection vehicles. There is also scope for fortnightly collections if 240 litre wheeliebins are used.*

*Because of the potential changes to future collection contracts, it could be prudent to align the timing of collection contracts in adjoining locations. The purpose of this would be to maximise the utilisation of collection vehicles. This would depend upon collection systems being compatible between adjoining Councils. If this was possible it would also be prudent to standardise contract documents. Therefore contracts for similar adjoining Councils could be tendered at the same time. The tender process and contract management etc would still be the responsibility of the respective Councils.*

*A copy of the collection contracts for the region is shown in Appendix A (attached). The earliest termination dates range from June 2001 to June 2005 with the possible latest termination dates ranging from June 2003 until June 2010.*

## **SUMMARY**

*To give focus in establishing a co-ordinated approach towards the management of organic waste in Canterbury it is preferable for all Councils in Canterbury to ban the disposal of organics to landfill by 31 December 2005*

*Adopting this goal will help with the development of a strategic template for organics. Allowances should be made to the timing of future collection contracts which may result in a possible range of economies.*

- Recommendation:**
1. *That the Waste Minimisation Working Party recommend to the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee a goal of working towards a ban on the disposal of organics to landfill by 31 December 2005:*
  2. *That the Waste Minimisation Working Party recommend to the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee that the future timing of kerbside collection contracts be aligned where possible to achieve a range of economies.*
  3. *That existing relevant information pertaining to organic management be collected from the respective Councils for establishment of a database for dissemination of information back to the various Councils."*

## **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above report be considered.