

5. CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE PROJECTS

General Manager responsible	General Manager City Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to promote reduction of construction and demolition waste through industry-focused projects and advocate inclusion of waste minimisation in the Building Code which will implement the Building Act 2004.

BACKGROUND

2. At its 9 May 2005 meeting the Subcommittee received a report on two construction and demolition (C & D) projects: the National C & D Waste Reduction Project sponsored by the Ministry for the Environment and local government and the maximising minimisation project funded by the Christchurch City Council.

3. The Subcommittee resolved at its 9 May 2005 meeting:

“To provide funding in the 2005/2006 financial year for construction and demolition industry training and outreach using the materials developed by the national construction and demolition waste reduction project.”

As noted at the 9 May 2005 meeting, details of the scope of this work were to be provided at the next Subcommittee meeting. This report provides those details.

4. Core members of the National C & D Waste Reduction Project, comprised of representatives of North Shore City Council, Hamilton City Council, Christchurch City Council and the Ministry for the Environment, agreed to continue to work together to identify methods to further the work accomplished by the national project, as a C & D waste minimisation planning group, with a view to pooling resources for maximum outcomes.
5. The Building Act 2004 includes several key principles, one of which is reduction of waste. The Act requires the Department of Building and Housing to conduct a review of the Building Code which must be completed by 30 November 2007.

REBRI PROGRAMME

6. The C & D waste minimisation planning group has developed a proposal for a two-year C & D waste minimisation programme, branded the REBRI Programme, to engage the C & D industry. REBRI stands for “Resource Efficiency in Building and Related Industries”.

7. Solicitation of sponsors is underway for the proposed REBRI Programme, with the North Shore, Hamilton and Christchurch City Councils as likely participants. Additional sponsorship is being sought from:

- § Canterbury district councils, through the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee;
- § Ministry for the Environment;
- § Waste Management Institute of New Zealand (WasteMINZ);
- § Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ);
- § Possibly other councils in the Auckland, Wellington, Bay of Plenty and Southland regions;
- and
- § C & D industry representatives.

8. The REBRI Programme will be comprised of two key components:

- § Engagement with the C & D industry sectors, including architects, designers and engineers; builders and sub-contractors; demolition firms and resource recovery operators.
- § One-on-one project assistance for construction and demolition projects.

9. The C & D industry engagement component would promote the tools developed through the national C & D waste reduction project, particularly the resource recovery guides and sector best practice guides, to the C & D industry. Sponsorship from within the C & D industry is considered crucial to gaining acceptance within this industry. Feedback from the C & D industry will be incorporated into the REBRI C & D industry sector and resource recovery guides and the guides updated as required. The modes of communication will include targeted sector

BUILDING CODE REVIEW

13. The Department of Building and Housing, which was created by the Building Act 2004, is tasked with reviewing the Building Code, a process that must be completed by 30 November 2007. Consultation with interested parties on changes to the Building Code are scheduled to take place during 2007. Some concern has been raised that there will be limited opportunity to influence the Building Code during that consultation process. The Ministry for the Environment is seeking to include the waste reduction principles of the Building Act into the new Building Code. Advocacy from the Subcommittee in favour of the inclusion of waste reduction principles into the Building Code in advance of the 2007 consultation period may contribute to greater robustness of these principles in the revised Building Code.

SUMMARY

14. The REBRI Programme is proposed as a two-year project to assist the C & D industry in implementing waste minimisation. The Programme is expected to have a variety of sponsors, including local and regional councils, central government, the waste management sector, the C & D sector and resource recovery sector. Funding from Canterbury district councils, through the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee, will enable the project to be delivered to the C & D industry throughout Canterbury.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Subcommittee:

- (a) Advocate active participation in the REBRI Programme by member councils.
- (b) Contribute \$20,000 from the 2005/06 budget to support the Programme for the Canterbury region.
- (c) Request the Christchurch City Council representative on the C & D working party to continue to represent the interests of the region on the C & D Waste Minimisation Programme Planning Group and REBRI Programme Steering Group.
- (d) Instruct staff to prepare a letter to be signed by the CWS Chairperson on behalf of the Subcommittee to the Department of Building and Housing advocating for the inclusion of waste reduction principles into the Building Code.
- (e) Invite all Subcommittee members to propose suitable projects for consideration for the REBRI Programme one-on-one project assistance (refer to paragraph 8 of the above report).