

5. MINIMISING ORGANIC WASTE IN CANTERBURY

The Subcommittee considered a report from Tony Moore, Resource Analyst Solid Waste, Christchurch City Council, which provided a summary of the investigation into organic waste reduction in Canterbury.

Attached to the report was the study on this topic prepared by Ms Jo Cavanagh, Landcare Research Ltd, and Ms Cavanagh also attended the meeting and provided a PowerPoint presentation summarising the main aspects of her report.

The opportunity was taken for discussion at the completion of the presentation which related to:

- Mr Don Young, Waimakariri District Council, commented that it would be desirable for other Councils to work together with the Christchurch City Council to obtain the maximum benefit from its metropolitan approach.
- Mike Stockwell, City Water and Waste Manager, provided an update on the current status of the invessel compost plant proposed for Christchurch and noted that this had been overtaken in the interim by the request for information proposal and that the plant was still at the investigative stage with some money on the budget. Tony Moore provided an update on the three plant investigations currently being undertaken.
- The Chairman commented that there was an opportunity for adjacent TLAs to transport organic waste to a central plant and Councillor Tasker providing an update on the joint venture proposed by her Council intended to remove kitchen scraps from their waste stream.
- Don Young commented that there were two possible options in respect to this proposal; firstly that the current City Council proposal be discontinued and the scope broadened, which was not considered desirable, or secondly the Christchurch City Council could continue and obtain appropriate plant, commence operation and other councils could then review their position with the prospect of a co-operative venture.
- The Chairman commented he felt it would be an excellent idea to obtain relevant information from the other adjacent TLAs which could be taken into account when deciding on any capital investment and obviously whether or not other adjacent TLAs participated would have an influence on where any plant might be located.
- Brian Gallagher advised that the Timaru District Council was currently reviewing organic waste and he thought they would have an organic waste collection in about two years time. It was logical that the timing of contracts, licensing and any bylaws coincided between all the TLAs. There was firstly, however, the need to decide what market was to be served by the product and what the objectives were and he felt that his Council by March 2004 would have the information they required which could be shared.
- It was important to know what the end use for the compost was ie rural, urban, grass, viticulture etc and Councillor Tasker mentioned that Ravensdown were interested in this field and it would be worthwhile undertaking discussions with them.
- It was suggested that only one seminar would be appropriate and that this should be held in Timaru, possibly in March/April 2004.

The Subcommittee then **resolved**:

1. That the Committee hold a seminar in March 2004 in Timaru (with the request that it be hosted by the Timaru District Council).
2. That following the above seminar each Council be requested to provide a written report, responding to the issues in the Landcare NZ Ltd report with special reference to their own district, including consideration of the regional organics waste targets.
3. That following responses from Councils the Subcommittee convene a working party to formulate regional organic action plans.