

Report 2015.456  
Date 11 September 2015  
File CCAB-10-54

Committee Environment  
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## Waste Forum Update

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the Waste Forum – Wellington Region (the Waste Forum) meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August at the Upper Hutt City Council.

### 2. Background

The Waste Forum provides an opportunity for commercial operators, elected representatives and council officers to network and share information about resource recovery, waste collection, waste disposal and waste minimisation in a co-operative way.

The following matters were discussed at the Forum.

#### 2.1 Recycled Tyre Rubber for use on Cycleways (Jeremy Wu, Opus)

Jeremy Wu from Opus presented the results of a scoping study funded by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). The purpose of the study was to identify barriers and their solutions to the use of crumb rubber in NZ roads. Crumb rubber is used in roads around the world but it is currently used in NZ mainly to construct sports fields and playgrounds.

The roading industry use imported polymers to modify bitumen for roads, which improves the performance of roads. Tyre-derived rubber is considered as an alternative to the more expensive virgin polymer resin, with more stable pricing, security of supply and locally sourced raw material. Key barriers are high initial cost of specialist equipment, relatively small market size and some other technology related implications.

Opus has identified a number of technical advancements such as devulcanisation of tyre rubber, which can potentially overcome many of the barriers. The recommendations will be published in the near future pending approval from the NZTA. Opus has submitted a proposal for trialling the concept of using tyre rubber in dedicated cycleways.

## **2.2 Hazardous Waste vs Hazardous Substances and Medical Waste (Carl Reller)**

Hazardous substances are chemicals that have a value, are well-labelled, have Material Safety Datasheets produced, are tracked and controlled through HAZNO.

Hazardous wastes, on the other hand, have no value and are a serious problem for Councils - being expensive to dispose of responsibly.

Office of Auditor General has stated -

- a number of Acts, regulations, and bylaws potentially apply, but no overarching legislation governs hazardous waste”
- hazardous waste management system relies heavily on non-statutory policy, strategies and guidelines to inform, educate, and persuade.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have stated -

- New Zealand lacks comprehensive legislation dealing specifically with both waste and hazardous waste
- The whole area of waste management does not seem to be a priority for the Government
- Waste issues are poorly analysed and, in many cases, disregarded
- Waste disposal relies almost exclusively on landfills and there are no adequate dedicated facilities for the treatment of most hazardous waste
- Waste management policies and programmes are hampered by a lack of reliable, comprehensive information

NZ Treasury noted that the delivery of a nationwide online system to support the tracking of liquid and hazardous waste is not adequately meeting current and future needs.

Discussions about this matter and what councils can do are ongoing.

## **2.3 Waste Forum - Wellington Region Website**

A budget has been agreed for the development of a Waste Forum website and logo. The objective of the website is to have ‘one voice’ for the region for waste matters.

## **2.4 E-waste Stewardship Update (Laurence Zwimpfer and Cr Paul Bruce)**

Another report on e-waste product stewardship, prepared by SLR Consulting and released by the Ministry for the Environment in August concluded that there was not enough information available for the Minister to declare e-waste a priority product. The Waste Forum, LGNZ and industry and community groups believe that the Minister should make a priority product declaration to progress e-waste product stewardship. Feedback from the Forum on the draft report appears to have been ignored. Previous reports have been prepared supporting our views include one in 2006 by the Ministry for the Environment, one by the CANZ Trust in 2006, one by the e-Day NZ Trust in 2011 and another by NZIER in 2013.

LGNZ has failed to follow up on the e-waste remit put up by the Region in 2013 and passed unanimously at the LGNZ AGM that year. One of the reasons this

remit was unanimously passed was because all local government agencies are currently paying a high price to manage e-waste responsibly. LGNZ has now agreed to take stronger advocacy action on remits passed at its AGM, and it was agreed that Laurence and I will arrange further meetings to pursue this. The Forum has now developed a draft e-waste Communications Strategy to help ensure that e-waste remains on the Government's agenda.

## **2.5 Eco-Smart Closed Loop Composter – Cr David Lee (WCC)**

David Lee gave a presentation on his closed loop composter, which can also be scaled up to office or commercial size. His home composter cost \$1,000 and successfully reduces food waste by 90% within a week. Larger units can process up to 1000kg/day, \$80 per tonne 30 tonnes a month.

## **2.6 Council and Industry Representative Updates**

### **Kapiti Coast District Council**

- The 2015 Waste Levy Grants for Community Projects and Education funding round is now open. \$20,000 is available for projects which encourage community participation and long term action.
- Approval has been given to expand a biosolids composting trial – to commence in a couple of weeks' time.

### **Porirua City Council**

- Trash Palace procurement process going well with lots of interest. If everything goes according to plan, the operation should be re-starting (at some level) in early November.
- A contract review process is underway for Poly Palace which includes evaluating the business case for Poly Palace and looking at alternatives.
- A recycling survey has been completed, and funding is available for schools to promote recycling.
- Commented that it may be time that the region considers increasing landfill prices as a means of driving waste minimisation in a coordinated way.

### **Upper Hutt City Council**

- A contestable fund for zero waste for schools and community groups has resulted in several schools undertaking waste initiative including waste audits and worm farms.
- A business contestable fund has so far had very little interest.
- Eunomia was employed to do a survey of waste composition and recycling attitudes.

### **Wellington City Council**

- Plans to grow Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) are evolving. The RRC customer survey showed that 95% of customers rated service as being good or very good.
- WCC kerbside recycling processing and Kai to Compost are currently out to tender.
- WCC will be launching a contestable waste levy fund soon.

- Foodstuffs are trialing meat trays made from PET with 50% recycled PET - food grade. New World Newlands and Pak N Save Kilbirnie are the two Wellington stores running the trial.
- Love Food Hate Waste has commitment from 55 Councils representing over 90% of the NZ populations to the amount of \$650,000. The project team is now seeking an additional \$400,000 via Waste Levy Fund and support funding from other relevant government departments. MPI has tentatively committed \$50,000. The team are also working on the delivery strategy and a business plan for post 3 years.

#### Hutt City Council

- Seven Silver Lining waste audits conducted, including audits of two very large businesses covering multiple sites. Working with Hutt Valley DHB/ Wairarapa project group on medical waste, and a project to recycle car bumpers.
- HCC noted that during October to December 2014 a nationwide census was undertaken of Enviroschools across the country (688 schools with a 73% return rate) Initial data shows some good results, and a full report will be available later in the year.

#### Greater Wellington Regional Council

- GWRC is benchmarking corporate waste practices against other organisations in the region.
- A number of staff and Councillors signed up to plastic free July. It was easy for those involved to avoid single use plastic such as plastic carrier bags for the week, but food shopping was a bit tricky.
- Work has been ongoing on the GWRC Climate Change Strategy and it is intended that it be approved at the end of next month.

#### Leanne Meyers (Independent contractor)

- Zam! Healthy Soil, Healthy Kids programme - in partnership with Te Rito Gardens, two full programmes are running in Waikanae and Tawa, providing education about the food nutrient cycle. Garden beds, compost bins, consultation, education, waste audits and monitor and support services are included.
- Envirowaste Recycling Programme for Foodstuffs - Envirowaste is rolling out a recycling programme in Foodstuffs stores throughout the country with a KPI of 90% waste diversion. 12 stores have made a commitment to waste minimisation in the Wellington region so far.
- DNZ Property Group - Johnsonville Mall - we are managing a project to divert over 70 tonnes of food waste from the landfill per annum, in partnership with Kai to Compost.
- PCC Shopping Village Recycling Project - we have completed a project to support local retailers to minimise their waste. By collaborating and sharing recycling services Ranui Shopping Village has diverted approx 56% of their waste volumes to recycling.
- Keep New Zealand Beautiful Recycle and Win Project - this project is going well and has now led to a workshop that was piloted in a local Porirua school in July. Waste audits, a motivational speech and presentation, recycling

games, and creating an art piece out of waste is inspiring children to use their creativity to help change the world.

#### Sustainability Trust

- The Trust has conducted three waste audits. The Trust is also working with UHCC undertaking waste audits in schools and delivering education programmes.

### **3. Communication**

No additional communication is required for this report.

### **4. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

#### **4.1 Engagement**

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

### **5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Councillor