

Repositioning Waste:

Sustainable NZ - a new age in waste management.
The proposed joint Government/Local Government New Zealand Waste Minimisation Strategy is expected to be released later this year. Indications are that the Strategy proposes to change people's perception of waste from that of discarded material to a resource that should be valued and managed in a sustainable manner. Its release will provide an opportunity for the many diverse sectors in the waste arena to take up the challenge and become actively involved in formulating new directions for waste in New Zealand.

This challenge was made in a provocative way by keynote speaker Brian Richards at the WasteMINZ Annual Conference last year. The challenge was further advanced at the WasteMINZ March 2001 workshop on 'Repositioning the Image of Waste', where over a hundred attendees agreed that it was imperative to take the necessary actions to achieve this repositioning.

In rising to the challenge, WasteMINZ has engaged Jim Bradley to work with Brian Richards in putting together a 'Draft Implementation Plan' on how to reposition the image of waste in New Zealand. The underlying principles that will guide the development of this Plan will be "a sustainable New Zealand; a new age in our perception of waste management; and valuing our resources and protecting our environment". The Draft Implementation Plan will be presented for discussion at the WasteMINZ Conference 1st/2nd November 2001, Christchurch.

Over the next few weeks Jim Bradley will be contacting representatives of key sectors to invite them to comment on the direction that this project should take. The issues to be discussed will include: -

- how does your sector/organization view waste at present and how will it be viewed, or you would like it to be viewed in 5-10 years time?
- what are the "perceptions" about waste that need to be changed and obstacles to be overcome for a repositioning of waste to be accepted by your sector/organisation, other sectors and the wider community?
- how can these perceptions be changed and obstacles overcome?
- is New Zealand ready for a shift in the way we view waste?

This project is looking at *waste* in its widest sense (not just solid waste) and encompasses a national approach. WasteMINZ is simply facilitating a step in what is envisaged will be New Zealand's future journey.

Pilot training - a big thank you to our volunteers!

BusinessCare pays tribute to the stamina and generosity of the nine people who helped us to test our training materials. Over two days last week, the valiant team in the photo below gave extremely constructive feedback on the content and delivery of our cleaner production training. Day 1, 'How to deliver a business training programme', was presented by Lesley Stone of Auckland University and Day 2, 'How to market and manager local cleaner production programmes', by Wendy Levy of Meritec.

Over the next two or three weeks, we will be taking on board the team's suggestions to develop a practical, user-friendly training programme backed up with plenty of ongoing learning and follow up support.

Thank you to our volunteers and consultants, as well as to the Auckland Regional Council for hosting the venue and WasteMINZ for providing writing and support materials.



Still smiling on Day 2, from left to right & front to back:

Jocelyn Rennie, *Auckland Regional Council*; Nickie Jones, *Hastings District Council*, Paula Inglis, *EERST (Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust) Tauranga*; Danielle Kennedy, *North Shore City Council*; Rae Dozell, *Rotorua District Council*; Michelle Dawson, *Waitakere City Council*; Jennifer Pearson, *Bay of Plenty EBN and Businesses for a Better Bay of Plenty*; Brent Bielby, *Waitakere City Council*; and Richard Morley-Hall, *The Warehouse Ltd.*

The Sustainability Working Group

The *Sustainability Working Group* was formed in February 2001 and has grown to 85 members. Aims include raising accountants' awareness of sustainability issues and practices, and through this to "make a difference" to the economic environmental and social performance of organisations.

Members comprise people from many disciplines, from throughout the country and across a wide range of sectors including central, regional and local Government, LATES, industry, commerce, academia, large and small accounting practices and legal firms.

Although the Group is affiliated to the Auckland Branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, about half the members do not belong to the Institute. Meetings are monthly with a video link between the Auckland and Wellington venues.

A "centre of knowledge" web site is expected to become operational during September. Access will be through the "SIG's" page at www.icanz.co.nz. The Group can see huge opportunities for accountants to interact with their many stakeholders and assist them reduce costs and improve profits - the bottom line.

Contact Ray Skinner email rayskinner@clear.net.nz or Paul Watkinson email paul@nicholas.co.nz

Who's Who

WasteBusters Trust Canterbury New Zealand

"Waste is a resource waiting to be discovered"
WasteBusters goals are to reuse, recycle and reduce waste to landfill. They concentrate on waste and pollution prevention through the use of preferable alternatives for example composting, [worm farming](#) and recycling. Visit their website <http://wastebusters.orcon.net.nz/>

Water Magazine.Com

Are you after water policy ideas, or new thinking? Precious ideas are available on the internet and it's the mission of WaterMagazine.Com to display them. They select from many sites on the Internet, updating the page regularly. They also accept submitted articles. Visit it at <http://www.watermagazine.com/>

An alternative to polystyrene

The New Zealand Potato Plate Company's products are as rigid as polystyrene and have greater insulation. The products are capable of holding near boiling water and are suitable for all fast food applications.

Only completely natural ingredients are used to make the products which are not harmful if eaten by mistake. These award winning products have received an extremely favourable response and great interest from both fast food vendors and the public.

For more information;
email Richard Williams rmw@voyager.co.nz
Or visit their website at <http://www.potatoplates.com/>

What's On

WasteMINZ Conference

Date: 31 October - 2 November 2001
Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor, Christchurch
The WasteMINZ Annual conference provides great opportunities for sharing and learning new information. Along with pre-conference workshops and site tours on the Wednesday, there are parallel sessions on waste minimisation, cleaner production, education, hazardous waste and landfills. Stimulating keynote speakers and the initiative by WasteMINZ - 'Repositioning of waste' will be presented ensuring a conference not to be missed. For more information contact Carole Inglis at Waste MINZ. Email: carole@wasteminz.org.nz or phone 09 486 6722

2001 An Environmental Odyssey Conference

Date: 21-23 November 2001
Venue: University of Waikato, Hamilton
For information visit <http://www.2001odyssey.co.nz>

Clean Up NZ Week

Date: 17-23 September 2001
This is your opportunity to give something back to the environment. All around the country, during Clean Up New Zealand Week, tens of thousands of Kiwis will be rolling up their sleeves, getting ready to clean up their local environment, so why don't you get involved too? For more info visit <http://www.cleanupnz.org.nz/>

Environmental Biotechnology 2002

Biotechnology Applications for Treatment and Utilisation of Industrial Wastes
Date: 15-17 April 2002
Venue: Massey University Palmerston North
Closing dates to note for Environmental Biotechnology 2002
31 August 2001; submission of abstracts & preregistration
15 October 2001; notification of acceptance papers
15 December 2001; submission of manuscripts
For further information email M.K.Edwards@massey.ac.nz

NZWWA 43rd Annual Conference 2001 Expo Open Day

Venue: Wellington WestpacTrust Stadium
Date: Thursday 20th September 2001
Time: 10 am – 3 pm
If you would like to set up a display, phone Catherine Ibell on 04 470 5770 for further details.

Contact Us

We welcome your input and feedback on this newsletter.

To send us your comments, add news items, ask questions, or to be added to our mailing list, contact us;

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