

Happy New Year.

May it be a profitable one with much work satisfaction.

BusinessCare National Trust looks forward to a year of greater involvement with local councils and a consolidation of its Toolkit for Change learning to train programme. The establishment of more local coordinator positions and the provision of support for those already established will be the primary focus for the National Coordinator for 2002.

Alive & Well in Cleaner Production

Prior to the launch of the BusinessCare training programme on 18 October 2002, representatives from three businesses talked about how they have introduced waste minimisation through cleaner production in their companies. A brief overview of the talks gives ideas of how work practices can be reviewed with resulting savings

THE WAREHOUSE

Richard Morley-Hall told us how he has worked with Stephen Tindall on introducing waste minimisation into the nationwide retail chain. The steps taken have been so successful that 98% reduction of their solid waste to landfill has been achieved – it is the final 2% which is the new challenge for the Warehouse staff.



The greatest opportunity for The Warehouse to realise significant savings however is to look up stream...back to the suppliers. The Warehouse has developed a comprehensive packaging guide for buyers and suppliers which has already seen some exciting changes in how product is packaged and shipped to stores...in some cases removing packaging altogether. By looking critically at the type of packaging used for music it was possible to do away with polystyrene packaging in favour of paper with the result saving money, time and now being 100% recyclable.

Massive electricity savings have also been achieved in new and renovated stores – such as the removal of false ceilings, which blocked out the natural light. By letting in the light the artificial lighting was not needed for large parts of the day.

The involvement of staff was crucial to recycling of cardboard and other packaging waste. To help them be involved the cardboard recycling containers were brought in under shelter so that staff did not need to be daunted by a wet trip across a courtyard to dispose of boxes.

PACIFIC WALL COVERINGS

Manufacturing Manager Neil Macdonald discussed “Should sensible businesses use cleaner production as a business efficiency tool or not?” He certainly believes they should.

Pacific Wall Coverings Ltd has been in existence for 26 years – albeit with a couple of mergers en route. It is the only wallpaper manufacturer in Australasia and produces vinyl coated embossed wallpapers using water-based inks. Manufacturing 1.6 million rolls per annum using just over ¼ million dollars on energy. \$40 000 is used each year on waste removal

The physical waste minimisation initiatives include the recycling of cardboard, wash solvents, and the components of vinyl. The energy efficiencies that have been gained have come through better lighting using skylights, heating by infrared means, water recirculation and shut-offs using a variable speed compressor. Neil spent a weekend when the plant was shut off finding out where the heating and losses were occurring.

As with The Warehouse, it was a commitment of the staff to zero waste policies that made it all happen. Most crucial to this has been the commitment of the CEO and other senior staff to the idea.

Neil has a pragmatic approach to waste minimisation. He tries to stay focussed on what materials and processes are really necessary and is always looking ahead for ways to improve or change processes and to reduce further the losses from wasted materials and other inputs.

FORMWAY FURNITURE

Paul Mather, Group Quality Engineer told us that Formway is a company that has established itself as a leading Australasian designer, manufacturer and seller of commercial workplace solutions. It has recently entered the North American market through a licensing partnership with a Chicago based US furniture manufacturer.

Formway Furniture has always had individuals interested in cleaner production and over the years there have been initiatives, which have improved the environmental performance of their manufacturing processes.

Two years ago the company began an integrated approach to the issue, which they call their Sustainable Futures Programme. This programme evolved from work done in the Design Studio, funded by TechnologyNZ, which integrated eco-design methodologies and life style assessments into an existing product development process.

In developing this programme, a key issue was the involvement of staff, in particularly the Process Engineering and the Manufacturing teams. Formway's Literacy and Numeracy programme, which was being run in conjunction with Workbase: the National Centre for Workplace Literacy & Language was seen as an ideal vehicle for getting this involvement and environmental issues were seen as ideal for developing literacy and numeracy skills.

While searching for suitable training material, Formway found out about BusinessCare and a joint venture was established using Formway as a trial place for some of the BusinessCare material.

Paul is enthusiastic about ensuring a meaningful sustainability programme is developed. This requires the company to give staff at all levels the knowledge they require and the ability to apply that knowledge to their daily work. He believes that by making sustainability part of the language and numeracy programme there will be a truer commitment to the ideals than if it had been a concept just added to people's everyday workload.

Formway is looking forward to using the BusinessCare training package as they build a sustainable business for both the customers and their stakeholders.

Other News

Sister organisation for BusinessCare?

A bit of surfing turned up a UK site which could be a sister to the BusinessCare one. <http://www.envirowise.gov.uk>

Royal Society of New Zealand convenes forum on Sustainable Development

A one day "scoping meeting" on sustainable development is being convened in Wellington on 14 February by Steve Thompson, CE of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Some 50 representatives from around the country will be attending, representing a wide range of organisations all with some involvement in sustainable development.

National issues to be discussed include:

1. confusion in the 'marketplace' arising from the wide range of different groups involved in sustainable development; and
2. lack of a coordinated approach.

Enquiries: steve@rsnz.govt.nz

Waste Minimisation Strategy Plan

The government's Waste Minimisation Strategy Plan was passed by Cabinet on Tuesday 29 January. The Environment Minister Marian Hobbs will announce the official Wellington launch of the strategy on 1 March. This will be preceded by a round of meetings to be held around the country with local authorities and other interested parties, at which representatives from the Ministry for the Environment Pollution and Waste team and Local Government New Zealand will discuss the strategy and its implications.

As the Minister explained in a press release in the *Dominion* of 25 Jan, the strategy was a coordinated step-up from present guidelines and would set targets that all authorities would be expected to meet. Councils would have to work closely with businesses that produce big quantities of waste.

Further information - contact: Brigid Preston at Ministry for the Environment brigid.preston@mfe.govt.nz

Toolkit for Change – BusinessCare's learning programme kicks off.

BusinessCare's *Toolkit for Change* learning programme began in December 2001 in the Wellington region. The programme runs over a period of about six months, depending on the needs of the participants. Participants explore together the principles of cleaner production, how to market and manage a cleaner production programme, how organisations learn and how to support businesses through a cleaner production process.

Initially the programme is directed at staff of local authorities, which are working with BusinessCare to encourage cleaner production through waste minimisation with businesses on their area. The learning phases include up to three practical workshops, each preceded by and followed up with a choice of self-paced learning activities to suit participants needs and interests.

A second programme will start to roll out in Auckland from March 2002.

Welcome to New Partners of BusinessCare

Marlborough District Council, the Nelson District Council and Kapiti Coast District Council are in the process of becoming partners with BusinessCare. Welcome and we look forward to working with you to achieve sustainable waste management in your local areas.

Business Sustainability Group (Cleaner Production Roundtable)

The third Australasian Cleaner Production Roundtable forum that took place on 28-30 November 2001 was convened by the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment and hosted in Christchurch by the Christchurch City Council.

At this forum a cleaner production / sustainable businesses framework document was drafted which sets out the way in which Australian States and New Zealand will seek to engage with respective industries and businesses to support and encourage the implementation of sustainable business practices. This forum was originally set up in 2000 to achieve better coordination and sharing of intellectual property associated with cleaner production and sustainable business initiatives and programmes across Australia at both State and Federal level.

BusinessCare's connection with the Cleaner Production Roundtable was initially made at the previous forum held in Brisbane in May 2001. The Australian representatives were keen to strengthen ties with New Zealand and this led to invitation being extended by the NZ Ministry for the Environment to be held in New Zealand. The next forum is to be hosted by South Australia in Adelaide in April.

South Australia EPA – Enviro Guidelines – Resource Recovery & Waste Transfer Depots

New environmental guidelines just out. Refer to their website for details.

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/epa/pub.html#Guidelines>

Better Business Guides (Cleaner Production and Environmental issues) ARE COUNCILS REINVENTING THIS WHEEL?

BusinessCare is aware that a number of councils are currently working to compile a "Better Business Guide" booklet/info sheet to distribute to their local businesses.

There seems to be a lack of coordination of effort and some better business guides have already been produced by various councils.

If your council or organisation has developed such guides, can you please let BusinessCare know so that, if these resources can be shared, we can advise others accordingly. Contact: enquiries@businesscare.org.nz