

# Wise Resource Use

November 2000

Produced by Cleaner Production, Waitakere City Council



## What's Not on the Menu

A growing number of restaurants, cafes and bakeries are discovering that "Waste Not, Want Not" is just as relevant today as it was before.

The Thai Kitchen, New Seoul Restaurant, Pizza Hut and the Great North Bakehouse, to name a few, are finding that just because food waste is not on the menu doesn't mean it is not valued by someone and that it should not end up in a rubbish bag.

Over the last 12 months around 20 Waitakere businesses have begun to have their food waste collected for pig food stock, allowing the businesses and farmers to save money in the process.

Westfield Shoppingtown WestCity is the most recent site to begin food waste from its outlets to collect for pig feed. Staff and management are very happy with the service and waste disposal costs have been reduced.

George Cooke, from Expanded Food Collection Services, provides 40 litre containers or 240 litre bins to restaurants, cafes and bakeries for their preparation and table scraps.



Ashleigh Clark (McDonalds), Linda Zhu (Patrics), Renato Senicic (Flames), and Ken Hardley (Operations Manager - Westfield Shoppingtown West City).

The containers make it easy and hygienic to separate the food waste from other waste. George collects the containers filled with food waste and replaces them with clean containers.

Restaurants and cafes will be able to learn about other savings (energy, water, recycling) they can make through a better practices guide due out mid-November.

Food manufacturing businesses wishing to divert food waste from going to landfill can also give George a call about collection options.

George sources many of his bins from local businesses for reuse. If your business has 40 litre containers or 240 litre bins it no longer requires, contact George and let's keep the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' circle going.

'Society tends to place no value on waste', says Brent Bielby, Waitakere City Council's Clean Retail Officer. "We can help businesses connect with each other to turn waste back into a resource, removing the need for landfills and reducing waste management costs at the same time"

For more information contact Brent Bielby, Waitakere City Council on 836 8000 x 8519 or George Cooke, Expanded Food Collection Services on (09) 422 5592.

## New Business Initiative -

### Creating resources

Throwing away one of nature's valuable resources is now a thing of the past! The Worm Firm, a charitable business of the Waitakere Special Needs Trust, helps to turn organic waste back into a resource using nature's own recyclers - worms.

The Worm Firm provides a worm composting bag service to households for around \$50 per unit (1m x 1m). The health and running of the system is checked regularly and emptied when required.

The charitable business enables the Trust to be more self-sufficient in providing specialist care and support to local people with disabilities and their families.

In keeping with the theme of 'reuse and recycle', The Worm Firm is helping to divert old carpets from going to landfill by re-using them for bin covers.

The Worm Firm will be developing a commercial worm farm system either on or off-site for businesses that generate organic waste

(manure, sawdust). If this sounds like your business contact Brett Olson on 818 0510 for more information.

It is innovation in businesses as shown by The Worm Firm that is going to make a big difference to the waste problems faced by the Auckland Region. What is your business doing to help?

One business's waste can be another's resource.

## Water savings - An easy find

---

Waitamata Health is currently planning renovations and a new building for Waitakere Hospital. Waitakere City Council has been working with Waitamata Health to assist with environmentally responsible practices being adopted during the design and construction of the new building and for the overall operations.

Most recently a water audit was conducted on the existing premises to determine current levels of water use and identify possible savings.

It was expected that water use could be reduced by assessing and repairing water-hungry devices such as continuous-flow (standard) urinals and to some extent from leakage (dripping taps).

From measuring some actual data on water volumes used by various devices, Council representatives were able to advise the Hospital on ways to reduce water consumption both now, and in their future building plans.

As a result of the audit, the total water consumption savings achieved were in the order of 4.24 litres per minute (6,105 litres per day or 2,230 m<sup>3</sup> per annum). The annual dollar value of these savings was \$3,209 per annum and equates to approx 11.5% of total annual usage.

### **Wanted!**

#### **Ten Businesses**

**who are tired of spending too much money on  
materials, waste, energy, water  
and want to become resource lean.**

#### **Action:**

**Commitment to the 12 month cleaner production  
programme 'Waitakere City's Resource Efficiency Group' for  
initiating changes in more efficient business practices.**

---

## **Waitakere City's Resource Efficiency Group**

---

The programme will provide practical support for businesses to identify changes they can make in production and business practices to use resources more efficiently, resulting in increased profitability and creating a better environment for staff and the community.

In return for your company's commitment to spend time reviewing how it can become resource lean, our Cleaner Production Team will provide support, staff education, and facilitate information sharing to help your business discover how to use its resources more efficiently and save \$\$\$ as a result.

Your company can benefit from increased productivity, reduced Health & Safety problems, environmental compliance, better public image and higher staff & community morale.

**Cost: \$1,500 (plus GST) for Waitakere based businesses**

For more information contact Michelle Dawson, Project Manager Cleaner Production on 836 8000 x 8539.

## **Business links - Auckland Environmental Business Network**

---



As with all other countries, New Zealand is confronted with many environmental issues, some being more obvious than others, eg air and water pollution, increasing waste volumes, land contamination, and ozone depletion to name a few.

The Auckland Environmental Business Network (AEBN) believes that business holds the key to reducing many of the environmental problems through innovative product design (eg eco-efficiency or design for the environment), enhanced service delivery, the adoption of environmental management tools such as Cleaner Production or Environmental Management Systems, product labelling and through reuse and recycling schemes.

The goal of the AEBN is to assist businesses on the journey to environmental improvement - principally through information, training and support. Businesses such as Phoenix Organic Foods, Urgent Couriers, and The Warehouse have used the AEBN for support, information sharing and a source of valuable information as they have worked through their organisations environmental/sustainability programmes.

The AEBN's most recent project is assisting businesses to reduce the environmental impact of vehicles through the three step 'Greening-the-Fleet' programme:

1. Being more efficient with fuels
2. Planting 28 trees per vehicle to offset carbon emissions
3. Creating the demand for alternative fuels and vehicles

If you are interested in finding out how the AEBN can support your business or if you are interested in gaining more information on the 'Greening-the-Fleet' programme, contact Rachel Brown at 817 2622 or visit [www.aebn.pl.net](http://www.aebn.pl.net) for more information.

## **Industry project - Boat building**

---

Waitakere City Council has been working on a cleaner production project focusing on the local boat building industry. Three boat building companies are acting as 'project champions' to assist in working through the issues.

The objective of the project is to identify cleaner production techniques that can assist in reducing waste, alleviating health and safety concerns, and increasing efficient resource use and productivity for Waitakere City's boat building industry, thereby increasing profitability.

During Stage One, we identified the main cleaner production issues as energy use, resource use, substance use & alternatives, fumes, dust, noise, waste management, recycling, and production processes. Stage Two will involve quantifying the above issues through energy and waste audits, researching alternatives and working through the changes with the three 'project champions'.

In July 2001, the project results will be shared through case studies, workshops and cleaner production partnerships with the rest of the Waitakere City's boat builders. The aim will be to ensure that the industry and the city benefits as a whole, through reduced waste, safer work practices, increased productivity and profitability.

# One Company's Journey

## The Warehouse



The Warehouse is New Zealand's first major retail chain to begin making

changes in its operations to reduce its impact on the environment.

It all began in September 1997 when The Warehouse Managing Director, Stephen Tindall, was first made aware of issues of sustainable development and the need for businesses to consider their social and environmental responsibilities.

During 1998, the Christchurch City Council's Waste Reduction Co-ordinator, contacted support manager Richard Morley-Hall. Realising the company could make substantial savings through improved recycling and waste reduction initiatives, Richard drove the issue through the region's stores with the assistance of the Christchurch City Council's Waste Reduction Co-ordinator.

Richard later became Environmental Coordinator for all of The Warehouse. His initial focus was to take waste reduction and recycling nationwide. Within a very short while the job description was extended to include the overall sustainable development of the company.

Effort began to be applied to projects such as supplier programmes, social and environmental auditing, Zero Waste to landfill policy, timber certification, packaging guide for buyers, and staff education.

Realising substantial savings in waste, the programme is orientated towards an understanding that to be successful, a company must have a triple bottom line of social, environmental and economic success.

The Warehouse became involved with the Waitakere City Council Clean Retail

program in 1999. Waste audits were conducted at the Henderson and Lincoln branches for staff to understand the sources of waste for The Warehouse.

The Auckland stores are currently able to recycle cardboard, paper, all plastics film, PE bottles, HDPE bottles, aluminium cans and even food scraps. Just recently The Warehouse had its first store achieve Zero Waste to land fill when it removed its skip completely.

Many of the stores have formed alliances with local schools that collect items such as polystyrene for art supplies to promote reuse and recycling.

Staff are becoming more informed on waste reduction and recycling issues, with new targets being continually set, and information sharing on recyclers and innovative practices taking place between the different stores.

The Warehouse has implemented an energy efficiency program throughout all their stores, and a full time energy manager to oversee the process. It now operates state of the art power management systems utilising natural light and light sense meters to automatically regulate light levels in stores.

The Warehouse has also begun to purchase and promote products with the Environmental Choice label. Currently it has around 20 products with the label and hopes to double that number by the end of the year.

### Savings achieved:

- Reusing distribution boxes, saving \$300,000 p.a.
- Reusing and recycling coat hangers saving \$200,000 p.a.
- Office and lunch room reuse and recycling initiatives saving \$7,000 p.a.

### Potential savings identified:

- Recycling shrink-wrap, saving \$250,000 p.a. if all shrink-wrap was to be recycled

The Warehouse will be the first to acknowledge they are on a great journey that has only just begun.

# Resources Available



## GREEN PRINT PURCHASING

During 1996-9 Waitakere City Council's Cleaner Production team worked with various representatives of the printing industry to promote changes that were safer for the environment and our residents. The project examined production practices, recycling, printing on recycled paper, and introducing vegetable-based oils. Printers that participated in the cleaner production project included Pioneer Print, Roccon Printing, Norcross Printing, Moore Gallagher Business Forms and Jolley Printing. These printers created the wave for the new print practices to emerge and paved the way for other printers to follow.

Most recently a new wave of printers has begun to implement cleaner production programmes, such as Nicholson Printing, Westside Print and West Print Ltd. Printers around New Zealand are beginning to hear about the new standard being set by our printers and are also beginning to take up the challenge of examining their business practices.

Well done Waitakere printers! If your business is interested in finding out more about "Green Printing", contact Michelle Dawson on 836 8000

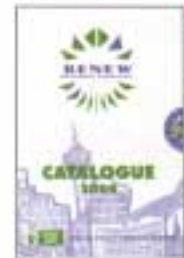


## THE BETTER BUILDING CODE

Better buildings use less energy and water and don't harm the people who work in them or the environment. Do you want to reduce the running costs and environmental impacts of your current building, or want to know how to include such requirements to architects and contractors for your new building?

The Better Building Code seeks to provide standard clauses for tendering and briefing documents for the design and construction and contains guidelines for sound project planning and management, and for the maintenance of existing buildings. It reflects experience gathered over the years at Waitakere City Council and research undertaken by various organisations such as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, the Building Research Association of New Zealand and the Auckland University School of Architecture.

If you would like a copy or have any questions please contact Waitakere City Council on 836 8000 Ext. 8365 or email [katja.lietz@waitakere.govt.nz](mailto:katja.lietz@waitakere.govt.nz). The code is also available electronically on [www.waitakere.govt.nz](http://www.waitakere.govt.nz) under 'Eco City'.



## RENEW RESOURCE EXCHANGE

RENEW is a resource exchange which assists companies to find end users for materials that are traditionally regarded as waste. Some of the materials currently listed on the database include sawdust, wood off-cuts, pallets, paper, textiles, ceramic tiles and all sizes and types of containers.

In addition to saving companies money either through reducing their disposal costs or by giving them access to inexpensive or free feedstock, the RENEW Resource Exchange assists in diverting 'waste' from going to the region's landfills.

The Auckland Regional Council (ARC) have just printed the new catalogue for the RENEW Resource Exchange. This year's catalogue has been improved in that your business can directly contact the business for the item you wish to reuse or offer for reuse.

If you have already registered with the ARC to receive the new catalogue it will not be far away. Otherwise call Jocelyn Rennie, ARC on 366 2000 x 8263 or email [jrennie@arc.govt.nz](mailto:jrennie@arc.govt.nz) for your copy.

## REPLY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide our business with more information on:

- Business Recycling
- Cleaner Production Support for our Business
- Resource Efficiency Group
- Restaurant & Cafe Project
- Green Print Purchasing
- The Better Building Code