



Connect with the World Wide Web of Life

The theme for this year's World Environment Day (5th June) is 'Connecting with the World Wide Web of Life'. This promises to be a big international event again this year, and we in Waitakere will be playing our part! We will be having events at both Lynmall and Westfield Shoppingtown WestCity over the Queens Birthday weekend in the lead up to World Environment Day. These will include entertainment for kids and plenty of interesting and informative displays.

The theme 'Connect with the World Wide Web of Life' reflects the need to make the connection in whatever way we can, between all life on Earth and ourselves. That connection can be made by businesses using resources more efficiently; ensuring unwanted resources are reused by other business or organization; or by networking with like-minded individuals or companies.

World Environment Day provides an excellent opportunity for local businesses to take action and connect with others around them.



Kanokwan Sorpanya, Thai Kitchen, holds a poster of the restaurant's environmental initiatives placed on their window last year.

Business Challenge

Waitakere City businesses can also do their bit in support of this event.

- Manufacturers can send out the company's Environmental Policy or an Information Sheet with the invoice to customers identifying the initiatives your company has undertaken to reduce your environmental impact (eg recycling, installing energy and water saving measures, or other initiatives the company has undertaken).

- Retail outlets can place a Poster in the window that informs your customers of some environmental initiatives undertaken.

- Use World Environment Day to initiate an Environmental Programme within your business. (Remember, being resource efficient saves money as well as reducing environmental impact!)

- On World Environment Day (Tuesday 5th June) conduct a Staff Meeting to discuss what initiatives the company or store might be able to undertake in the future to reduce its environmental impact.

If your company or store would like assistance with one of the above initiatives then contact Cleaner Production, Waitakere City Council for further information on 836 8000 x 8519.

Environmental policy -

Say it, do it, mean it

Does your business want to increase the efficient use of its resources, minimise waste generated, and gain increased sales from discerning consumers? How are you informing your staff, suppliers and customers of your intentions and how can you gain their buy-in and support? Develop an Environmental Policy for your business.

An Environmental Policy expresses a company's intentions and goals for the environment. It is a public statement that can be shared widely to gain support from staff, suppliers and customers as the company seeks to improve its environmental performance. You may find that your suppliers and customers are trying to improve their own environmental performance.

Remember that commitment, education, co-ordination and review are key factors to implementing and maintaining a successful environmental policy!

Sample Environmental Policy:

Commitment

We have a responsibility to minimise the impact our business has on the environment.

Policy

Our policy is to achieve this through adopting Cleaner Production techniques in respect of our products and the way in which we produce them.

Objectives

We will:

- minimise the use of energy, water and resources
- minimise waste by applying the principles of prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling
- not contribute to the pollution of the air, the earth or the waterways
- meet or exceed requirements placed on us by Acts of Parliament, Government Regulations and/or Industrial Standards
- require our suppliers and customers to assist us achieve these aims through their own practices
- provide all employees with the training support and resources needed by them to meet these objectives

Cleaner production -

Local assistance

What is Cleaner Production? Essentially it is the process of looking holistically at your business practices and identifying areas where you can be more efficient and profitable with resources and processes (manufacturing, services and retailing).

Have you ever wondered how your business can:

- Reduce energy use?
- Increase productivity while reducing material use and wastage?
- Reduce water use and wastewater discharges?
- Find safer alternatives to substances currently used?
- Minimise air, water and soil pollution?

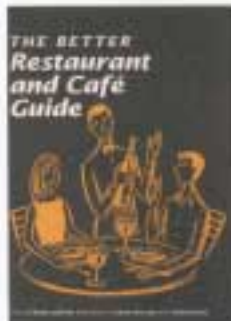
A number of Waitakere City businesses have already discovered there can be a positive relationship between the better use of resources, creating a better work environment and the resulting financial savings!

For further information or assistance contact Waitakere City Council's cleaner production team, Michelle Dawson 836 8000 x 8539 or Brent Bielby x 8519. We may be able to assist you directly, or put you in touch with other organisations for further assistance.

What are you waiting for?

Restaurants & Cafes -

Go green and lean



Ever wondered how your restaurant or café could save money and do the 'right' thing environmentally at the same time? Well, the answer lies in the 'Better Restaurant and Café Guide' developed by the Cleaner Production team at Waitakere City Council with support from North Shore, Auckland City, Hamilton, Christchurch, and Auckland Regional councils.

Whilst the information is tailored for restaurants and cafes, it is also suitable for take-away outlets, bakeries, and fruit and vegetable shops.

The guide provides advice on areas such as waste reduction, energy and water conservation, purchasing, management and marketing. There are practical checklists with simple initiatives you can implement, advice on how to assess your waste and a list of regional recyclers. An informative poster is also provided for displaying in your kitchen area to educate staff.



The Thai Kitchen in Henderson is one business that has first hand experience of the benefits from applying some of the principles presented in the guide. Since looking at its resource use and waste, the restaurant is now recycling 94% of its waste, and has reduced their disposal costs by around two thirds. Their environmental initiatives also provide a key marketing difference to customers.

"This publication will surely stimulate operators to function smarter for their own benefit, but equally it identifies that we are responsible and good neighbours in our own communities."

Restaurant Association of New Zealand

The guide will be distributed to appropriate businesses in the Waitakere region over the coming months. A number of councils around New Zealand will also be delivering the guide to local restaurants and cafes. For more information contact Brent Bielby at Waitakere City Council on 836 8000 x 8519.

Creating resources - Not waste

Are you tired of paying high disposal costs for your waste? When was the last time you took a look inside your dumpsters? Are you paying to throw away resources just because your business can't reuse them? What about other businesses, organisations or schools? You can help them and save on disposal costs!

Businesses have been calling Cleaner Production, Waitakere City Council and the RENEW Resource Exchange at Auckland Regional Council, as they identify resources their businesses no longer need that could be reused by others.

Some of these local resources include pallets, untreated sawdust, 1m³ plastic bags, and reasonable sized off-cuts of particleboard. One local business has called seeking around 1,000 20 L food-grade containers over the next year. Does your business have 20L food-grade containers it no longer requires?

If you are interested in accessing or supplying these resources through the RENEW Resource Exchange call Jocelyn Rennie, ARC for more information on 366 2000 x 8263 or call Michelle Dawson Waitakere City Council on 836 8000 x 8539.

Another option for your unwanted resources is Waitakere City Council's Christmas Gift Making event for the City's children. Every year Council co-ordinates a day for children to come and make presents for their family using recycled materials. Many of the materials are donated by local businesses. All types of resources are required - material, plastic containers, in fact anything that we can creatively turn into a gift.

So before you throw out all those boxes of unwanted resources contact Waitakere City Council Call Centre on 839 0400 with your listing of resources available for the Christmas Gift Making.

Industry project - Boat building

Work is continuing with the project champions, Alloy Yachts, Salthouse Marine Group and McDell Marine, to identify practices that can assist in reducing waste; alleviate health and safety concerns; and increase resource use efficiency and productivity in the industry.

One of the issues fibreglass boat builders face is raising the temperature of hulls to allow the resin and fibreglass to set. Currently Salthouse use gas and diesel heaters to bring the room up to temperature.

As part of this project Russell Bailey from EECA (Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority) visited Salthouse to assist in identifying possible energy efficiency initiatives. Russell suggested it would be more efficient to heat the surface of the hull rather than heat the whole room. This could be done by installing radiant heaters on the roof in line with the centre of the hull and attaching a couple to sawhorses placed under the hull. This would also allow Salthouse to target the area of the hull that needed heating rather than heating the whole hull or the whole room.

Alloy Yachts have a novel approach for disposing of their untreated sawdust. They give it by the trailer loads to a riding stable for floor coverage and to a local school for mulch. Staff also take home trailer loads of the untreated sawdust for mulch in their gardens.

Salthouse Marine and McDell Marine are about to examine the possibility of substituting acetone with a less evaporative and flammable substance in a bid to improve the indoor air quality of their sites to create healthier work environments for their staff.

Once the work with the 'project champions' is complete, the findings will be shared with the rest of the industry. For more information on the project contact Michelle Dawson, Waitakere City Council on 836 8000 x 8539.

Cleaner production

- in the metal finishing industry

Traditionally, the metal finishing industry, including electroplating, galvanizing, powder coating, has been seen as an industry that has polluted the environment.

This has been brought about either by slow discharges over many years or by a sudden event such as a fire or burst tank.

However, in recent years, a number of companies in this industry have embraced cleaner production philosophies and have dramatically improved their impact and potential impact on the environment.

Cleaner production can be broken down into three strands:

- Resource efficiency;
- Waste minimisation; and
- Pollution prevention;

These three strands can be applied to various metal finishing operations.

Resource Efficiency

One simple example of resource efficiency is covering baths at night to prevent temperature loss. This will save on electricity used to heat the baths and can result in significant savings over a period of a year.

Another example is the addition of fume suppressants to baths. As well as savings on process chemicals, this prevents pollution and improves on Health and Safety.

Water is another resource on which savings can be made by simple changes to process design. This can be as simple as the installation of flow controls or can involve, for example, the installation of a counter current rinsing system.

Waste Minimisation

There are many ways in which waste can be minimised in the metal finishing industry. On site treatment systems can reduce the amount of waste being sent to liquid waste treatment plants.

On-site treatment can also reduce the quantity of heavy metals being discharged to sewer. Some treatment systems can even recover valuable metals.

Pollution Prevention

In many cases simple changes to site design such as bunding and improvement of house keeping can dramatically reduce the risk of pollution.

*Peter Ashe operates a consultancy called **Envirogard Ltd** that works with companies on cleaner production and pollution prevention initiatives. He is a chemist with approximately 15 years experience.*

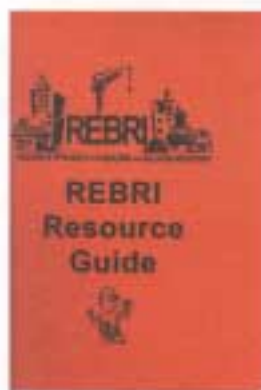
Resource Available

Minimising Waste, Reducing Costs and Caring for the Environment – a cleaner production guide for the metal industry.

The guide presents a range of options for metal product businesses to reduce material, energy and water consumption, and minimise production of waste, and summarises environmental legislation that affects metal product businesses.

To order a copy contact Enviroline, Auckland Regional Council on 366 2070.

Resources Available



REBRI Resource Guide (\$40)

Around 25% of waste disposed of in landfills comes from the construction and demolition industry. That's enough waste to fill bins in a line from Whangarei to Auckland each year.

Resource Efficiency in the Building and Related Industries (REBRI) have developed guide to assist companies in the building and related industries to introduce resource efficiency practices. This means helping companies to achieve the best way of designing, constructing and demolishing buildings using as few resources as possible. The result is less waste, or more importantly less cost!

To order a copy of the REBRI Resource Guide for \$40, contact Enviroline, Auckland Regional Council on 366 2070.



Waitakere City Council Proposed District Plan Information Brochures

Waitakere City Council is publishing new brochures offering guidance to the Proposed District Plan rules covering development in the city. Some brochures are already complete and a full set will be available by the end of 2001. These replace brochures printed several years ago and now obsolete.

The brochures are a guide only. For greater detail you may need to consult Volumes One and Two of the Rules Section of the Proposed District Plan and/or the Policy Section.

For further information, please ring our 24 hour Customer Service Line - 836 0400 or ask at any of our public counters.



Guidelines for Safety & Health in Screen-Printing Businesses

The screen-printing industry has undergone a number of changes in the chemicals and solvents used, as well as changes in production processes and practices. This has alleviated a number of health and safety, and environmental issues but many issues still require addressing to create a safe work environment.

These guidelines have been developed to provide basic practical advice and assistance to those engaged in the screen-printing industry on managing health and safety, workplace safety, health hazards and protecting the environment.

All screen-printing businesses nationwide will be receiving a free copy of the guidelines and other businesses can purchase a copy for \$12.50. For more information contact Ron Halsewood, Graphic Risk Management on 418 1493.

REPLY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph: _____

Email: _____

Please provide us with more information on:

- Business Recycling
- Cleaner Production support for our business
- World Environment Day
- Developing an environmental policy
- Better Restaurant & Cafe Guide
- RENEW Resource Exchange

Post to: Michelle Dawson, Cleaner Production, Waitakere City Council, Private Bag 93 109, Henderson, Waitakere City

Email: cleaner.production@waitakere.govt.nz

Tel: (09) 836 8000 x 8539