



## GLASS MATTERS UPDATE NUMBER 10 – MAY 2007

### Update from the Steering Group

Over a year ago we asked you to join us to form a voluntary organization whose primary aim would be to find alternative uses for glass recovered from places distant from the main glass recycling market in Auckland.

Since then we have funded a number of projects across New Zealand including its use in roading. We have also responded to and proactively lobbied on issues affecting us all as glass makers and users - such as the impact of co-mingled collections, the increasing debate over Container Deposit Legislation and the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill.

Providing support for local communities in finding an economically viable uses for recovered glass remains however a priority. We know that glass can be crushed and used as aggregate in roads or for other purposes but many communities simply don't have access to crushing equipment.

So the Forum plans to operate a mobile glass crusher to be based initially in the South Island for use by local councils and recycling operators.

By purchasing a glass crusher and funding its operation, we will provide local communities with a crusher which they can share - using the crushed glass locally in roads, as glass mulch for wineries or in construction.

John Webber told journalists: *"The only thing moving around will be the crusher not the recovered glass which will be a major*

*benefit for the environment. From talking to local councils and recycling operators, there is real demand for this service which we will test during a six month trial to start later this year."*

In addition to the South Island scheme, the Steering Group has also approved funding for the purchase and operation of a glass crusher by the Waste Resource Trust of Waiheke. This forms part of a research project to assess the benefits of managing glass recycling within a local community.

Waikeke Trust approached us to fund their glass recycling research which is being run in conjunction with Auckland University. This project is an ideal way to gain insight into how a small island community can manage its own recycled glass for use in its own roads and construction. It will provide significant information for communities not just in New Zealand but around the world on the environmental benefits of local community recycling through reduced energy and emissions.

We will hold our AGM starting at 4pm 29<sup>th</sup> August at the Novotel Ellerslie. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report is being prepared and will be launched with a Forum website.

### **Glass Forum presented to the Select Committee hearing the Waste Bill on the 26<sup>th</sup> April**

David Carter, John Webber and Lyn Mayes attended the Hearing and responded to questions from the Committee. We said that the Glass Forum did not support Container Deposit Legislation but accepted that a

waste levy which was properly researched, managed and allocated could resolve some of the regional distortions in waste management.

A list of all our members was provided to the Select Committee to demonstrate that voluntary stewardship works. David told the committee:-

*"Three years ago we signed a Packaging Accord with the Government recognizing our role as product stewards. We're probably one of the few groups at this hearing which is not asking for money but giving it. Industry has the knowledge and expertise to resolve environmental issues relating to its products and will do it cost effectively. This is the approach we have taken to glass recycling – the answer is not to prop up inefficient collection but rather to find sustainable uses for glass reuse in addition to traditional glass making. There is a new generation of recyclers who are keen to work with us on this."*

*"We're self policing – we know the players in the industry and we will be the first to address free riders but we would support a regulatory backstop for free riders."*

*"We accept that a national waste levy, properly researched, managed and allocated could resolve some of the regional disparities in waste management. For industry the devil will be in the detail and industry must be part of the solution. There needs to be complete transparency about who is eligible to receive the levy and on what it will be spent."*

*"We do not support deposit fees on packaging and do not support Container Deposit legislation (CDL). In the absence of a cost benefit analysis into the impacts of introducing CDL industry commissioned independent research. The Covec report concludes that a 10 cent per container returnable deposit would cost between NZ\$61 million and NZ\$121 million per annum over and above the existing costs for kerbside collection. This is two to three times as much as the existing kerbside*

*collection and although an additional 89000 tonnes of packaging would be recovered, it would be at a cost of up to \$1360 per tonne. The economics simply do not stack up."*

### **Alternative Uses for glass...**

In addition to the plan to purchase and operate a glass crusher in the South Island, grants have been approved for:-

- The Waste Resource Trust on Waiheke Island as above.
- Shining Path Ltd, as part of the 'Glass Mountain' strategic alliance between Central Otago Wastebusters and Shining Path Ltd will receive funding for the fabrication of a rotary wheel to assist in glass recycling.
- Palmerston North will receive funding for research into alternative kerbside collection systems and will conduct trials at the Council's expense.

### **Update on Mixed Kerbside collections**

John Webber presented the Forum's concerns about glass being mixed with paper, cans and plastics to participants at a Waste Minz workshop in Wellington on 15<sup>th</sup> May. The working session produced a lively debate about the pros and cons of including glass in co-mingled collections.

Stuart Garbutt of Recycling Design and Technology Australia said that glass presents a particular problem because it can add up to 25-35% to capital running costs of the Materials Recycling Facility. He added that between 50% and 70% of co-mingled glass is good enough to sell for beneficiation.

It is clear that co-mingled collections **will** be adopted by councils to address safety issues and increase recovered materials.

Accordingly **we** will seek ways to deal with the impacts of this on glass recovery rates and develop an appropriate action plan for our industry.

## **NZ Report into waste management by local authorities released...**

The Office of the Auditor General's report into waste management planning by territorial authorities says that there is too much focus on how to deal with waste and too little effort spent on reducing it. Despite the efforts there has been a steady increase in quantities of waste produced. This presents a challenge and opportunity to all of us.

Councils favored waste diversion and waste disposal activities rather than waste reduction. The report recommends that authorities should consider:

- what goods are to be recycled;
- how these recyclables will be collected, sorted, stored, and transported;
- how quality control systems will be provided to ensure that recycled material is not contaminated;
- whether there is a sustainable market for the recycled goods;
- the benefits of providing a recycling service;
- the cost of recycling services and how they will be funded; and
- whether the territorial authority proposes to own and/or operate any of the assets associated with recycling (for example, transfer stations, resource recovery centres, machinery).

The report is available on:-

<http://www.oag.govt.nz/2007/waste-management/>

### **Media Coverage**

We were mainly in the news for our submission to the Select Committee hearing:-

27.4.07: NZPA – No need for new law, select committee on waste told– reports our opposition to CDL

28.4.07 Dominion Post – Waste Bill spurned by glass industry

28.4.07: Otago Daily Times - no need for new law

28.4.07: The Press – Glass industry rejects new law, plugs voluntary management.

*However finding an economic solution for glass remains a big issue for local communities:-*

9.4.07: The Press "Glass may have to be dumped. A lack of markets has left Hurunui recycling with 650 tonnes of glass stockpiled..."

9.5.07 Mirror (Queenstown) Queenstown to crush glass for use in roading, construction and drainage materials.

### **Packaging issues around the world**

#### ***In UK – of interest for our wine industry***

Bulk importing of wine into the UK delivers significant reductions in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, but savings can vary significantly depending on the transport and packaging used, according to a new report from WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme).

Titled "Bottling Wine in a Changing Climate", the study illustrates where reductions in the wine trade's transport and packaging carbon footprint can be made. It analyses the footprint of wine imported from Australia and the Bordeaux region in France, and demonstrates key areas where savings can be made through use of bulk containers or bottling at source, lighter glass bottles and chosen transport method.

Significant reductions in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from the transportation of wine can be achieved by bulk importation. This can reduce emissions by 30% to 40%. In addition, lighter glass bottles can also achieve reductions of up to 30%.

However, even greater reductions are possible by combining these strategies. For instance, combining the benefits of bulk shipping and bottling in the UK into the lightest 300g bottles can result in 375g CO<sup>2</sup> savings for every 75cl bottle of wine.

[http://www.wrap.org.uk/wrap\\_corporate/news/report\\_reveals.html](http://www.wrap.org.uk/wrap_corporate/news/report_reveals.html)