



## GLASS MATTERS UPDATE NUMBER 9

### Update from the Steering Group

The Glass Forum has been successful in its campaign to raise awareness of the potential impact to glass recycling if Auckland City and Manukau City follow that of North Shore and Waitakere cities in introducing a co-mingled recyclables collection service.

The report commissioned by the Glass Forum was launched by our chairman David Carter on the 26<sup>th</sup> March. Its intent was to inform councils and rate payers that co-mingled collection and processing is likely to reduce the amount of high quality recycled glass available for reprocessing into glass.

**"Co-mingled recycling collection and recovery of materials"** was prepared by Auckland based economics practice COVEC in association with global consultancy ERM (Environmental Resources Management) and can be downloaded from:-  
<http://www.packagingaccord.org.nz/GlassPackagingForum.php>

The report concludes that *"Councils should proceed with considerable caution before introducing a co-mingled collection system...despite international shifts towards greater use of co-mingling, the experience to date does not demonstrate that it is the optimal choice."*

David Carter told journalists: *"When Waitakere and North Shore introduced mixed wheelie bin collections, it was without input from industry and the result is around 8000 tonnes of glass mixed with other materials being stockpiled down the road from New Zealand's only glass manufacturer*

*O-I in Penrose. We are very concerned that the changes proposed by Auckland and Manukau will result in large quantities of glass which are too contaminated for O-I to use. This isn't just a waste issue but has major issues for Auckland's ability to manage its energy use and Greenhouse Gas emissions because using recycled glass requires significantly less energy than using raw materials."*

*"Nowhere in the world does a recovery facility exist that is capable of delivering the vast proportion of glass to the quality required for glass making. We know that the councils would like to bring the best technology in the world to Auckland but the required technology is not proven and, even if it were, the likely cost will be prohibitive. It will require a huge leap of faith by Auckland's rate payers to spend much more than \$20 million on an untested system."*

*"And if ultimately they decide that they can't afford this level of technology, any compromise will mean we just keep adding to the stockpiles of glass and risk also contaminating paper recycling at which we are currently world leading. At the end of the day householders who go to the trouble of recycling, expect that materials will be used especially when there is both a glass manufacturer and a paper recycling mill on the doorstep."*

The message was reiterated by the Minister for the Environment in a media statement urging councils to reconsider their recycling plans.

The issue has become the subject of the NZ Herald's editorial, Rudman's City comments and several days of "letters to the editor". It has also been picked up as a potential election issue in Manukau City.

### **Glass Forum briefs National Caucus and cross party MP's on Container Deposit legislation (CDL).**

David Carter and John Webber joined the Packaging Council and representatives from retailers and manufacturers to advise a cross party group of MP's on the cost to industry and to the tax payer of introducing CDL in New Zealand. The meeting was organized by National MP Nicky Wagner. We took the opportunity to tell MP's that industry through the glass levy has voluntarily raised \$2m since 2005 which is being used to support local communities around New Zealand and to provide information on glass recycling.

Interest in CDL has been heightened following a promotional tour of New Zealand by Canadian CDL campaigner Tom Galimberti as a guest of Envision NZ.

### **Select Committee hearings into the Waste Bill have started...**

David Carter and John Webber will present to the Select Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Our submission is on:-  
[http://www.packaging.org.nz/documents/cover\\_waste\\_bill\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.packaging.org.nz/documents/cover_waste_bill_final_report.pdf)

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

We have received applications for grants in excess of \$200k:-

- The Waste Resource Trust on Waiheke Island seeks a grant to support the introduction of a new glass crushing plant.
- Shining Path Ltd, as part of the 'Glass Mountain' strategic alliance between Central Otago Wastebusters and Shining Path Ltd, requests a grant to further a project to develop high value end uses

for glass collected for recycling within Central Otago District.

- Palmerston North requests funding to investigate the best methodology for sustainably collecting glass locally.

We are also investigating the purchase and management of a mobile glass crusher which could be used around the country by local communities that cannot afford to invest in their own.

### **Media Coverage**

There has been significant news media coverage relating to the type of collection:-  
Key news items include:-

- 26.3.07: TVNZ Breakfast- interview with David Carter – see recycling method changing on [Search | tvnz.co.nz](http://www.tvnz.co.nz)
- Radio NZ: interview with John ` Webber
- 26.3.07 NZ Herald – Auckland, Manukau follow lead in wheelie bin recycling
- 29.3.07 NZ Herald – Minister warns on mixing rubbish
- 31.2.07 NZ Herald Editorial: "Mixed recycling a recipe for unnecessary waste."
- 2.4.07 NZ Herald Rudman's City: "Even the recycling industry doesn't like the sound of Auckland and Manukau's \$27m plan"

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

#### ***In South Africa***

The Glass Recycling Company has been launched through a partnership between National Government, glass manufacturers, fillers (users of glass to package their products), and recyclers to increase the recycling rate from 20% to 50% within the next five years. Additional glass banks will be installed at strategic locations throughout the country commencing March 2007.

#### ***In the UK***

WRAP Launches Its Latest Capital Support Programme For Aggregates With Separate Schemes Outlined For England And Scotland to promote sustainable aggregates.