



**GLASS MATTERS
UPDATE NUMBER 7**

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND ACCORD PARTNERS

Update from the Steering Group

At the Steering Group's final meeting of 2006 held on 17th November, Rachel Depree, General Manager of the Sustainable Industries Group for the Ministry for the Environment talked about the Government's product stewardship expectations.

It is encouraging that Government sees the Glass Forum as important because it demonstrates that it is possible to put a levy on a product through a voluntary scheme. Whilst others say it can't be done glass is proving through our membership that where there is a will, there is a way.

It is also rewarding to learn that the Glass Forum is used as an exemplar of product stewardship working effectively. We were reminded however that it is critical that we continue to be a Forum for leadership to help solve the problems of waste.

Co-mingling is not going away

We have met with Auckland Mayor Dick Hubbard, Councilor Neil Abel and Auckland City officials and O-I New Zealand also hosted a meeting with Auckland City and Manukau City officials to discuss plans to introduce commingled collections into both cities.

These meetings were constructive and demonstrated the willingness to find waste collection and processing solutions which maximize packaging recovery rates and

minimize health and safety, litter and other impacts.

As a result, the request for tenders included O-I's specification for glass cullet, which is the standard specification required by the glass manufacturer, wherever it operates around the world. Tender responses will be evaluated by both councils from March 2007 onwards in order to have a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in place by 2008 when the current waste services contracts end.

We have written to both Mayors to thank them and their officials for working with the Glass Forum and summarizing the environmental and economic costs to the Auckland region which would arise if the MRF is not able to process glass, paper and other materials to the specifications required by the recycling operators. *These include:-*

- Current experience with commingled collections in Waitakere and North Shore has seen a 40% reduction in the glass which these two councils can process through O-I. This has led to a stockpile of some 9000 tonnes glass at the recycling operator's premises.
- Glass cullet requires 2% less energy for every 10% of cullet in comparison to the use of virgin materials including silica. The cullet is sourced locally in New Zealand compared with raw materials which are imported from Australia.

- Using raw materials rather than glass cullet to make glass will increase GHG emissions because sodium carbonate and calcium carbonates need to be added to the raw materials resulting in much higher levels of CO². This will have a considerable impact on the region's GHG emissions and its ability to respond to climate change.
- O-I is investing NZ\$78 million in a 3rd furnace (AK4) which will be introduced at its Auckland facility in 2007. This will increase capacity to produce glass locally by 60% to around 200,000 tonnes per annum. This will in turn reduce glass imports to the country from Australia and Asia.

So we have commissioned an independent study into best practice...

To inform industry, local and central government about the possible best practice co-mingling facilities operating around the world and to understand better best practice compaction rates to reduce glass wastage. We want to assist in identifying a state of the art collection and MRF system.

Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill awaits select committee hearings

Submissions to this Bill are expected to be heard in or after February 2007. The Glass Forum has recommended to the Select Committee that it visits member companies across glass manufacturing, filling and retailing to understand the ramifications of the product stewardship clauses on industry if these sections of the Bill be enacted.

The Packaging Council published the independent report by Covec which was commissioned by PAC NZ and the Glass Forum into the cost of introducing Container Deposit Legislation into New Zealand.

The report can be downloaded from:-
http://www.packaging.org.nz/documents/covec_waste_bill_final_report.pdf

Packaging issues around the world

In Europe: On 6 December the Commission adopted its report to the Council and European Parliament on the implementation of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, and its impact on the environment and on the functioning of the Internal Market. Its main conclusions are as follows:

- All the targets in the Directive were met in 2002. The costs of meeting the Directive's recycling obligations were not significantly higher than the cost of disposal, and the cost trend is downwards.
- Recycling of packaging had positive environmental effects, including greenhouse gas savings and resource savings. The costs for packaging recycling are of the same order of magnitude as the most cost-efficient alternatives for the reduction of CO₂ emissions are other environmental impacts.
- The Directive's recovery and recycling targets are currently optimal, and all member states should be given time to catch up with them. The targets should therefore be maintained until well after 2008, or at least until the 2010 review of the Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste has been completed.
- Packaging prevention targets would not work, and could be counter-productive. Policy should focus more on sustainable production and consumption than on packaging prevention per se, since the demand for packaging is driven by the demand for packaged goods.

As a contributing consultant to the Commission, Perchard's summary and a link to the report can be found at:

http://www.perchards.com/News_Archive/vi ew_news.php?ssdID=358

Glass Projects Update

The steering group has agreed to extend the criteria for grants. Accordingly we have identified projects which under these revised criteria may be appropriate. These include assistance for community groups in the provision of infrastructure and the financing of research into co-mingling best practice. We encourage community groups to approach us if they have recycling infrastructure or set up issues.

Recycling operators have commenced formal two year trials for the use of glass on golf courses to ensure that the original successful short term trials meet the ongoing standards required by the NZ Turf Institute.

We are also in discussions about the creation of random glass blocks for insertion in masonry walls.

Media Activity

We have released a news release to media, local and central government departments to publish the findings of a comparative study of two between two different methodologies of crushing glass into aggregate for roads. This report shows that whether glass is crushed separately and mixed later with minerals or crushed together with minerals, the costs are broadly similar.

In a letter to the Minister for the Environment, we have asked the Government to show leadership by placing a value on using sustainable aggregates so that glass recovered locally is utilized in local infrastructure.

The media release "Industry asks government to encourage contractors to use recycled aggregates such as glass in our roads": can be downloaded on:

<http://www.packagingaccord.org.nz/GlassPackagingForum.php>

The news release was supported by The New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development and Green MP Nandor Tanczos.

And John Webber provided interviews to the Dominion Post and Nelson Mail.

In the news:

The Costs of CDL

The Covec report into the costs and benefits of Container Deposit Legislation has been covered in the main broadcast and print business media including:-

Independent Financial Review;

New Zealand Herald - The Business;

National Business Review;

Radio NZ;

Newstalk ZB

TVNZ ASB Breakfast: Download Executive Director of PAC NZ Paul Curtis's interview on ASB Breakfast:

http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/414443?video_id=902175

And in other news:-

3.11.06: The Timaru Herald: The Prime Minister officially opened Timaru's Materials Recovery Facility.

10.11.06: The Press: Christchurch councilors have voted to introduce a three bin recycling system with separate wheelie bins for greenwaste, recyclables and rubbish

9.12.06: Road to the Future – its clear as glass. Interview with John Webber and Palmerston North re use of glass in aggregate mix.