



## GLASS MATTERS UPDATE NUMBER 11 – July 2007

### Update from the Steering Group

Auckland City and Manukau City have awarded the tender for its state of the art recycling centre to Visy Recycling New Zealand. David Carter has written to both Mayors to congratulate them on bringing the most technologically advanced recycling facility in the Southern Hemisphere to Auckland.

We also congratulate Visy on winning this tender.

We have been vocal in raising awareness that recycling facilities around the world have not produced glass to the quality which is required in making glass containers. However we accept that technology is improving all the time and that the system which Visy will operate will be significantly better than exists elsewhere.

Mayor of Auckland Dick Hubbard says:

*"It will be the most technologically advanced recycling facility in the southern hemisphere...able to sort 80,000 tonnes of recyclable waste yearly from Manukau and Auckland city households and convert more than 95 per cent into reusable product."*

The Glass Forum will hold its AGM starting at 4pm 29<sup>th</sup> August at the Novotel Ellerslie. The Glass Packaging Forum's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report and our new website will be launched.

Our guest speaker is renowned business and political commentator **Colin James**. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Decision on Waste Bill delayed until October

The Select Committee has delayed its decision on the Waste Bill until October to give it further time to review and assess submissions.

We hope that they will consider the latest poll from the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development which gives the thumbs down for a container deposit charge.

The survey found:-

*"Support for a new charge on containers evaporates when New Zealanders are asked if they want to pay and are given a choice of alternatives. 84% prefer using kerbside and more bins in public places for container recycling than being forced to pay an extra charge, according to the ShapeNZ poll of 1378 respondents nationwide from June 15-20<sup>th</sup>"*

However interest in container deposits continues with a visit by some members of the Select Committee to see container deposit operations in South Australia.

Accordingly the Forum will continue to work closely with the Packaging Council to further research into the true costs of CDL and to update existing research to reflect the improved recovery rates anticipated from the new Materials Recovery Facility process.

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

The contract for operating the Forum's mobile crushing programme has been awarded to Barry Lucinsky and Silaca Crushers Ltd. Under the agreement the Forum will finance the capital costs and organise the planning and administration, while Silaca Crushers operates the plant as directed by the Forum.

We are extremely grateful to Lion Nathan who have agreed to sponsor a significant part of the capital costs of the crusher which will enable us to direct funding towards operational costs and other potential recycling solutions.

The principal objective is to provide a service which is more cost effective than transporting glass to and from crushing facilities or erecting 'on site plant' not designed to be utilised in a mobile capacity. There has been a flow of interest from local community groups and councils from all over the South Island with 8500 tonnes already identified for processing. We expect the crusher to be launched in September.

## **Media Coverage**

Our planned glass crushing operations have received good coverage in local community newspapers. We will look to build on this when the crusher "goes live".

We also provided comment on the survey into people's attitude to Container Deposits and Waste Levies:

### ***New Zealanders know best when it comes to container deposits...***

David Carter told journalists that the Business Council's survey shows that New Zealanders believe that container charges are a tax too far and that there are more economic ways to improve recycling.

*"It is clear from this poll that people want to recycle more and reduce their waste*

*but are discerning about how this is achieved. So in contrast to a rejection of container deposits, the majority support a waste levy. 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 as indicated in the Business Council's recommendations."*

## ***Glass initiatives around the country...***

We congratulate Palmerston North Council on their excellent initiative launch a rap DVD promoting recycling and telling people how to do it. The five-minute DVD carries a distinctive rap recycling message delivered by local actors and singers, produced by William Faulkner of Chillybin Productions.

## **Packaging issues around the world**

***In UK*** – weighing up the economic and environmental costs and benefits of exporting glass cullet

An assessment of the International Trading Markets for Recycled Glass has revealed that Intra-Europe trade of cullet makes economic and environmental sense but the case for export outside of Europe – although it provides greater CO2 savings than domestic aggregates use – is currently more marginal from an economic perspective.

Domestic use in the manufacture of glass fibre insulation is environmentally and economically attractive but export and fibre use together may still not be able to absorb all the additional glass collected, meaning that alternative markets will continue to need to be developed. However, where cullet is used in aggregates there is a cost in terms of missed environmental benefit.

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