



**GLASS MATTERS
UPDATE NUMBER 16 – July 2008**

UPDATE

The Waste Minimisation Bill is now at Committee stage in Parliament where all the amendments will be debated. With the departure of Nandor Tanczos, the Bill is now sponsored by Dr Russell Norman Green Party co-leader.

It is listed as the second Members' Bill scheduled for debate on the most recent Parliamentary Order Paper, behind Sue Bradford's Corrections (Mothers with Babies) Amendment Bill. Once it has progressed through the committee stage, the Bill will be referred to the House for its third reading

On 30th July debate had commenced on the Bill. The next possible date for the debate to continue before the Bill can proceed to its 3rd reading is Wednesday 27th August. It is therefore uncertain as to whether the Bill will be cleared during this Parliament.

PACKAGING ACCORD

We are currently preparing the mass balance data for 4th Year of the Packaging Accord ending June 2008. Last year we achieved 53% and we expect a significant improvement this year as projects and activities come to fruition.

We are now in the 5th and final year of the voluntary Accord and will be working with the Packaging Council and with the Ministry for the Environment to prepare the groundwork for a further voluntary accord.

Given the uncertainty around the Waste Bill which sets provisions for "priority products"

to be selected by the Minister for the Environment and his Advisory Board, the steering Group has agreed that we should continue to work for a voluntary Accord for glass in view of the huge contribution which our voluntary product stewardship levy system is making to glass recycling.

To hear more about our performance under this Packaging Accord and the challenges and opportunities of a subsequent voluntary Accord we have invited Tony Nowell, CNZM, Chair of the Packaging Accord 2004 Governing Board to address our 2nd AGM.

Tony has wide international experience with his most recent role as Chief Executive ZESPRI International following six years as Managing Director of Griffin's Foods, a subsidiary of French company Groupe Danone. Tony spent 12 years in Asia working in senior management roles for global companies Sara Lee and L'Oreal.

We look forward to seeing you at 4pm on the 17th September at the Waipuna, Auckland.

GLASS RAP COMPETITION

Our key promotional activity during the first 6 months of 2008 has been the glass recycling education programme featuring rap artist Che Fu.

Whilst this has clearly been aimed at young people, we have been able to successfully connect with teachers, parents, local community leaders, the media and politicians throughout this process and this is consistent with our strategic plan to engage with key stakeholders.

The Hon Trevor Mallard, Minister for the Environment welcomed the initiative:-



"There is no better way to get young people involved than through their peers, and I hope the raps these teams have developed get the recycling message out there and inspire young people to do what they can to protect our environment.

I applaud the Glass Packaging Forum for organising the competition. Thanks also to Che Fu for his time and being such a great role model for young kiwis."

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

Over 60 schools entered the competition and in June Che Fu and our very own John Webber turned up at Fitzroy School in New Plymouth and Fairfield School in Dunedin to tell the two winning rap groups that they were going to Auckland to record their music in the York Road Studio with him.



The Storm, Fitzroy School

At Fitzroy School 10 year olds Sean Hone, Luke Abbot, Danyon Doeg and 9 year old Fraser Wood were amazed when Che Fu walked into their classroom where they were having a music lesson. Half an hour later the boys and their rap band The Storm were performing in front of the whole school with Che Fu backing them up.

The boys said they had worked hard on researching their lyrics and had emailed councils to find out how they managed glass recycling and had visited the New Plymouth District Council recycling facilities.

Then it was off to Dunedin where Che Fu rapped on the door at Fairfield School to tell the Wireless rap group Sam Petrie, Jackson Free and Corey and Scott Donaldson (all 12) that their awesome tight rapping style made them the South Island winners.



Wireless, Fairfield School

The Forum then whisked the boys off to Auckland for an amazing weekend which included a full day at York Studio recording their lyrics with Che Fu and learning about how to make and perform music professionally. It was a day they will never forget. Together they worked with Che Fu to perfect the world's first glass recycling rap which they have named "Do the Krusher" to promote the mobile glass crusher which started the whole competition off.



Che Fu and the boys live at Parliament

Then the boys and Che Fu performed their rap in the Prime Minister's own press briefing room at the Beehive. Trevor Mallard, the Minister for the Environment,

and National's Associate Spokesperson for the Environment Nicky Wagner, joined the Glass Forum to watch the boys' spectacular efforts. The boys each received cds of their own music; an ipod (provided by Forum member O-I NZ) and the two winning schools were presented with \$1000 each.

If you haven't taken a look at our website, we encourage you have a look at the video coverage.

www.glassforum.org.nz

ONGOING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Following the success of the competition and the number of requests which we have received from schools for our involvement in promoting recycling to their students, we have agreed with Che Fu to work together on an education programme for schools which will help make sustainability real for students through a mix of music and dance.

The education programme will be branded Glass Matters and has a new logo to support it:



WHY WE ARE DOING THIS

This education programme is consistent with the requirement of the Packaging Accord to improve recycling rates through consumer communications.

We have received excellent media coverage throughout and were delighted to be selected as TV3 Sunrise's selected environmental story on World Environment Day 5th June:-

<http://www.tv3.co.nz/Video/CheFusurprisesr/competitionwinners/tabid/572/articleID/58351/cat/76/Default.aspx>

Our Chair David Carter says that education is part of the Glass Forum's ongoing journey towards improving recycling rates in New Zealand:-

"We have been successful in finding new alternative uses and perhaps more importantly we have acted as a catalyst for change. But along the way we have had to face up to high profile stories of glass mountains; new methods of returning glass through mixed collections in the large centres of Auckland and Christchurch; to calls for Container deposit legislation all amidst a backdrop of the Waste Bill passing through the parliamentary process.

We soon realized that simply putting our hands in our pockets to provide funds did not work and would not deliver our ultimate goal that "all glass recovered in New Zealand is recycled". For this to happen we needed to work with local councils, recycling operators, community trusts and central government to identify, develop and deliver new glass recycling opportunities.

Just as schools are for learning, business must learn too from experience. We have learnt that research and development alone are not enough to bring good ideas to fruition. The research whether in assisting with specifications; cost benefit analysis of different crushing methodologies; or reviewing different types of collections have been an important step along the way with the result that glass is now used in our roads and construction

As a result we expect glass recycling in New Zealand this year to more than exceed the 55% recycling target set in 2004. We are doing better than in Australia and the UK where glass recycling is around 45% but we can and will do better."

Project Update

Mobile Glass Crusher acts as a catalyst

One outcome of our investment in the mobile glass crusher has been that it has acted as a catalyst to others to provide glass crushing to their local communities. Given it was not our aim to compete with or threaten the commercial viability of other operators we are delighted that many commercial operators are now providing glass crushing services to their customers with some spectacular results.

GLASS RECYCLING



On 2nd July the Glass Forum was welcomed by Palmerston North City Council at the launch of their "Review of New Zealand's Glass Recycling Collection Options" which was a recipient of one of our grants.

The study considers the social, environmental and economic impacts of different collection methodologies and subsequent recycling and recommends that:-

1. For optimum recycling, glass should not be commingled with other materials because commingling will decrease the amount of acceptable quality glass;
2. The amount of recovered glass in the Auckland region suitable for making new containers will likely decrease as a result of commingled collections;
3. Glass collection from individual (and smaller) local authorities should be coordinated to achieve economies of scale.
4. Glass recycling back to Auckland is uneconomic from the South Island; and
5. Excess collected glass should be crushed at source where possible and used in aggregates - a 5 to 10% crushed glass mix aggregate mix at \$30 to \$50 per tonne will create significant waste diversion savings in the long term as landfill charges rise;

6. The Glass Packaging Forum needs to provide long term support in terms of providing both reliable data and coordinating crushing of aggregate.
7. A review of glass recycling is undertaken once the full commingled system is introduced in Auckland and Christchurch.

Andrew Slack Co-author of the report told the audience:

"Based on our research, we recommend that the best recycling solution is to introduce a separated glass collection such as the multi compartment (Castle) wheelie bin or glass bottle bank system rather than adopting fully co-mingled kerbside collections."

The study findings are supported by recent UK research conducted by WRAP: see page 6.

For a CD of the full report please contact: donna.glassforum@xtra.co.nz

LITTER SOLUTION

The Forum has approved a request for funding by the Zero Waste Academy at Massey University to support the development of a motor scooter mounted vacuum system capable of rapidly and cost effectively cleaning up broken glass and litter.

We support this initiative as part of our role in educating people to put bottles into the appropriate recycling system as well as addressing concerns about discarded glass.

Wastebusters - Ashburton



John Webber will address the Zero Waste Conference in August as part of our ongoing sponsorship of this important South Island based event.

Packaging issues around the world



For and Against Container Deposit Legislation

In New Zealand

The Packaging Council released a detailed review of the economic and environmental impacts of introducing a container deposit system in New Zealand conducted by independent economic consultancy Covex.

This report updates a previous report undertaken by the same economists in 2006 on the possible impacts of the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill. For this review the number of containers to be included in a deposit refund scheme has been amended to just beverage containers (excluding food jars and cans, milk containers and aerosols). Also 2006-2007 recycling data has been used which reflects a 20% improvement in recycling over the previous year.

The revised analysis concludes that though a deposit refund scheme would reduce waste from landfill by approximately 45,000 tonnes, the net impact on New Zealand consumers would be an additional annual cost of between \$48 and \$90 million. Using the mid range estimate, the additional annual cost would be around \$1600 for every additional tonne recycled.

See www.packaging.org.nz

In Australia and the Pacific Islands

The CDL discussion in Australia has been reignited in part by a Senate inquiry into waste; Tasmania's feasibility study into CDL and a national inquiry currently underway.

An independent packaging sustainability report prepared for the Packaging Council of

Australia has been challenged by The Boomerang Alliance. However the co-authors of the report Perchards have robustly countered the Alliance's inaccurate interpretation of the report.

In USA

In **California** a Bottle Bill to extend CDL has been passed by their Senate and has been referred to the House. The 2008 Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act provides for some administrative changes. For example, the current law specifies that when the redemption rate for any one type of beverage container falls below 65%, the act provides for an increased refund value. The revised bill would remove that requirement and all requirements for reporting redemption rates. It also eliminates processing fees for 2009.

The most significant change to the law for consumers, however, is that it will cover all plastic bottles, including those not containing beverages. It also expands the containers covered to all sealed beverage containers, eliminating the current law's provision that excludes aseptic cartons.

Iowa Governor's proposal to update their deposit law generated a lot of attention and little approval. It included adding non-carbonated beverages and increasing the deposit to ten cents; however, consumers would have only received an 8¢ refund. The governor abandoned the proposal, but there is no shortage of other bottle bills in Iowa.

There are 14 other US states considering CDL.

Note: Recycling rates in non deposit states of USA are estimated to be around 28% and much lower than other parts of the world.

US retailers say cost of extending CDL would be exorbitant

Grocers and beverage trade associations are lobbying against an effort to expand Michigan's bottle law to include water, sports drinks and other noncarbonated beverages. The American Beverage Association said that as much as US\$60 million to \$100 million in costs could be passed on to consumers annually, should the bottle bill expand.

"Municipal recycling programs cost about \$150 a ton to recycle material, while deposit programs like the one we have in Michigan cost in the range of \$500 to \$800 per ton to recycle material. To expand the deposit law to water, tea and juice containers, the cost of recycling that incremental amount would (go up to) \$1,500 to \$1,800 per ton."

In Europe

New research published by WRAP indicates that up to 78% of day-to-day waste - mainly food, paper and card - produced by schools in England could be easily recycled or composted.

This would save local authorities more than £6m in landfill tax. Waste produced during the school day by England's 20,871 primary and secondary schools is estimated at more than 250,000 tonnes each year, which is enough to fill Wembley Stadium.

Of this waste, mostly discarded food, paper and card, an estimated 78% or 200,000 tonnes could be readily recycled or composted. The study analysed a week's-worth of waste from 24 schools in four different local authorities and found that, on average, primary schools generated 45kg of waste per pupil and secondary schools 22 kg per pupil over the 40 week academic year.

UK study into costs and benefits of different recycling systems raises questions about co-mingled collections

The report looks at good practice in recycling services and models their relative

costs and performance. It covers the costs of widely used kerbside collection systems in three main categories:

- kerbside sort, where different types of materials such as glass and plastic bottles are put into separate compartments of a collection vehicle
- single stream co-mingled, where everything goes into one vehicle and is then sorted at a materials recovery facility (MRF), and
- two stream partially co-mingled, where householders separate recyclables into two categories, usually fibres (paper and card) and containers (glass, cans and plastic bottles).

The report found that kerbside sort schemes are more cost effective for Local Authorities than single stream co-mingled. However, two stream co-mingled collections where paper is kept separate, have similar net costs to kerbside sort schemes.

Co-mingled schemes had generally been thought to be cheaper to run but fare less well when the cost of sorting the material at a MRF is taken into account.

The study found that **contrary to the popular belief that co-mingling is more successful in collecting recyclable materials, what determines how much recycling people do is the size of the containers they have to put it in.**

Earlier work by WRAP found that kerbside sort schemes achieve higher quality recyclable materials than co-mingled collections, as there is less risk of non-recyclables being included.

However the report acknowledges that different areas have different needs and there is no such thing as a "best scheme". Co-mingled schemes may be the best option in some areas such as inner cities, where on street parking prevents kerbside sorting and there are lots of multi-occupancy houses where it is difficult to store multiple containers.