



GLASS MATTERS UPDATE NUMBER 8

Update from the Steering Group

The Steering Group met on 27th February for its first meeting of 2007. Much has happened in the early part of the year with the Prime Minister's speech and its focus on sustainability setting the agenda for a busy year.

We have received a letter from the Minister for the Environment David Benson-Pope in response to a letter of concern from our Chair about co-mingled collections. The Minister congratulates the Forum on its initiatives which he considers are examples to all parties in a supply chain; applauds our efforts in getting the O-I specifications for glass in the Auckland City tender documents (*albeit these are not mandatory*) and agrees that the Packaging Accord is the ideal forum for addressing the wider issues of single stream recycling

Since we started the Forum with a mission to find alternative uses for glass, the goal posts have moved. We are no longer a single issue organization. Accordingly this year we will:

1. Address co-mingling by ensuring the widest promotion of the issues;
2. Present our submission to the Select Committee hearing the Waste; Minimisation (Solids) Bill and actively highlight the costs related with extended producer responsibility incl. CDL;
3. Continue to drive research and development of alternative uses for glass;
4. Promote the work of the Glass Forum to local communities and other stakeholders; and

5. Increase membership
Co-mingling is still a real issue...

Auckland City's tender for a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) will close 6th March.

We are meeting with the Mayor's office to discuss the independent research commissioned by the Forum and reports which have been published recently in the UK.

"Co-mingled recycling collection and recovery of materials" prepared by Auckland based economics practice COVEC in association with global consultancy ERM (Environmental Resources Management) will be released by the Forum this month. We will circulate copies to each of you.

In December John Webber and Lyn Mayes visited the new MRF in Timaru and met with local council representatives, recycling operators and journalists. The site is an excellent example of community recycling. Glass processed there will be used locally in roading – it is not intended to be of a specification suitable for processing by O-I.

Last week John Webber was invited by Palmerston North City Council to join them at the opening of the new \$1.5m Awapuni Recycling Center by the Prime Minister. Palmerston North continue to be leaders in utilizing glass in local roading projects.

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

The select committee will be hearing Auckland based submissions on the 26th and 27th April. The Chair will present The Forum's submission. The report can be downloaded from:-

http://www.packaging.org.nz/documents/cover_waste_bill_final_report.pdf

Alternative Uses for glass...

There has been much interest in the report which we released in November providing a cost- benefit analysis of different methodologies of processing glass aggregate in roads.

Several councils have asked for more information and our work will continue in this area particularly now that the Government has committed to a sustainable procurement policy. We are calling for environmental criteria to be included in the consideration of roading contracts and construction. In this we are supported by the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development.

We are also exploring the development of specifications for using glass in construction e.g concrete, installation, filtration systems.

Our criteria for funding now includes support for plant where this might be used across a number of communities which currently do not have access to processing plants.

Media Coverage

9.12.06 *The Press* - Road to the Future – it's as clear as Glass

8.12.06 *Wairarapa Times Age* – When glass is a good thing

8.12.06 *Northern Advocate* – More glass in roading urged

9.12.06 *Dominion Post* -Glass roads cut it

12.12.06 *Waiuku & District Post* – Broken glass requested for roads

12.12.06 *Katikati Advertiser* – Recycled glass as roading material ruled out

13.12.06 *NZ Tenders Gazette* – Lobby pushes for more glass in roading

14.12.06 *Rodney Times* – Plea to see the light and build glass roads

19.12.06 *Timaru Herald* – Interview with Glass Packaging Forum

20.12.06 *Marlborough Express* – Council finds uses for crushed glass

20.12.06 *Dargaville and Districts News* - Glass roads are cheaper

In the news...

Waikato Times – Waipa brings in kerbside recycling in March 07

Dominion Post – Kapiti road to be built on recycled bottles.

Packaging issues around the world

WRAP in the UK has launched a series of reports relating to co-mingled collections.

- Only a small number of UK MRFs process glass with other materials. Glass contamination of the paper stream is considered a business risk and paper sorted at UK MRF's which also handle glass is exported overseas¹
- Colour sorting of glass does not take place in UK MRFs and glass recovered goes to the aggregates markets. The introduction of colour sorting capacity will depend on justifying the additional cost. The decision will depend on whether colour sorting of glass is viable from an economic viewpoint
- A UK study finds that MRFs residue range varies from 1.5% to 20%. If materials don't meet the quality specifications required by reprocessors this will possibly lead to more materials being exported or landfilled.

These reports can be downloaded from <http://www.wrap.org.uk/>

¹ Most of the 61 existing MRFs receive papers, magazines, steel and aluminium cans and plastic bottles (HDPE, PET). However, only a very few facilities accept glass as part of a commingled stream, but glass is delivered as a separate stream to several MRFs for bulking.