



GLASS MATTERS UPDATE NUMBER 5

Governance

Our 1st General Meeting was held on September 21st and whilst attendance was not as high as expected, several members informed us in their apologies that we have their support. David Carter, Chair presented the background to the Forum's establishment and summarized our first six months of activity. David's presentation is available on request.

Guest speaker Tim Denne of analytical consultancy Covex presented the findings of the research conducted on behalf of the Packaging Accord and part funded by the Glass Forum into Container Deposit Legislation. Tim outlined why they have taken a more conservative approach to incorporate best practice solutions to container recovery into existing frameworks. In short, even with this approach, the cost of introducing CDL into New Zealand alongside kerbside collections would be in the range of \$61 million to \$121 million.

An update on the Glass Market: *Why it's affecting our ability to hit our Accord target*

The meeting provided a timely opportunity for the steering group to meet with members to outline what's happening in the glass recovery market which is and will continue to be dynamic. Whilst O-I's announcement of a 3rd furnace to come on line end 2007 will increase the demand for glass cullet at that time, we are still struggling to meet our Accord target recovery rate of 55% by 2008. This year despite our best efforts to find new markets

for glass and a 5% increase in the amount of glass recovered, the percentage of glass reused over glass consumed has reduced slightly to 49%. A key contributing factor has been the change to co-mingled collections by North Shore and Waitakere City Councils which has reduced the amount of suitable glass cullet available for processing at O-I by 3000 tonnes in the first six months since introduced.

As more councils move to co-mingled collections, experience to-date tells us that an estimated 30-40% of this glass will not be suitable for use in glass making and it is our job to work with local councils and recycling operators to find alternative uses for this glass or to improve the usability of the glass recovered.

We are also seeing councils introduce kerbside collections around the country with new services coming on stream over recent months in Queenstown, Wanaka, Whangarei, Timaru and a new service planned in Westport before Christmas. Finding preferably local markets for this glass is a key part of our work.

Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill

Take a look at our submission on <http://www.packagingaccord.org.nz/GlassPackagingForum.php>.

From our discussions with MP'S we know that as one of the first large scale voluntary levy, the Glass Forum will have an important role to play. We will continue to keep close to what's happening in this area.

Packaging issues around the world

Recycling targets and how to achieve them are a hot topic in many countries.

UK: In the UK Government's recent discussion paper on waste minimization¹, they reported progress towards reaching the targets set in 2000 for the recycling and composting of household waste by 2005, 2010 and 2015 ((25%, 30% and 33%) and for recovery of municipal waste (40%, 45% and 67%). Whilst the 2005 target was met, many stakeholders are pressing for higher recycling and composting targets for household waste so the Government proposes to set higher household recycling and composting targets for 2010, 2015 and a target for 2020. The paper also highlights major policy changes which have been implemented since 2000 to help deliver on the targets. These include:

- the introduction of progressive increases in Landfill Tax, up to £35 per tonne to incentivise alternative ways of managing and disposing of waste.
- setting up the Aggregates Levy, to encourage the use of recycled materials and address the environmental costs associated with quarrying (e.g. noise, dust and visual intrusion);

Projects Update

Cost benefit analysis We await the full report from Bartley Consultants into the respective findings from the trials which have been conducted in Nelson and Palmerston North. This work will be valuable in our ongoing discussions with councils about the economics of using glass for aggregate in roads.

Ashburton – John Webber attended a workshop of South Island recycling

¹ Review of England's Waste Strategy A Consultation Document
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wastestrategy/review/review-consult.pdf>

operators as part of the ongoing relationship resulting from our support for the consortium looking to send quality glass to Australia for use in cats' eyes. We continue to improve our understanding of the challenges facing recycling operators.

Communications

During September, our focus has been on communicating to members and potential members about the Forum. With political discussions around a waste levy and recommendations for Container Deposit Legislation, we have increased our advocacy work in preparation for the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill Hearing. As a glass sector group, we have provided an annual update for inclusion in the Year 2 Accord Report.

We will have a stand at this year's Foodtech Packtech and the Waste Minz Conference so that we can educate industry and recycling operators about the work we are doing and its challenges. If any member would like to use the stand in future for their own internal meetings, please let us know.

Media releases

We have supported the Packaging Council's release of the 2005-2006 mass balance data:

http://www.packaging.org.nz/packaging_info/packaging_consum.php

In the news:

Hurunui District – where we have helped with funding to test the viability of producing "foamed glass" for the building industry, we were pleased to see the Hurunui News report a "Drive to find new markets for recyclables" which will see the new installation of a glass crusher to crush the 600 tonnes of stockpiled glass.

Similarly In *Central Otago – The Mirror* reports that the "Glass Pile is not a problem" because glass will be crushed for roading using the Transit specification.