



GLASS MATTERS UPDATE NUMBER 12 – September 2007

Annual General Meeting

Thanks to all who attended on 29th August. Prior to the formal Agenda, John Webber updated members on progress over the last year. He highlighted the need to extend membership thereby widening the mandate of the Forum and defined those issues that would determine future direction.

The Steering Group is confident that the glass target under the Accord will be reached. Glass crushing will optimize the glass which is surplus to O-I's requirements; uneconomical to transport to Auckland or not of the quality required for glass making due to the method of collection.

The question of Forum support for Public Place Recycling was raised. The Chairman advised that the potential amount of glass containers which might be recovered through Public Place Recycling gives this a high public profile. In addition there is a public perception that glass is associated with litter which needs to be addressed.

Our guest speaker business and political commentator **Colin James** provided an entertaining and provocative insight into the big picture for New Zealand and some of the possible fine print for business as the political parties prepare for a 2008 election.

Glass Recycling hits new high... showing voluntary stewardship works

New Zealanders recycled nearly 110,000 tonnes of glass containers in the past year - an increase of almost 18% over the previous year or equivalent to an additional 17000 tonnes of glass. David Carter said

that this achievement can be attributed to the major efforts made by the local authorities in collecting the glass combined with the joint efforts of industry, recycling operators and community collectors in finding economically viable alternative uses for the glass.

"53% of glass consumed is now being recycled either into new glass containers in New Zealand or off shore; or for increasing use in building or construction projects typically close to where the glass is recovered. The amount of glass recycled last year is the equivalent of diverting 314 m glass containers from landfill. "



Congratulations to Palmerston North...

Palmerston North City Council received the Packaging Council of New Zealand award as the winner in the glass recycling category from the Acting Minister for the Environment, David Parker. This award was sponsored by the Glass Forum. The Council, in conjunction with Higgins Aggregates, has, for the last 12 months, produced a road foundation material which includes up to five percent of recycled glass.

This foundation has been used on the Pioneer Highway shared path, on roading and building foundations at the Awapuni Landfill and on the recently completed Parnell Heights link road. The Council has received funding from the Forum to support its analysis into the cost effectiveness of utilizing glass as aggregate.

Highly commended at the Awards was **Terra Nova** for their use of available technologies to produce an outstanding product, including BLAST GLASS for the sandblasting industry and FILTERCRYSTAL as a filter media in swimming and spa pools.

Commended was another recipient of Forum funding **The Waste Resource Trust** (Waiheke Island) for developing local glass recycling without requiring transport to the mainland.



The award was presented by David Carter to Bill Whall (in the presence of 007 himself!!)

Waste Bill renamed Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery

The Greens and Government have announced joint amendments to the Bill and a Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) will be introduced to the Select Committee this week as a result.

It is expected that the Select Committee will send the SOP out to submitters for a limited consultation which means that the Glass Forum will have another opportunity to comment on the amendments made. The Select Committee will then report back to the House. The current report back date is 31 October.

The waste levy component has been set at \$10 per tonne of waste to landfill; with regulatory power to increase this over time with suggested increase to \$30 over three years to fully internalize the externalities associated with landfilling which would raise circa \$30million.

The joint release claims "the Bill creates a framework for product stewardship, of which CDL is one possible mechanism if it

can be shown to have general support and to be effective at meeting waste reduction targets."

Cross party interest in Container Deposit Legislation continues on the back of a visit by a number of Select Committee MP's to South Australia to see the container deposit system in operation there. This passion for CDL runs directly counter to the economic analysis that CDL is not cost effective if run alongside an already efficient kerbside recycling system.

The National Party has not yet determined its own position on whether it will support the CDL component of the Waste Bill. The Glass Forum will continue to raise awareness with politicians from all parties that manufacturers, brand owners, retailers and the recycling operators of New Zealand (RONZ) are agreed that CDL will be more expensive and have a detrimental impact on New Zealand's efficient kerbside collection system.

Launch of the Glass Crusher...

The mobile glass crusher will be launched in front of Parliament on 9th October. We are delighted to have the Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Associate Minister for the Environment and Nandor Tanczos, spokesperson for the Environment, New Zealand Green Party jointly sending the crusher on its way to local communities across New Zealand.



The Glass Forum has purchased the crusher with support from Lion Nathan and a schedule for its activities is being prepared. The crusher is currently being commissioned at Horowhenua District Council.

Since starting this process, we have realized that the ownership of recycled glass is a further complication because glass may be owned by a variety of organizations; i.e. The local authority, the collection contractor, or in some cases a community recycling group. Several councils and communities have already commissioned local contractors to crush their glass which is also testimony to the Glass Forum's work in promoting this aggregate mix for roading. Our future focus will be on the smaller communities for whom this does not provide an economical option.

Alternative Uses for glass...

Discussions are underway with several organizations to progress interesting possibilities for glass use. These range from glass used as erosion protection particularly in areas that have suffered from floods to insulation systems combining glass and polystyrene.

We continue to support Keep New Zealand Beautiful and John Webber will present the Forum's work at their 40th year Annual Conference. John also presented at the recent Zero Waste Workshop at the Waste Busters Waste Festival in Ashburton.

Media Coverage

Glass recycling hits new high in New Zealand ...

There has been positive media coverage about this year's increase in glass recycling which has helped contribute to an overall recycling rate for all packaging types of 57%.

Our planned glass crushing operations have received good coverage in local community newspapers.

There has also been continued media interest in container deposit legislation.

Independent Media evaluation of each sector's performance against the Accord Targets for Year 3 concludes that **"The**

Glass Packaging Forum got the message across well" reaching 1.13 million people with a positive message about glass recycling and delivering a neutral message to a further 870,000 people.

Communications

If you haven't been on to our website, please take a look at it and do provide us with your feedback and your stories.

<http://www.glassforum.org.nz/>

You will also see that we are conducting a survey into recycling practices in New Zealand at the local authority level which will help inform our work.

Packaging issues in NZ

With campaigning in the local authority elections underway, recycling is on the agenda.

Tasman Mayor John Hurley says he would scrap council-based recycling to reduce rate bills by \$100 a year and believes that recycling should be run by private companies, or else people should take their recyclable materials to recycling centres themselves.

Timaru reports that 70% kerbside rubbish is being diverted from landfill but says that the district services committee will be asked to consider steps to reduce waste still going to the landfill from the commercial sector. The council is to consider implementing clauses in its solid waste bylaw that will involve licensing commercial operators and banning recyclable and compostable materials from the landfill.

Packaging issues around the world

In UK

Plastic wine bottles- cheap and tacky or better for the environment?

A trial selling New Zealand wine in recyclable plastic bottles instead of glass in

Sainsbury's supermarkets in Britain is underway to test consumer reaction. The new plastic wine bottle looks the same as a glass one but is 12.5 per cent lighter. 500,000 tonnes of glass packaging is consumed each year by UK wine drinkers.

However wine experts question whether plastic will preserve the integrity of the product.

But the glass industry is not about to give up without a fight...

Supermarkets Morrisons and Tesco, and wine brand owners Constellation Europe and PLB Wines say they have been working to use lighter weight glass bottles for wine. This will impact nearly 90 million wine bottles, generating combined annual carbon savings of nearly 4,500 tonnes, equivalent to taking around 2,500 cars off the road.

WRAP - to review growing role of Materials Recovery Facilities in producing quality recyclates

As part of this study into MRF's they will seek to identify and assessing a technique that can produce glass from a MRF that is fit for re-melt applications ie to make new glass.

This study will be watched with interest in New Zealand as Australasia's most technologically advanced MRF is due to start up next year in Auckland.

WRAP – report on paper packaging

WRAP consulted with the paper sector to develop a specification for recovered papers saying that: *"the introduction of a specification will help guarantee and increase the quality of recovered paper and is key to maintaining good markets for the material.* You can download this from:-

http://www.wrap.org.uk/manufacturing/info_by_material/paper/paper_specifications.html

In USA

Coca-Cola will spend US\$60 million on a recycling plant in South Carolina in 2008. The plant will process nearly two billion 20-ounce bottles annually and boost its recycling rate from 10% to 30% by 2010. Coke has also invested in recycling facilities in Switzerland, Mexico, Austria and the Philippines.

In Canada – household recycling rate is 27%

Canada's National Statistics said that access to glass, paper, plastic and metal recycling programs improved between 1994 and 2006.

In 2004, households produced 13.4 million tonnes of waste. 3.6 million tonnes went to recycling, a 65% increase from 2000. During this four-year period, the proportion of household waste that was diverted to recycling increased from 19% to **27%**.

The average Canadian recycled 112 kg compared with 71 kg in 2000. Recycling rates ranged from a high of 157 kilograms per capita in Nova Scotia to a low of 54 kilograms in Saskatchewan which is interestingly enough a bastion of container deposit legislation.

Access to recycling in Canada

Percentage of Canadian households with access to recycling programs, 1994 and 2006

