

TA Forum Minutes

Monday 17th October 2016

WasteMINZ Conference – TSB Arena Wellington

Session 1

7 short presentations were given on the Love Food Hate Waste Campaign. The powerpoint can be viewed [here](#).

1. **Overview of the statistics** – Sarah Van Bohemeen from WasteMINZ spoke on the reach of the campaign so far.
2. **Disco Soup** - Sophie Mander from Central Otago District Council presented on their disco soup event. More information on how to run a disco soup can be found [here](#).
3. **Just Eat it Screening** - Kitty Waghorn from Waimakariri District Council presented on how to host a Just Eat it Movie Screening More information on how to run a screening can be found [here](#)
4. **Pie Stands** – Hannah Ludlow from Hastings District Council presented on how to run a pie stand. More information on how to run a pie stand can be found [here](#)
5. **Smoothie Bike** – Katharina Kennedy from Kapiti District Council presented on the smoothie bike that the Wellington region is using at events. More information on how to have a smoothie bike stand can be found [here](#)
6. **Are we changing people’s behaviour?** - Jenny Marshall from WasteMINZ reported on the impact of the campaign so far.
7. **What do we need you to do now?**- Donna Peterson from Invercargill City Council and Chair of the Behaviour Change Steering Committee spoke on Love Your Leftovers the next campaign focus.

Following the presentations on Love Food Hate Waste councils took part in speed dating where they shared other successful projects in their local area.

Projects of note which were highlighted included:

- Nelson and Tasman District Council have signed an agreement for a joint committee on waste which will enable them to close a landfill.
- Taupo is moving into vermicomposting
- A number of councils have implemented sharps disposal and needle takeback schemes with their District Health Boards

- Auckland city's new inorganic rubbish collection. Their conference presentation can be viewed [here](#).
- Manawatu and Rangitikei Councils are getting farm dumps mapped by their regional council so they know where they are.
- The Taranaki region has implemented a new system for collecting waste and recyclables which is going well.
- Christchurch has been RFID tagging their wheelie bins. Their conference presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Issues raised by some councils included:

- How to provide services to high density residential sites such as apartment complexes
- Possible impact of changes to ETS on disposal of organic wastes to landfill

Session 2

1. Rural farm waste

Fraser Scott presented to the TA Forum on the rural farm waste project.

In Milestone One of the project rural farm waste streams were analysed and ranked according to environmental impact. Then in Milestone Two, 15 ideas were investigated to see which would be most effective to tackle rural farm waste. View the summary [here](#).

This was then narrowed down to 8 options which were investigated in detail. One of the options which was investigated in detail was pop up recovery events. The project is aiming to trial pop up recovery events in 2017 with potentially two to be held in the North Island and two in the South Island.

Fraser gave a short presentation on the concept and then sought feedback from councils on the idea. His powerpoint presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Councils were then asked in groups to discuss the three questions below

1. Would your council be interested in partnering in such events?
2. What value would you see for your council in participating in these events?
3. What could your council contribute to ensure these events are successful?

Key responses were as follows:

1. **Would your council be interested in partnering in such events?**

The following councils indicated a potential willingness to participate:

- Ashburton
- Selwyn
- Dunedin
- Southland

- Gisborne
- Hastings
- Hauraki
- Mackenzie
- Manawatu
- Matamata-Piako
- New Plymouth
- Tasman
- Thames-Coromandel
- Timaru
- Waikato
- Western BOP
- Waimakariri
- Whangarei

2. What value would you see for your council in participating in these events?

The following responses were provided by councils:

- Better community engagement
- Better environmental outcomes
- Safer disposal of waste
- Better waste minimisation and diversion
- Waste data collection
- Puts responsibility on the rural sector
- Providing a practical solution before focusing on the problem

3. What could your council contribute to ensure these events are successful?

The following responses were provided by councils:

- Partnering with community/commercial events
- Provision of funding, particularly for hazardous wastes
- Provision of education opportunities – e.g. compost workshop
- Communications, publicity and marketing
- Supporting behaviour change
- Provision of event venues

Other comments made by councils included:

- Traffic management will need to be considered
- Consenting for sites may be an issue
- Events need to be economically viable
- Tying to an existing event will increase chances of compliance
- Will drop off of waste be free for participants?
- May be beneficial to receive non-farm waste such as TVs and household goods
- Will it really be cost-neutral for councils?
- Provides an opportunity to support existing voluntary product stewardship schemes
- This scheme should be self-funding not requiring government or council funding

If you were unable to attend the TA forum but wish to explore piloting a pop up recovery event in your area, please email **Fraser Scott** fraser@tnc.co.nz

2. Container Deposit Schemes

The TA Forum discussed the issue of container deposit schemes, following on from Envision NZ's report and the Packaging Forum's subsequent report compiled by Covec.

Key areas of discussion were:

1. The economic effects of a CDS, specifically in the context of a cost/benefit analysis
2. The impacts of such a scheme on council kerbside collections
3. Consumer understanding and perceptions of a CDS

Further work is underway by the steering committee, and updates on this will be provided directly to participating TAs.

3. Plastic Bags

A nationwide survey was undertaken on behalf of the TA Forum by Key Research in August 2016. 1,000 people were surveyed with quotas in place to ensure a representative sample of regions, age groups, and other demographics. The survey sought to determine consumer attitudes to plastic bags charges, based on work undertaken by WRAP in the UK.

A summary of the presentation can be viewed [here](#) .

The TA Forum discussed what the results mean and how the results may guide future actions.¹

Session 3

Updating the RONZ symbols

In 2015 the Behaviour Change Sector Group agreed on standard colours for wheelie bins and crates:

- “ Red for rubbish
- “ Yellow for commingled recycling
- “ Blue for commingled glass
- “ Grey for paper

That required the New Zealand Recycling Symbols (RONZ) to be updated. This year the Sector Group

- Updated the New Zealand Recycling Symbols to match the bin colours
- “ Went out to consultation for changes to colours and symbols that are used in transfer stations and resource recovery parks
- “ Reached agreement on new colours, wording and updated the symbols where appropriate



How to access the signage

¹ Note: a session on Plastic Bags was also held at the conference.

Countdown presented on their trial to eliminate plastic shopping bags on Waiheke Island. Their presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Foodstuffs presented on their trial to offer a 5c rebate on plastics bags in the lower North Island. Their presentation can be viewed [here](#).

- “ Download the pdf’s from the WasteMINZ website [here](#).
- “ If you need to change the wording you will be able to but you will need to email Jenny@wasteminz.org.nz to get hold of an editable pdf.
- “ If you need to create a new symbol, you will need to contact the RONZ designer

In 2017 the Sector Group plans to:

- create a guidance document on best practise for signage
- investigate translating the signs into Te Reo
- investigate creating new symbols

Funding for this project has come from the WasteMINZ Strategic Investment Fund.

The technical working group was made up of: Danielle Kennedy Auckland Council; Duncan Wilson, Eunomia; Catherine Irvine, Dunedin City Council; Karen Driver, Nelson Environment Centre

Collaboration

Roderick Boys from Wellington City Council who is also the Co-Chair of the Regional WMMP Steering Group for Wellington presented the thinking of the TA forum steering committee around collaboration.

Councils are encouraged to include a statement in their WMMP which enables them to collaborate on regional and national projects. An example statement is provided below

The Council will collaborate with other local government organisations, NGOs and other key stakeholders on undertaking research, lobbying and actions on various waste management issues such as (but not limited to) product stewardship, ewaste, tyres, plastic bags, etc.

This allows councils the flexibility to take part in a variety of projects without needing to itemise them specifically in their WMMP.

The forum also discussed how future projects which were national in scale could more easily be funded and whether councils would be willing to set aside waste levy or funds to finance national projects.