

## Product Stewardship Sector Group Meeting minutes, Monday 28 February 2022

Location: Zoom

Present: Alexandra Kirkham (Auckland Council), Alec McNeil (Marlborough District Council), Hannah Blumhardt (NZPSC), Rob Wilson (EcoCentral), Juhi Shareef (thl holdings), Peter Thompson (Usedfully), Michael Dudley (TechCollect)

In attendance: Sarah Pritchett (Facilitator), WasteMINZ

Apologies: None

### 1. Meeting open, apologies and agenda

### 2. Agenda items

#### August minutes

Accepted.

Actions from August meeting:

Date raised	Action Point	Status	Allocated to
25/08/21	Consumer attitudes towards refillable beverage containers	In progress	Sarah
25/5/21	Comms / education plan (as per work programme) to be developed.	Established	Alex/Sarah
25/08/21	Advocate for right to repair - think pieces, CGA	ongoing	All

- Updates – from everyone, please provide any interesting update on product stewardship or waste/resource recovery related work.

#### **E-waste (Michael Dudley):**

- TCNZ submitted the final draft recommendations report for a regulated e-product stewardship scheme to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) in December 21
- TCNZ held a meeting with MfE in early February 22 to discuss MfE's initial/verbal feedback, and have since received written feedback

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- TCNZ are meeting with MfE to discuss TCNZ's proposed approach to address MfE's feedback and carry out further work to close out some of the gaps signalled for certain scheme design elements in the final draft report
  - MD will provide an update to the PSSG via email as soon as TCNZ has a confirmed plan in place and likely/expected timelines to communicate
- Post MfE's review/sign off of the revised final report (or reports as the case may be), this/these will be published and made publicly available
- TCNZ will be developing a media release and messaging that speaks to the next steps following the co-design process, and this all requires MfE's sign off.

**CRS (Alec McNeil):** Papers going to Cabinet now and depending on the outcome of this it will go out for public consultation, hopefully in next few weeks.

**B.I.G. (Juhi Shareef):** Basil Issa from EECA is helping to move the Product Stewardship Organisation part of the process moved forward, hopefully completed by April. B.I.G. is putting together an animation to inform the public that someone is doing something about batteries as this is one of the barriers to uptake of evs. The proposed product stewardship scheme was released for public consultation at the end of last year, with recommendations from MfE regarding how the scheme would be regulated.

Moonshot map update: Received funding from a Swizz foundation and would love the work being done across NZ to be reflected on it. Juhi will send out a link.

**Usedfully (Peter Thompson):** 2<sup>nd</sup> year of textile product stewardship project has been signed off. Deed of variation done, which was pretty onerous (5 months long). Trying to line up everything and make progress now that the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage is underway.

**Battery collections (David Howie):** Waste Management have an initiative rolled out throughout Auckland and being rolled to rest of country for small batteries. Commercial and then retail stores - an exchange pail service. David will provide some more information on this.

**Reusable packaging (Hannah Blumhardt):** Apart from Right to Repair work, doing some work into reusable packaging for Tauranga City Council. Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University, is trialling no disposable coffee cups throughout the whole campus. Mugs donated by tip shop, long slow process over last 2 years. One campus is not able to open until after the trial is over. Expert group set up by MfE to work on coffee cups under the Difficult to Recycle Plastics work programme. Not sure if a phaseout for coffee cups is realistic or not. Not known who is on the expert group or what the TOR is, or what the purpose of the group is.

**Agrecovery (Alec McNeil):** Report has been submitted to MfE for agrichemicals and farm plastics, with recommendations for regulated schemes. A trial of the collection of household chemicals and containers has been completed in ChCh and one will now begin in Marlborough. Have some support from brands. At information gathering stage and doing trials in order to eventually apply for funding to co design a scheme.

**Clothing blog (Alex Kirkham):** As a personal project has started a blog about fashion and textiles, what to avoid. [www.thiswearswell.com](http://www.thiswearswell.com)

**Batteries and TetraPak (Rob Wilson):** TetraPak has started processing containers into saveboard. It is collected via Resource Recovery centres. The CCC battery collection is going well, collects about 1 tonne per month. The household chemical container trial didn't have a lot of uptake but also wasn't advertised widely.

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**Compostable packaging product stewardship scheme (Sarah Pritchett):** The Packaging Forum are investigating a product stewardship scheme for compostable packaging.

General discussion: There is the danger that more product stewardship scheme will be initiated and proposed to find a solution to a type of packaging that currently has no path to being recycled. So product stewardship schemes become a justification for a type of packaging rather than initiating a redesign of the problematic packaging itself.

### Refillables survey

The committee went through the survey and made suggestions for the researchers.

### Battery collections

Wellington City Council has launched a household battery collection scheme. <https://wellington.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/reducing-your-waste/battery-recycling>. They are trialling it and funding it themselves for the time being.

## **3. Other business**

### MfE consultation – targeted stakeholders

Nic Quilty will approach MfE to ask that all WasteMINZ steering committees be considered to be target stakeholders when the next round of consultation comes out (ie ERP and the Taking Responsibility for our Waste).

### Kāinga Ora and repair opportunities

As part of making repair accessible it would be great to offer repair opportunities to Kāinga Ora tenants, ie do a trial of how this might work. Alex to find a good contact.

## **4. Next meeting 31 May**

Graham Burrell from TetraPak to speak, Annabelle Ellis (MfE) and John Evans (ITRecycla) to be invited to also join.

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### Action items from this meeting:

Date raised	Action Point	Deadline	Allocated to
28/2/22	Invite speakers to next meeting (Graham Burrell confirmed, Annabelle Ellis and John Evans to be invited)	Before next meeting	Sarah
28/2/22	Share Moonshot map with committee	End of March	Juhi
28/2/22	Find a good contact at Kāinga Ora to talk to about Repair Café opportunities	18 March	Alex
28/2/22	Provide update to SC regarding timeline for e-waste product stewardship scheme	11 March	Michael

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