Health and Safety Strategy for the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Sector

September 2012
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Published in September 2012 by WasteMINZ

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This document is available on WasteMINZ' website: www.wasteminz.org.nz
Acknowledgements

WasteMINZ gratefully acknowledges the support of the solid waste and resource recovery sector and the contribution of time and expertise from the Steering Committee, in particular, in reviewing this Strategy.

Steering committee representation

The Health and Safety Strategy for the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Sector (the Strategy) was initially developed by the WasteMINZ Health and Safety Sector Group Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) in 2006 and published that same year. The review was carried out by the Steering Committee, which consisted of:

- Allan Rushworth, REMONDIS New Zealand Ltd
- Andrew McCaffrey, Onyx Group Ltd
- Audrey Jensen, Accident Compensation Corporation
- Charles Smith, Onyx Group Ltd
- Courtney Taylor, Reclaim®
- Gary Saunders, EnviroWaste Services Ltd
- Greg Dearsly, Transpacific Industries Group (NZ) Ltd
- Karen Murray, SULO Talbot
- Mike Collins, Smart Environmental Ltd
- Mike McQuillan, Auckland City Council
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- Paul Bishop, EnviroWaste Services Ltd
- Eileen Kerry, New Zealand Transport Agency
- Robert Maassen, REMONDIS New Zealand Ltd
- Robyn Vallom, EnviroWaste Services Ltd
- Warwick Jaine, Auckland Council
About WasteMINZ

Founded in 1989, WasteMINZ is a membership based organisation which operates an inclusive and collaborative model, and delivers value to its members through increasing professionalism, knowledge development, and support and advocacy services.

WasteMINZ is the authoritative voice on waste and resource recovery in New Zealand, and seeks to achieve ongoing and positive development in the industry.

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this Strategy is as accurate as practicable, however WasteMINZ will not be held responsible for any action arising out of its use.
**Foreword**

The original strategy; ‘Health and Safety in the Waste Industry – Industry Strategy’ (2006), together with ‘Health and Safety Issues in the Solid Waste and Recoverable Resources Industry’ (2007), were developed in response to the Department of Labour and the Accident Compensation Corporation’s health and safety concerns with the solid waste and resource recovery sector (the Sector).

These documents were developed by the Sector for the Sector; to provide guidance and outline responsibilities of participants in the waste chain, from waste producers to waste transporters, and finally waste disposers and recyclers. Content for these documents was gathered from both national and international sources to reflect good practice, provide current sector information, and assist those who work with waste at every stage.

The Sector has come a long way since the original strategy was developed, with the collaboration of the Sector influencing the practices of it as a whole, as well as influencing the procurement practices of territorial authorities. Major changes in how waste is perceived and managed in society have required the Sector to move quickly. The Sector’s nature means that it now faces some unique injury prevention challenges.

The Strategy has been reviewed to reflect developments in waste practices and technology and has been influenced by New Zealand injury data from the Sector. It reflects the increasing level of professionalism, commitment to good practice and collaboration across the Sector and is a living document that provides a leadership platform and guidance to the Sector.

The Department of Labour and Accident Compensation Corporation have supported the development of this Strategy and acknowledge the WasteMINZ Health & Safety Sector Group’s leadership in developing it. The Health and Safety Sector Group would like to thank both parties for their ongoing support.

In closing, excellence in health and safety is more than complying with guidance documents. It is about creating a safe and healthy environment for everyone engaged in the Sector.

Robyn Vallom

**Chair, WasteMINZ Health and Safety Sector Group**
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

1.1.1. In 2004 the Health and Safety Sector Group (Sector Group) was formed by WasteMINZ members to further advance the objectives of an initial working group. It is recognised as a safer industry group for the waste sector (the Sector), by the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) and Department of Labour (DoL) and is represented on the Road Transport Safer Industries Group Forum.

1.1.2. The Sector Group’s role is to provide leadership and facilitate consultation and co-ordination between businesses, local government and central government on issues related to safety in the Sector. It is also responsible for developing and reviewing this Strategy.

1.1.3. The Strategy is intended to provide guidance and leadership to the Sector to continually reduce all forms of harm across the Sector.

1.1.4. Through this Strategy the Sector Group is striving to effect a change in behaviour and attitudes towards occupational health and safety (OHS) at all levels within the Sector. Industry self-management, advocacy and leadership are important components for change.

1.1.5. Some areas of the Sector in New Zealand, for example hazardous waste, already have effective OHS measures in place. It is envisaged that work programmes developed as a result of implementing this Strategy will allow best practice OHS for further areas of the Sector to be developed and become established.

1.1.6. The Sector Group has been instrumental in bringing health and safety issues to the attention of the Sector. In 2009, the Sector Group commissioned a position report comparing the benefits and costs of two primary methods for collecting domestic refuse and recyclable materials; these being ‘manual’ (loose or bag) and ‘automated’ (bin) collections, with the aim of improving the health and safety record of the Sector. The original report was published in March 2010 and an updated report was published in April 2012.
1.1.7. The Strategy will assist with the implementation of the New Zealand Workplace Health and Safety Strategy to 2015, Injury Prevention Strategy 2015 and the Ministry of Transport’s road safety strategy; Safer Journeys 2020.

1.2. **Scope**

1.2.1. The management of waste in New Zealand involves private business, local councils and partnerships between councils and business. The Sector is wide in scope and includes:

- Kerbside waste collection activities;
- Landfills/clean fills;
- Transfer stations;
- Organic resource collection and processing;
- Transport of waste;
- Resource recovery parks;
- Product destruction;
- Special waste collections and processing;
- Materials recovery facilities;
- Industrial and commercial waste collection; and
- Construction and demolition waste collections.

1.3. **Key partners and stakeholders**

1.3.1. Key partners working with WasteMINZ and the Sector Group to achieve this Strategy’s goals include, but are not limited to:

- The waste industry;
- Local authorities;
- Accident Compensation Corporation;
- Department of Labour;
- Local Government New Zealand; and
- Trade unions.
1.3.2. Advice will be sought from external agencies such as:
   - New Zealand Transport Agency; and
   - The Commercial Vehicle Investigation Unit of the New Zealand Police.

2. **VISION**

   2.1. To eliminate occupational injury or illness in the solid waste and resource recovery sector.

3. **SECTOR GOALS**

   3.1. The WasteMINZ Health and Safety Sector Group will:

   3.1.1. provide a support network for those actively involved in health and safety in the waste management sector;

   3.1.2. make available credible, targeted and relevant information;

   3.1.3. facilitate opportunities for communication, co-operation and exchange of ideas and experiences;

   3.1.4. provide a forum for discussions with government agencies and other key Sector stakeholders on waste related OHS issues and regulations;

   3.1.5. encourage strategic and commercially relevant research and development;

   3.1.6. develop and promote relevant good practice standards or guidelines and encourage their adoption by the Sector; and

   3.1.7. Utilise WasteMINZ’ communication channels; the website, WasteAwareness, e-newsletters, conferences and workshops.
4. **MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

4.1. There are a number of hazards within the Sector and a 2012-2017 work plan will be prepared identifying the risks, the projects to address these and a schedule for completing the work.

5. **DELIVERING THE STRATEGY**

5.1. **Governance**

5.1.1. The Sector Group is administered by the Waste Management Institute New Zealand (WasteMINZ), which is governed by a Board elected from WasteMINZ members.

5.1.2. Membership of the Sector Group is open to any member of WasteMINZ, in accordance with the organisation’s rules.

5.2. The Sector Group is represented by a steering committee and it is subject to the WasteMINZ Sector Group and Technical Working Group Guidelines, which is updated from time to time.

5.3. **Administration and finance**

5.3.1. WasteMINZ provides administrative services for the Sector Group.

5.3.2. Funding may be sought from stakeholders to fund aspects of the work programme.

5.4. **Communication**

5.4.1. The Sector Group steering committee will:

- review this Strategy in 2017;
- act as the point of contact between the Sector, ACC, Department of Labour, NZTA and New Zealand Police;
- work with OHS professionals to identify research priorities for the Sector;
- support the work programmes in place arising from the Workplace Health and Safety Strategy for New Zealand;
- identify key areas where OHS improvements can be made in the Sector;
• represent the Sector Group on working groups and government committees as agreed by the committee; and

• develop and publish OHS data, plans, practice notes and reports which contribute to the implementation of this Strategy.

5.4.2. The Sector Group is committed to working collaboratively in the Sector to ensure OHS moves forward. The Sector Group will report on successes in implementing the Strategy as a whole and progress towards achieving the vision and goals.
A helpful guide to making workplaces safer

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