



caring about you & your environment

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Report to Environment Committee
from Romae Duns, Sustainable Business Facilitator and
Councillor Mike Gibson

Update on Wellington Regional Environmental Agency

Wellington Regional Environmental Agency was set up to provide for a co-ordinated response to waste management in the Region. The Agency is represented by one staff member and one elected official from our council and from each territorial council in the region. I was appointed to represent WRC at the Environment Committee meeting in May 1999. Cr Chris Peterson from Masterton DC chairs the Agency.

The Agency's aim is:

To increase awareness of environmental issues relating to the management of waste by providing a forum for local authorities to discuss issues and disseminate information.

The Agency meets quarterly in various locations around the region to ease the travel burden on representatives. The most recent meeting was held on May 25 in Featherston.

Currently the agency is grappling with issues such as becoming an incorporated society, a trust and GST registration. Cr Drake from KCDC has been exploring the ramifications of the different options.

Other recent discussions have included a car disposal amnesty, Enviromart (our regional waste exchange programme) updates and progress and an awards ceremony for waste minimisation initiatives.

At our last meeting, two guest speakers gave presentations. The first was Peter Reid, Director of Enviropaints in Otaki. This company takes used paint and recreates it into new paint. The company collects the paint either still in tins or in big drums. If the paint is in tins it is extracted and the tin crushed at the same time. The crushed tins are sold as fuel biscuits for commercial burners.

Enviropaints operate a 'buy back programme' – if they take your used paint, they expect you to purchase similar amounts of recreated paint. Enviropaints are located in Otaki but most of their work is conducted in the Auckland Region. Paint is collected from Auckland (~100 tonnes since July 2000), recreated in Otaki and then sold back to the City Councils and used for covering graffiti. There is currently no such collection in the Wellington Region. All council representatives have agreed to determine whether there is a demand for re-formulated paint in order to determine the viability of Enviropaints collecting waste paint in the Region. Removing waste paint from landfills or storage facilities will benefit the Region's environment.

The Wellington Regional Environmental Agency is an excellent forum to facilitate this type of discussion and address serious waste issues within our region.

Recommendation

That the report be received.

Report prepared by:

ROMAE DUNS
Sustainable Business Facilitator

and

COUNCILLOR GIBSON