



**Report**                    **04.526**  
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**Committee**            **Environment Committee**  
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## **WREA Update**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee about the Wellington Regional Environmental Agency (WREA) meeting held on 20 August 2004 at Kapiti Coast District Council.

### **2. Discussion**

This report provides a summary of the issues discussed at the meeting.

#### **2.1 State of the Environment Reporting**

Kirsten Forsyth from Greater Wellington reported to the WREA on progress with the Council's State of the Environment Report. The Council is currently collecting information in preparation for the next state of the environment report, due to be published in December 2005.

The focus of the discussion was on waste as this responsibility currently lies with territorial authorities. Assistance was sought from local councils with the collection of data relating to the waste management objectives in the Regional Policy Statement. It is against these objectives that the State of the Environment Report measures the condition the environment is in. The objectives are:

#### **Objective 1:**

The quantity of waste generated is reduced.

#### **Objective 2:**

The quantity of residual wastes for disposal is minimised through reuse, recycling and resource recovery.

### **Objective 3:**

Adverse effects on the environment and human health from the inappropriate disposal of residual liquid and solid wastes are avoided or, where this is not possible, remedied or mitigated.

### **Objective 4:**

The potential for any accidental or unanticipated affects to arise as a result of the use, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous substances is minimised and any adverse effects that do occur are remedied or mitigated.

All of the territorial authority representatives expressed their willingness to provide the relevant data.

## **2.2 Trash Palace and the Wellington Region Environment Centre**

Fey Valiant from the Wellington Region Environment Centre gave a presentation on upcoming courses to be run at Trash Palace. So far the Environment Centre has had a good response to its workshops.

The WREA agreed to fund a pilot programme on waste for children, to the value of \$5,000. This educational programme will encourage children to think about their individual and collective responsibility for waste. Greater Wellington's *Take Action* team will assist the Environment Centre in an advisory role for this programme.

## **2.3 Be the Difference Campaign and school resources**

Francie Pedersen from Greater Wellington gave an update on the "Be the Difference" campaign. This included showing the advertisement that will be shown in movie theatres and handing out the latest "Be the Difference" waste pack. Territorial authority members expressed support for the campaign.

Francie Pedersen also handed out a copy of the new Greater Wellington school materials on composting and worm farms, biodiversity, coastal projects, informing others about environmental issues, and recycling and waste reduction. Some of the territorial authority representatives expressed an interest in using these resources for their own programmes.

## **2.4 Regional Strategy Group**

There was some discussion about the differences between landfills in encouraging the separation of wastes that could be recycled. A recommendation was made for the Chair of WREA to write to the Wellington Regional Strategy Forum asking them to look at waste management issues within the region.

### **3. Recommendation**

*That the Committee:*

1. *receive the report; and*
2. *note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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Councillor