



Report 06.203
Date 19 May 2006
File ENV/15/02/03

Committee Environment Committee
Author Administrator

Wellington Regional Environment Agency Update

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the Wellington Regional Environment Agency meeting held on 5 May at Upper Hutt.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

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

3.1 Paintwise

The Resene Paintwise paint recovery scheme has been under discussion by WREA member Councils for some time. Councillors will recall a submission and presentation on the proposed scheme during the 2004-05 Annual Plan round. The scheme enables people to return paint of all kinds to Resene shops from where it is provided to community groups for reuse. There is a one-off cost associated with establishing the scheme which the Councils of the region have been asked to meet. The scheme was discussed at the meeting and, subsequently, a number of councils indicated their support (including Greater Wellington). While we are not responsible for the management or disposal of paint, the scheme will benefit Greater Wellington by reducing the amount disposed of into drains and waterways. It is expected the scheme will commence in the region in 2007.

3.2 Waste Directory

With the winding up of the region's waste materials exchange – Enviromart – the web-based directory of recycling services which was provided by Enviromart has been unavailable for businesses to access. Greater Wellington proposed the service be provided by RONZ (the organisation representing recycling organisations in New Zealand) on its website. The site is searchable and the information regularly updated. It also hosts recycling directories for Auckland, Christchurch, and Hamilton. We proposed the WREA fund the set up costs to put the directory on the RONZ site, while Greater Wellington would meet the minimal annual fee to update the information. This was accepted in principle with the details still to be worked through. In the interim, the information in the directory will be made available on the Greater Wellington web site.

3.3 Bokashi Presentation

Neville Chun demonstrated the benefits of Bokashi bins as a way to deal with household organic waste. The bins use micro-organisms to “pickle” waste which can then be rapidly composted or dug into soil. Greater Wellington is using this system to deal with food waste from its cafeteria.

3.4 Hazmobile

Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils indicated they will be doing a household hazardous waste collection on 26-27th of August.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the report; and*
- 2. Note the contents.*

Report approved by:

Sally Baber
Councillor