

## Worthwhile Exercise

The whole exercise has been most worthwhile as it will

- Reduce waste
- Give some people more discretionary income
- Enthuse the public in general
- Reuse material and thus save on very expensive imports.

## Credits

A lot of the credit for the above should go to

- Simone Annis, the Zero Waste NZ Trust, and
- Council's Resource Recovery Centre staff.

## RRC's Hours of Operation

### OPOTIKI

*Wellington Street*

- Thursday - Monday 8am to 4pm
- Tuesday/Wednesday Closed

### WAIHAU BAY

*Orete Forest Road*

- Mon/Wed/Sat 9am to 2pm
- Sun/Tues/Thurs/Fri Closed

### TE KAHA

*State Highway 35*

- Sat/Sun/Mon/Wed 9am to 2pm
- Tues/Thurs/Fri Closed

### All RRC's are closed on

Christmas Day / Boxing Day / New Years Day /  
Day After New Year / Good Friday



# THE PATHWAY TO ZERO WASTE

## Initiatives

As at 19 October 2010



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## Background

Since its adoption of 'zero waste' in November 1999 the Opotiki District Council has come a long way.

Not only in its residual waste reduction but also in a change of attitude by the public, Councillors and Staff alike.

Starting from a base figure of 10,000 tonnes per annum this has been reduced to 1,100 tonnes as at June 2009.

This is a result of:

- RRC charging
- A recycling programme at the Opotiki, Te Kaha and Waihau Bay RRC's
- Education process
- Mulching of greenwaste
- Implementation of a kerbside recycling collection service.

This last initiative has reduced the weekly urban collection from 10 tonne of residual waste to 5 tonne. The other 5 tonne plus is being sorted as recyclable material at the Opotiki RRC.

An incentive to "sort" is the use of a 45 litre recycling bin. Also the supply of 52 by 25 litre residual waste bags. Extra bags are \$1 each, obtainable from Council.

The incentive is really there using this methodology, and apart from early comments "*it will never work*", the urban public have responded with enthusiasm.

## Resource Recovery Centres

Three Resource Recovery Centres [RRC] have been established at:

- Opotiki
- Te Kaha
- Waihau Bay

The ten permanent employees who carry out the recycling at Council's RRCs are still enjoying the recycling work and are as enthusiastic as ever.



## Waste Reduction

A waste reduction initiative has been undertaken by Ngaitai Iwi Authority at Torere in conjunction with the Opotiki District Council and Zero Waste. This has proved to be an excellent alternative to the unsightly skip bins.

Similarly a scheme at Maraenui has been established.

With the recent introduction of the sorting table at the Opotiki RRC it has reduced waste by approximately 165 tonne.

Overall by June 2010 the annual residual waste has fallen to around 964 tonne per annum. A reduction of 90.5%.

Other contributors to this reduction have been an education programme Zero Waste/Opotiki District Council into schools through worm farms and waste reduction programmes. Beginning in 2001 we have built on this to have all schools adopt a Zero Waste Schools Policy which will have spinoffs for future waste reduction. Maraes are also being encouraged to adopt a recycling strategy.

In the third 2010 school term Council has contracted EERST to again introduce another waste reduction in all schools.