

## Students get down and dirty



As part of Waitakere City Council's corporate sustainability programme each year students from UNITEC Institute of Technology have been helping out undertaking annual waste audits for council run buildings across the city; offices, libraries, and community houses and halls. The waste audits consist of emptying and sorting out a days waste into different piles of plastic, paper, organic waste and metal to determine the weights and report the findings. The results give the Councils Cleaner Production team an idea of the quantity and quality of council waste going to the landfill and where improvements can be made.

*If your business is interested in having a waste audit conducted contact:*

Kelly Taylor, Cleaner Production at Waitakere City Council on (09) 839 0400.

## Congrats to Phoenix Organics Ltd

Winner of the Supreme Award, the Environmental Progress Award and the Staff Development Award in the 2003 Bank of New Zealand Waitakere Eco-City Business Awards. Phoenix Organics Ltd has shown an ongoing commitment to environmental principles and the organics philosophy and is fully deserving of this accolade. Congratulations!

## Cleaner Production – Local assistance

What is Cleaner Production you may ask? Essentially it is the process of looking holistically at your business practices and identifying areas where you can be more efficient and profitable with resources and processes (manufacturing and retailing).

Have you ever wondered how your business can:

- Ⓞ Reduce energy use?
- Ⓞ Increase productivity while reducing material use and wastage?
- Ⓞ Reduce water use and wastewater discharges?
- Ⓞ Find safer alternatives to substances currently used?

For further information or assistance contact Waitakere City Council's Cleaner Production team 09 839 0400. We may be able to assist you directly, or put you in touch with other organisations for further assistance.

*What are you waiting for?*

Call Cleaner Production, ph (09) 839 0400



## Reply Form

Name .....

Address .....

Tel .....

Mobile .....

Fax .....

Email .....

Please provide our business with more information on:

- Business Recycling
- Cleaner Production Support for our business
- Hazardous Substances
- Greening your Office
- Waste Oil
- Auckland BusinessCare Enviro-mark
- Resource Efficiency

Post Cleaner Production Team, Waitakere City Council, Private Bag 93 109, Henderson, Waitakere City.  
 Email [info@waitakere.govt.nz](mailto:info@waitakere.govt.nz)  
 Phone (09) 839 0400

# Wise Resource Use

Issue 3 April 2004



## Health, Safety and Environment Guide for the Boat Building Industry



*Members of the Boat Building Working Group at the launch of the Health, Safety and Environment Guide for the Boat Building Industry - Phil Cameron, Sovereign Yachts; Brian Hatton, Alloy Yachts; Scot Nisbet and Colin Martin, Formula Cruisers; and John Reid Salthouse Marine Group.*

Boat building is one of Waitakere's major industries, with approximately 25% of export boats and 50% of the country's boat-building apprentices in Waitakere City. Safer workplaces and healthier environments for the industry are being promoted with the release of a new national 'Health, Safety and Environment Guide for the Boat Building Industry' partly developed in Waitakere City.

Representatives from local boat building companies, Waitakere City Council, Occupational Safety and Health Service, Accident Compensation Corporation, Marine Industry Association, NZ Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union and the Auckland Regional Council launched the new national guide at the Lincoln Green on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November last year. The guide was produced to provide practical tools and best practice examples for health, safety and environmental issues specific to the boat building industry. It is designed to be a living document that can be added to and updated continuously.

Waitakere City Council initiated the cleaner production project with the boat building industry. Now in its fourth year the project is showing its success with the participation of seven Waitakere City and eight Auckland region boat builders participating in bi-monthly Boat Building Work Groups to discuss and work through their industry's issues. Organisations trying to work with the boat building industry to improve health, safety and environment practices also meet through a bi-monthly Boat Building Information Group. Kevin Honeybun, Injury Prevention Consultant at ACC says "the partnerships established with the industry, puts us in an excellent position for ongoing collaboration and improvement of health, safety and environmental issues and the beauty of it is that it is the boat-builders themselves driving the change." Both groups worked closely together to develop this practical guide and will continue to work together to provide updates and additions to the guide over the following year.

300 copies of the guide will be distributed to boat building companies around New Zealand through the Marine Industry Association. For more information go to [www.waitakere.govt.nz](http://www.waitakere.govt.nz) [search 'boat building'] or contact Kelly Taylor, Cleaner Production at Waitakere City Council on (09) 839 0400.

## Opportunity To Join Exciting New Programme



Want your business to be more environmentally efficient and responsible but would like some help? Now there is a new initiative to support Auckland Businesses through this process.



The programme - Auckland BusinessCare Enviro-Mark - will offer businesses financial and practical help to become more environmentally efficient and to gain certification. The programme combines BusinessCare, which promotes and supports the implementation of sustainable management practices by businesses and Enviro-Mark<sup>®</sup>NZ, which is an environmental management and certification tool.

The programme allows for the recruitment of up to 72 Auckland businesses of different types and sizes to join a two-year programme. Participating businesses will sign up to achieve a number of environmental commitments as well as achieving Enviro-Mark<sup>®</sup>NZ Bronze, Silver and Gold standards. Costs will be shared between the business and the sponsors.

To find out more about this exciting programme and how to apply view: [www.enviro-mark.co.nz/businesscare/](http://www.enviro-mark.co.nz/businesscare/) or contact Brent Bielby at Waitakere City Council on (09) 839-0400.

*One business' waste is another's resource*

Printed on recycled paper using vegetable-oil based inks

## Reusable Cloth Bags – The Way to Go!



Michelle Dawson, WCC and Elsa Clark, owner of Earth Seed

What do your staff do when a customer says, 'No plastic bag please.' Do staff members get that confused look in their face, thinking 'what do I do now?'

The councils in the Auckland region have been working together to help businesses offer customers a sustainable alternative to throw away plastic shopping bags. They have been working with a number of stockists in New Zealand to develop an affordable selection of cloth bags and reusable bags.

The 'Protect Our Future – Reuse Today' cloth bags are now available in Foodstuffs (Pak'N Save, New World and Four Square) supermarkets, local retail stores like Earth Seed and East West Organics, and Waitakere Libraries. Progressive Enterprises (Woolworths, Foodtown and Countdown) and The Warehouse have also recently begun to offer their own branded cloth bags seeing there is a demand for an alternative to plastic bags.

If your business would like to offer cloth bags to customers as part of its product range a stockist list can be accessed at [www.waitakere.govt.nz](http://www.waitakere.govt.nz) [search 'cloth bags'] or contact Michelle Dawson at Waitakere City Council on (09) 839 0400.

## A Proactive Company

In seeking to improve efficiencies in the Company's practices, Corbans Viticulture Limited has implemented a variety of initiatives with an environmental focus. This was acknowledged when the Company reached the finals in last years Waitakere Eco-City Business Awards.

High water usage rates during their busy winter period, initiated the installation of an onsite water catchment and recycling system incorporating waste removal processes. Operational since 2001, it is estimated that this saves some 115,200 litres of water per day - that's the equivalent daily water use of 230 households!

Recent nursery practices include the seeding of fallowed land with lupin flower plants to increase soil nitrogen content and, as part of their soil restoration plan, the spread and incorporation of worm compost (vermicast) at the rate of 700kg per hectare. During the spring / summer period, every second row of particular vineyard blocks is left unmown. And in response to the varea mite problem, wildflowers were planted as a pollen source for bees.

Additionally, the recent purchase of a dedicated spray system, fixed to an ATV, means 70 to 90% less herbicide is used and, being a lower, lighter mechanism, more accurately targets weeds, reduces soil compaction & minimises damage to the vine trunks.

In other areas resource efficiency is actively encouraged. By participating in the Auckland Regional Councils RENEW waste exchange programme, Corbans Viticulture Ltd has sourced necessary items as required, as well as providing shredded paper and heavy duty plastic bags to individuals responding to their listings of materials in the RENEW Catalogue. Council recycling bins are strategically placed around the site and clean paper waste is collected for recycling, whilst the refilling of flowing soap containers and computer cartridges further assists both financial and environmental savings.

The Company seeks to consolidate existing, and further future environmental initiatives as it expands in this area of responsible business practice.

For more information on how your business can improve its environmental practises contact the Cleaner Production team - Waitakere City Council - (09) 839-0400.

## 10 Simple Steps to a Greener Office

Would you like to save money, improve staff morale and your public image? Greening your office will do just this. Any business small or large can make a difference and realise the benefits by implementing the 10 Simple Steps to a Greener office;

### 1- Measure how much you use & how much you waste!

- Keep track of your purchasing, especially paper, and look at your energy usage in your electricity bill.

### 2- Save paper – think before you print.

- Use your print preview function on your PC before you print.
- Combine accounts to have just one mail out rather than several.
- Double-side printing and photocopying.

### 3- Save toner

- Draft quality printouts use less toner.

### 4 - Save energy

- Make sure all computers, office equipment and lights are turned off when they are not being used.
- Use the stairs rather than a lift!

### 5- Recycle as much as you can!

- Use the council's kerb-side collection for staff's Plastics 1 & 2, cans and glass.
- All paper including used office paper, newspapers and cardboard.
- Office equipment, toner cartridges, computers, mobile phones & batteries.

### 6- Share Stationery

- Encourage staff to share and circulate copies of reports rather than issuing separate copies
- Share staplers, hole punches etc. rather than owning one each!

### 7- Re-use Office Supplies

- Set-up a stationery 'reuse centre' or 'exchange spot' for unwanted stationery, envelopes and packaging.
- Paper (reuse both sides of the paper, and then recycle).

### 8- Buy Recycled Products

- Buy recycled paper and paper based products. Check to make sure your photocopier supplier endorses the use of recycled content paper and remanufactured toner cartridges before you buy.

### 9- Return to Sender

- Ask suppliers to take unwanted packaging back for reuse.
- Ask your packaging supplier about a returnable credit system.

### 10 - Share Ideas and Keep Improving

- While greening your office you might find better ways of reducing waste, water or energy – share your ideas with others.
- Look at other green office initiatives to keep your programme going!
- Tell your customers and the community about what you have been doing!

For more information on greening your office go to [www.greenoffice.org.nz](http://www.greenoffice.org.nz) or contact the Sustainable Business Network <http://www.sustainable.org.nz/>, email [office@sustainable.org.nz](mailto:office@sustainable.org.nz) or phone (09) 920 2400.

Printed on recycled paper using vegetable-oil based inks

## Waste Oil

Are you creating a hazardous work environment? Is your workshop cluttered with used waste oil just waiting for someone else to get rid of it for you? One of the issues that came out of the Cleaner Production Hazardous Substances Survey, carried out in Waitakere City in 2001, was the large amount of waste oil stored in the city. In fact nearly a quarter of Waitakere City businesses hold waste oil onsite.

Waste oil recycling companies are available to pick up quantities of waste oil of 400L or more. Some recyclers will even pick up the waste oil for free....IF the waste oil is 'clean.' The trick to keeping it 'clean' is stopping contamination or mixing with water, solvents, solids and sludges. Waste oil recyclers often increase charges if the waste oil is contaminated and some may even refuse to collect it completely so it pays to keep it 'clean'!

For further information contact Kelly Taylor, Cleaner Production at Waitakere City Council on (09) 839 0400.

## Doing it on a budget

Didn't think you could make a difference without spending a lot of money? Well Marcus and Elizabeth of Midas Car Care, New Lynn have. When Marcus and Elizabeth took over the workshop it was not in a good state. Waste oil had been stored uncovered and uncontained above a storm water drain, spilling out and into the storm water system. Unidentified fluids were being mixed with the used oil and stored in unlabelled containers.

Since taking over the business Marcus and Elizabeth have undertaken a number of positive environmental initiatives at no extra cost to their business. They have moved the used oil store in doors and away from the storm water drain reducing the risks of storm water contamination.

They have also invested in some homemade bunding (containment structure) to contain the oil store. Made up of a solid metal wall and lined with a heavy plastic and wood edging, all found in their scrap pile, the bunding acts as a secondary containment for any possible spills.

To reduce the quantity of waste, the company has also instituted several waste minimisation practices including:

- Organising a recycler for the radiator flush and installing a low waste flushing system
- Sending their oil filters to a recycler for disposal
- Recycling their shredded documents
- Sending their scrap metal to a recycler
- Installing a reticulating parts washer

All of these initiatives help to reduce the quantities of waste that would otherwise be going to the landfill, and reduce the expensive waste disposal costs.

*Well done Midas Car Care New Lynn!*



Oil store before 'bunding'



Oil store after new homemade 'bunding'