



Report 03.505
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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 1 August 2003 at Greater Wellington.

2. Discussion

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

2.1 Tyres

Stan Boon of Waste Tyre Solutions made a presentation to WREA. Used tyres cannot be landfilled as they float to the surface. This makes the options for disposal extremely limited. WREA has been actively seeking solutions to dispose of tyres which, as outlined in my previous reports to the Committee, is one of New Zealand's largest special waste streams. Waste Tyre Solutions has purchased the machine with the intention of hiring it out to businesses and Territorial Authorities. The machine is the only one in New Zealand and it will be transported around the country, cutting tyres into small pieces so they can be landfilled. The purchase of the machine has been welcomed by the Territorial Authorities in our Region.

2.2 Enviromart

Website: Richard Moore, the Enviromart Co-ordinator, has revamped the Enviromart website and I would encourage everyone to have a look at the site, www.enviromart.org.nz. The website has been well used since the revamp occurred.

Methane Digester Project: Enviromart has made an application to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's 'Sustainable Farming Fund' for the development of a Methane Digester. The methane digester would be made from recycled industry waste materials and will process dairy effluent. If successful, the digester would be a way of reducing and reusing waste materials and, would offer significant environmental benefits, for our rivers and streams, and for

soils. It also could offer significant benefits for a major primary industry in our region.

The project is being supported by key organisations such as Massey University, Federated Farmers (Wairarapa), EECA, WREA, Nova Gas, Wrightsons, Britton House Movers, and a number of small businesses in the Wairarapa. Greater Wellington has agreed to contribute \$2,500 towards the project, conditional on it being approved by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Greater Wellington's contribution would come from it's Science and Research Fund.

Polystyrene: Enviromart is also working on a methodology to reuse polystyrene as insulation for walls and flooring. The use of polystyrene for insulation is now a well accepted practice in the building industry, however, until now no-one has developed a technique for reusing old polystyrene. It potentially offers a solution to another major special waste stream in NZ.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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