



**Report**                    **04.668**  
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**Committee**            **Environment Committee**  
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## **WREA Update**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee about the Wellington Regional Environment Agency (WREA) meeting held on 19 November 2004 at Carterton District Council.

### **2. Discussion**

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

#### **2.1 Annual General Meeting**

The annual General Meeting of the WREA was held prior to the usual three-monthly meeting. This provided for the election of officers. Councillor Jill Greathead, of the Carterton District Council was elected chairperson, and Nellie Gillies, Deputy Chairperson. The Honorary Secretary is Sandy Beath-Croft (Hutt City Council) and the Treasurer is Helen Shaffer (Porirua City Council). There was discussion about the make-up of the group to oversee the Enviromart contract, however, this was held over to be decided at the next meeting.

The financial report for the year showed the WREA finances to be in good heart. There were no other substantive matters discussed.

#### **2.2 Presentations**

In the meeting proper, a presentation was given by Mike Mendonca (Wellington City Council) on his Council's recent investigations of plastic recycling options, and recycling methods in Australia and China. A presentation was also made on a domestic composting trial in Palmeston North. The Wellington investigations indicated that there were alternative ways of dealing with waste plastic but that these were not currently viable.

The Palmerston North experiment revealed, once again, that those over 60 are the most active in caring for the environment, in this case having both the time and the inclination to take on composting at home to a far greater extent than their younger cohorts.

Richard Moore, the Enviromart Co-ordinator presented the 2004 Enviromart report. In the year to November, Enviromart has facilitated more than 120 material exchanges and diverted more than 1500 cubic metres of waste from landfills (including such items as polystyrene packaging, wooden pallets, motorway light poles, bus shelter posters, and glass house materials)

### **2.3 Business sustainability in the Wellington Region**

There was a brief discussion, initiated by Shaun Lewis of Earth Matters, on the up-take of cleaner production and other sustainable approaches to business in the region. The meeting heard that this appears to be happening in a somewhat piecemeal way, dependent largely on the ability of local councils to assist with funding. Officers from Hutt City Council, which is supporting such initiatives in its area, indicated that their Council will soon undertake some research to understand the barriers businesses face to making these kinds of business improvement. Further discussion of this was held over until the next meeting.

## **3. Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

**Councillor Sally Baber**