

Our Community Plan Submission - Received by Email

Name:	Michael Tyldesley [mikeannet@xtra.co.nz]
CC:	
Sent:	Wed 5/05/2004 14:44
Your Submission:	<p>DRAFT SOLID & HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN.</p> <p>Refuse Minimisation & Disposal - Council Activities P97 & 98</p> <p><u>Proposed Reduction of issue of black plastic bags.</u></p> <p>According to council figures (P97) the current total solid waste per <u>person</u> per annum is 650 kgs (ie. 12.5 kgs per <u>person</u> per week). On a weight basis this can be accomodated in ONE black plastic council issued bag. Therefore if there is more than one adult in a household then this causes either a journey to the tip for disposal, or the purchase of additional bags.</p> <p>If people choose to journey to the refuse disposal areas then you are encouraging an energy waste in consumed fuel and at a time when Government is proposing a fuel tax increase. You are also promoting toxic pollution in encouraging many more vehicles on the road than would be caused by an increase in the number of refuse vehicles, and so partly destroying the argument for a cleaner and healthier city. You are also encouraging a further increase in the ever increasing congestion on the roads.</p> <p>By reducing the number of plastic bags you are simply forcing the ratepayers (your customers) to purchase the difference, so there is no real gain against your target.</p> <p>The target reduction of 65% by the year 2020 represents a reduction of 0.420 kg per person per week for each ongoing year, and yet you are planning to remove the bag potential of 7.5 kgs per week instantly. This is not progress.</p> <p>If you wish to be progressive then look at Auckland North Shore waste collection. They have trialed customers with the use of ONE wheeled bin for recycling and a SECOND wheeled bin for organic produce.</p> <p>They found that 86% used the recycling service and 71% used the organic service. 35% LESS rubbish went to landfill and 14% less rubbish plastic bags were put out for collection. Street tidiness also improved as the organic waste wheeled bins are animal proof and more secure against the vagaries of the weather.</p> <p>Simply reducing the number of bags issued annually will not encourage recycling or composting. Nor will it encourage the solid waste reduction that you are looking for. Also certain 'leftovers' (chicken bones especially) tend to stink after one week, so you might be encouraging a health hazard if such items are allowed to rot for a fortnight.</p> <p>Page 98 of the document refers to 'Service Levels" and states the percentages of people who are satisfied with the service. Has there been a survey of council services? We can only assume that 20 percent of your customers were dissatisfied and telephoned to complained about the black bag collection, and therefore you assume that the remaining 80% are totally happy about the service. The same reasoning no doubt applies to the plastic green crates.</p>

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

The council also mentions that customers should shop more selectively, to choose products that offer minimal solid waste. The emphasis for change would be better directed at the manufacturer to provide packaging that is more congenial to waste management, rather than trying to influence shoppers not to buy this or that product.

Your intentions are no doubt worthy. Your method is not well thought out. You need to provide better collection services, not reduce the service already in existence. At least Auckland trial a service and they have the facts and figures to support an argument before making a final decision.

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Tel: (03) 323 8233 - I do not wish to submit this personally.