

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** David Stephenson, Utilities Asset Engineer

**REFERENCE:** R396

**DATE:** 22 February 2010

**SUBJECT:** **ZERO WASTE GRANTS**  
Report prepared for meeting of 4 March 2010

---

## 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to submit funding recommendations for six larger Zero Waste Grant applications received in the latest round and to report smaller grants recently awarded.

## 2 SMALLER GRANTS

At its meeting of 30 November 2006, the Engineering Services Committee resolved that:

- c). *Council Engineering Manager be given delegated authority, in conjunction with Deputy Chair, Engineering Services Committee, to award grants from the approved zero waste budget for simple applications of up to \$1,000 from schools and community groups where the grant is for the purchase of equipment or provision of educational activities for the purpose of waste minimisation, and a six monthly schedule of grants applied for and the decisions made be forwarded to the Engineering Services Committee.*

Over the previous six months the following have been approved under the above delegation.

Organisation	Project	Funds Sought (excl GST)	Funding approved (excl GST)
Abel Tasman Education Trust (ATET)	Purchase of three worm farms for composting of food scraps and shredded paper.	\$130.00	\$130.00
Greenwood Kindergarten	Purchase of two "paper brick" makers.	\$100.00	\$100.00
St Paul's Primary School	Purchase of two worm farms for food scrap composting.	\$256.00	\$256.00
Pinegrove Kindergarten, Brightwater	Purchase of worm farm and water tank, development of raised garden.	\$1880.00	\$680.00
Brooklyn School	Development of an additional compost system for green waste	\$319.82	\$319.82
Golden Bay Kindergarten	Purchase of worm and compost bins, materials for cloth bag creation	\$1094.00	\$1000.00

### 3 LARGER GRANT APPLICATIONS

In the most recent funding round the following applications were received.

Organisation	Project	Funds Sought (excl GST)	Funding recommended
Collingwood Beachcomber Motel	Provision of an additional recycling bin for guests, expansion of an existing worm farm and construction of a shed to house these.	\$2,005.00	\$600.00
Golden Bay Promotion Association	Provision of a drinking water tap in Takaka for refilling of water bottles	\$5,370.00	0.00
Luminate Festival	Promotion of zero waste principles through posters, T-shirts & seminars at Festival. Production of a documentary at the festival.	\$2,100.00	\$500.00
MultiDig Services	Provision of a grab arm to assist in the processing of demolition waste.	\$15,000.00	0.00
Parkes Automotive	Funding of research for local processing and/or reuse of auto tyres.	\$6,700.00	\$1000.00
The Wholemeal Trading Co.	Installation of in-house recycling systems and supply of re-useable mugs	\$4,816.00	\$816.00

### 4 DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Collingwood Beachcomber Motel

This application is considered to have some merit although total volumes diverted from landfill will be modest as the applicant has already made significant reductions in waste. The worm-composting of food is reasonably novel. The funding for construction of a shelter for the facility may not have a direct waste minimisation benefit (although it may make the facilities more useable). It is recommended that funding be approved for the recycling containers and worm farm.

#### 4.2 Golden Bay Promotion Association

While this application is novel and has the ability to widely promote waste minimisation, the applicant has not demonstrated buy-in from local retailers. It is also considered that such a facility could be supplied at lower cost by individual participants and through promotion of existing facilities.

#### 4.3 Luminate Festival (2010)

This applicant was partially successful in an application for funding for the 2009 Festival (for provision of reusable mugs and waste minimisation promotional material).

This application requests funding for costs associated with promotion of waste minimisation and wider sustainability (via workshops, promotional posters and T-shirts) and for the making of a documentary related to zero waste. Due to the timing of the application, staff availability and committee meeting schedules, this application is being considered after the 2010 Festival.

Staff understand that festival organisers proceeded with the Zero Waste initiatives despite funding not being approved. A review of the festival website indicates a strong waste minimisation message promoted.

It is recommended that a part-grant of \$500 be awarded for production of the DVD documentary, subject to receiving a copy for the promotion of waste minimisation.

#### **4.4 Multi-dig Services**

This application is for a grant to improve existing machinery used to crush demolition material. Construction and demolition material are a significant proportion of the waste stream (rubble and timber 12% combined) and this application addresses this waste area. Unfortunately because the applicant has not secured alternative end markets (other than landfill), the proposal will not, as it stands, reduce waste to landfill.

It is recommended that the application be put aside while staff work with the applicant to trial the existing equipment at Council facilities and to establish whether local alternatives to landfill exist.

#### **4.5 Parkes Automotive**

This application is essentially for a research grant to seek local solutions for reuse or alternative disposal of used tyres. Disposal of this material has been problematic nationally and they are difficult to landfill, potentially hazardous when dumped in other areas and a litter issue.

The applicant has an excellent waste minimisation track record, and was the winner of the supreme award and commercial category in the 2008 Tasman District Environmental Awards. The applicant has also funded public place recycling in Motueka.

Unfortunately solutions to the "tyre problem", both locally and nationally appear to be elusive, despite significant studies and pilots undertaken in recent years. In July 2009 the Ministry for the Environment reported it was working with the Motor Trade Association to develop solutions in this area.

It is recommended that a limited study grant of \$1000 be offered, for preparation of an initial scoping report on local options.

#### **4.6 The Wholemeal Trading Co.**

This application is for assistance in establishment of recycling systems at this Takaka café.

While the recycling proposal is not particularly innovative, it has the potential to provide education benefits and promote increased recycling in the local business community. The

reusable mug proposal, while having educational and waste minimisation benefits, would be better delivered by offering the mugs for sale.

It is recommended that funding of \$816 be granted for installation of “eco-pods” and that Council provide wheelie bins for recycling from existing stocks.

## **5 FUNDING**

At present, \$3724.00 of Zero Waste Grant funding remains uncommitted in the current financial year. The total funding recommended is \$2916.00.

## **6 RECOMMENDATION**

That the following Zero Waste grants be approved:

Collingwood Beachcomber Motel	\$600.00	For provision of an additional recycling bin for guests, expansion of an existing worm farm.
Luminate Festival	\$500.00	For production of a waste minimization documentary of the festival.
Parkes Automotive	\$1000.00	For funding of a scoping study for local processing and/or reuse of auto tyres.
The Wholemeal Trading Co.	\$816.00	Installation of in-house recycling systems.

David Stephenson  
**Utilities Asset Engineer**