

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Utilities Asset Engineer, David Stephenson
REFERENCE: R395
DATE: 22 November 2006
SUBJECT: ZERO WASTE GRANT APPLICATIONS – OCTOBER 2006

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Report is to seek approval of proposed Zero Waste Grants and to seek an amendment to the grant process for small, simple applications.

2 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Two applications were received in this funding round and reviewed by Council staff and Councillor Bryant. The applications received were:

| Applicant | Application received | Proposed purpose of grant | Funds requested |
|------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| St Peter Chanel School | 16/10/2006 | Purchase of worm bins, recycling bins and gardening materials. | \$500 |
| Golden Bay Biofuels | 27/10/2006 | Rental of passenger vehicle for bio-diesel demonstration, publicity and educational material. | \$2070 |

2.1 St Peter Chanel School

The funding applied for by this applicant is to purchase equipment and materials for the initiation of recycling and waste minimisation activities at the school. This project is considered to have very high educational merit. While the direct waste minimisation effect is expected to be small, the indirect effects, through the education of the students, are expected to be high.

A grant of \$500 is recommended.

2.2 Golden Bay Biofuels

This applicant proposes to produce bio-diesel through the processing of waste products (vegetable oils, tallow) which are present in the existing waste stream. While the process may have substantial waste minimisation advantages, it is considered that the application, as it stands, does not contain enough detail to give confidence in the viability of the process or the rigour of the estimated benefits.

It is proposed that the application be declined, with the applicants invited to present additional information.

3 APPLICATION PROCESS

A review of Zero Waste Grant applications to date indicates that they generally fall into one of three categories:

- Applications by schools or small community groups for equipment to reduce waste (for example: purchase of recycling, compost and worm bins)
- Applications by community groups to undertake community education or promotional activities in the waste minimisation area, and
- Applications by community groups or businesses to assist in the development of business activities that reduce waste.

Applications in the first two categories are generally straight-forward, and funds applied for are usually modest – in the order of \$500-\$1000. The estimation of the waste minimisation benefits of these applications (either direct or indirect) is usually easily evaluated.

Grant applications that fall into the third category are usually for a commercial or semi-commercial purpose and often for a grant to the value of \$1500 - \$6000. Evaluation of these applications is at times somewhat complex, with the need to balance perceived commercial advantages with the promotion of “early-movers” in waste minimisation and the risk of little return on funds granted with the promotion of innovation.

At present all applications are advertised and evaluated on a twice yearly basis, with recommendations of Councillor Bryant and Council staff presented to the Engineering Services Committee for approval.

It is proposed that applications for grants that fall into the first two categories (from schools or community groups, for equipment purchase or educational activities to a value up to \$1000) be dealt with by Council staff on a more frequent basis. These applications would be assessed against similar criteria as at present, with simple applications awarded at a staff/Councillor level, and larger, potentially complex applications deferred to the twice-annual process as at present.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 THAT a grant of \$500 to St Peter Chanel School be approved.

4.2 THAT the application from Golden Bay Biofuels be declined.

4.3 THAT Council staff be given delegated authority, in conjunction with a nominated Councillor, to award grants from the approved zero waste budget for simple applications of up to \$1000 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.

David Stephenson
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