

**Development of a
hazardous waste
reference guide for
Canterbury local
authorities**

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Development of a Hazardous Waste Reference Guide for Canterbury Local Authorities

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**Report prepared for:
Regional Hazardous Waste Working Party**

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City Solutions – Christchurch City Council**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	BACKGROUND.....	1
1.2	OBJECTIVES	1
2	METHODOLOGY	1
3	RESULTS OF SCOPING STUDY.....	2
3.1	TYPES OF WASTE COUNCILS RECEIVE ENQUIRIES FOR.....	2
3.2	NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES RECEIVED.....	2
3.3	PERSON RECEIVING ENQUIRIES	3
3.4	SUGGESTIONS FOR INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN GUIDE	3
3.5	PREFERRED FORMAT.....	3
4	THE COMPLETED REFERENCE GUIDE	3
4.1	HOW TO USE THE GUIDE.....	3
4.2	TYPES OF WASTE INCLUDED.....	4
4.3	INFORMATION ON WASTES	4
4.4	FORMAT AND MAINTENANCE	4

APPENDIX A: Council Contacts for Information

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In 1999 ten Canterbury Territorial Local Authorities (TLA's) and Environment Canterbury, through the Canterbury Hazardous Waste Working Party, developed the Canterbury Hazardous Waste Management Strategy (the Strategy) to provide an integrated framework for improving the management of hazardous waste. This strategy incorporates a number of implementation programmes aimed at better managing and minimising hazardous waste.

Information on potential options for hazardous waste management is a prerequisite to its appropriate management. By providing information on appropriate options, generators and staff are able to make informed decisions on how to manage hazardous waste. Responsible management choices will ensure that the potential impacts on the environment of hazardous waste should be significantly reduced.

The CCC Environmental Services Unit currently provides a technical advisory service to generators, handlers and disposers of hazardous waste within Christchurch City, and to other district councils in the region via requests from TA officers. This service is provided by the Hazardous Waste Advisory Service (HWAS). Information is provided on options available for reuse, treatment, or disposal, of the material as well as acceptance criteria for disposal through any of the CCC's disposal facilities, i.e., treatment works, or Burwood landfill. (When disposal at the landfill is required a waste manifest system is initiated).

This service is available to all generators, handlers and disposers of hazardous waste regardless of the community sector but is generally limited to those within Christchurch other than calls conducted via TA officers.

This project aims to document the information that would be regularly provided to the district council staff by the HWAS. It is hoped that by documenting this information the number of enquiries from the district council staff to the HWAS would be significantly reduced.

1.2 Objectives

To provide a guidance document (in electronic and hard copy) for territorial local authority staff, that outlines whether options for reduction exist and options for reuse, recycling, recovery, storage, treatment or disposal of hazardous waste within the region.

2 Methodology

Phase 1: Scoping

Information was sought from both the HWAS and members of the staff group to identify:

- what hazardous wastes should be included in the guide i.e. what hazardous wastes are enquiries received for; by whom; how often
- what is the preferred format for the information
- what information others would like to see included in the guide
- whether there are other resources available either nationally or internationally that may be applicable to Canterbury.

A draft report summarising information was produced and disseminated to districts for comment before final decisions were made on what hazardous wastes to include in the guide.

Phase 2: Gathering information

Collect information on management of those hazardous wastes that are to be included in the guide.

Phase 3: Development of guide

Develop a guide, in an agreed format, that will indicate, on a district basis, options available to TLAs for management of those hazardous wastes for which information is regularly sought from the CCC HWAS. .

3 Results of Scoping Study

The development of the guide included gathering the following information from eight Canterbury Territorial Local Authorities (via members of the staff group) and from the Christchurch City Council (CCC) Hazardous Waste Advisory Service (HWAS) (refer Appendix A).

3.1 Types of waste councils receive enquiries for

Waste	No. of Councils receiving enquiry (excl. CCC)
Asbestos	5
Oil	3
Paint	2
Soil contaminated with fuel	1
Agrichemicals e.g. DDT	5
Batteries – nicad; motor vehicle	2
Gas Cylinders	1
1080	1
Medical products - old medicines; needles	2
Household cleaners	1
Refrigeration units	1
Pest extermination products	1

In addition the CCC HWAS receive enquiries from the wider Canterbury area are for:

- Asbestos
- Agrichemicals – includes pesticides; sheep dip etc
- filter medium from transformer cleanout - diatomaceous earth with oil (12 per year)
- PCB's
- Contaminated soils
- MDF residues eg sawdust
- Other sundry hazardous wastes

3.2 Number of enquiries received

Christchurch and Timaru receive the most enquiries. Timaru receives around 30-40 enquiries per year that require manifests. The CCC HWAS received 505 enquiries, and issued 328 manifests for disposal for the year ended 31/12/2001. Over half (59%) of the manifests issued by the CCC were for asbestos.

Other councils indicated that they receive between one and 6 enquiries per year, up to 12 per year in the case of Waimakariri District Council. However, these numbers may vary as most councils do not keep accurate records of enquiries and enquiries may be received by different people within a Council.

3.3 Person Receiving Enquiries

Enquiries are received by either the staff group member, environmental health officers or, in one council, the Roading and Street Services Manager. Both the CCC and Timaru District Council commented that their customer services staff could potentially handle some hazardous waste enquiries.

3.4 Suggestions for Information to Include in Guide

Councils expressed a desire for the guide to include information on:

- identification of chemicals
- how hazardous they are and safety implications / issues relating to their current storage situation
- packaging and repackaging
- how, when, where and cost of identification, packaging, storage and disposal options
- how to handle hazardous waste i.e. packaging, storage, transport
- what are intractable agrichemicals
- who has responsibility for dealing with hazardous waste
- contact details for specialist advice, further information etc e.g. HWAS, ECan
- contact details for hazardous waste recycling and disposal operators

3.5 Preferred Format

Councils wanted information to be electronic (3) or hard copy formats (2), or both (2).

4 The Completed Reference Guide

The completed guide provides Canterbury local authorities with information and contacts for reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal of specific hazardous wastes as well as contacts for further advice.

4.1 How to Use the Guide

The guide is intended as a reference document to assist local authorities answer questions regarding hazardous waste. It is NOT for distribution to the public as it is essential that councils receive requests for information so that they can gain a better understanding of the hazardous waste needs of their district.

The guide can be used as a printed document but is perhaps most useful if used in electronic format as this enables full utilisation of the links that have been set up within the document and to information on websites. For example:

- click once on anything in the contents and this will take you directly to that part of the document

- click once on anything that is underlined and this will provide further information or contact details

If a local authority receives an enquiry about a hazardous waste that is not listed in the guide, it is recommended that they use the questionnaire in Appendix A of the guide and then contact the Christchurch City Council Hazardous Waste Advisory Service for further advice.

4.2 Types of Waste Included

The guide identifies options for the following waste types:

- Agrichemicals and pest extermination products including cyanide, DDT
- Asbestos
- Batteries – nicad; motor vehicle
- Contaminated soil
- Gas Cylinders
- Medical products - old medicines; needles
- Oil
- Paint
- PCBs
- Solvents, including chlorinated solvents

Hazardous wastes are listed in alphabetical order to enable quick reference, with some cross-referencing as required.

4.3 Information on Wastes

For specific hazardous wastes identified above, the guide:

- identifies recycling, reuse and disposal options for individual councils
- identifies whether reduction options exist and provide links / references for further information
- indicates which enquiries must be referred to the HWAS e.g. asbestos
- identifies agrichemicals that are banned or have restrictions on use
- provides links / references for further information e.g. paints and solvents information

The guide also includes:

- general information on what are hazardous wastes and how to transport hazardous waste
- contact details for specialist advice, further information etc e.g. HWAS
- contact details for hazardous waste recycling and disposal operators in Canterbury
- general information on costs associated with disposal of hazardous wastes
- a list of questions to ensure that the necessary information is gathered if the answer for a specific query cannot be provided

For general information on packaging, storage and transport of hazardous wastes the guide recommends that reference be made to the CAE publication “Management of Hazardous Waste”, a copy of which should be obtained by all councils.

4.4 Format and Maintenance

The guide has been produced and distributed to all Canterbury councils in electronic format and as a hard-copy document. As the guide is a word document it is relatively easy to update as changes in management practices etc occur and for individual councils to print further

copies as required. It is recommended that the guide is revised and reprinted annually, or more often if major changes have been made. Updating and reprinting of the guide should be done by a central agency.

It is recommended that districts keep a record of all enquiries received, including enquiries for hazardous wastes where there are no defined disposal solutions. This information will assist councils gain a better understanding of the hazardous waste issues in their district and will also help determine whether the guide should be expanded to include additional wastes or information. The questionnaire in Appendix A of the guide could be used to record information.

Appendix A: Council contacts for information

Russell Malthus	Christchurch City Council	03 941 8828
Jan Anderson	Christchurch City Council	03 941 8678
Robert Rouse	Ashburton District Council	03 308 5139
Geoff Birss	Banks Peninsula District Council	03 328 8065
Darren Patterson	Environment Canterbury	03 365 3828
Bruce Yates	Hurunui District Council	03 314 8816
Ian Challenger	Kaikoura District Council	03 319 5026
Rachael Harrison	Mackenzie District Council	03 685 8514
Dave Hock	Selwyn District Council	03 324 8080
Brian Gallagher	Timaru District Council	03 684 8199
Blue Forsyth	Timaru District Council	03 684 8199
Kitty Waghorn	Waimakariri District Council	03 313 6136
Brian Purcell	Waimate District Council	03 689 8079