



Report **05.503**
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Committee **Environment**
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Wellington Regional Environmental Agency Update

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the Wellington Regional Environmental Agency (WREA) meeting held on 19 August 2005 at Masterton.

2. Discussion

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

2.1 Enviroschools – Jan Cox and Gillian Stewart

Jan Cox and Gillian Stewart gave a presentation on Enviroschools. The principles behind the Enviroschools programme are to empower students to make a difference and help their local environment through a whole school approach to environmental education.

Nationally, Enviroschools is present in 12 out of 14 regions. In the Wellington Region there are 6 schools undertaking the programme. Partnerships have been established with the Porirua, Carterton, Masterton, and Hutt City Councils, Greater Wellington, WWF and Victoria University.

Schools can be involved in two ways, through the annual Enviroschool Awards and through a facilitated programme, based on the government paper “Guidelines for Environmental Education in Schools” (1999). The facilitated programme applies environmental principles to four key areas of the school environment: physical surroundings, operational practices, organizational principles and the curriculum.

The meeting concluded that there was value in the programme for local authorities and the extension of the regional co-ordinator’s contract for another three years was welcomed

2.2 Regional Waste Education Pilot at Trash Palace – Bianca Maich

Bianca Maich spoke about a waste minimisation program for schools recently piloted at Trash Palace in Porirua. The program involves a bus trip to the landfill, discussions on recycling, a tour of Trash Palace, the permaculture garden, the water recycling ponds and Poly Palace, and some hands-on activities and final questions at the end of the day. Feedback from the pilot has been extremely positive and the majority of kids started recycling or made improvements to their existing recycling systems in their school and at home.

After the presentation there was a discussion that raised the following points:

- Trash Palace only had capacity to host one class at a time.
- Councils which were interested in having schools in their area undertake the visit would need to provide funding and book in advance.
- Funding from the Sustainable Trust for the next financial year provides for 15 school visits at a subsidy of \$150 per school.
- Safety is an important part of each visit. There had been no problems during the pilot.

2.3 WREA Funded Programme – Enviromart

Richard Moore tabled a report on the regional meeting on the Waste Exchange held in Palmerston North. He proposed that the website Trade Me could be used as an alternative to Enviromart website. It was suggested that discussions be held with Trade Me on expanding the waste section of their website.

3. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report; and*
2. *Notes the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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