



Media Release

14 December 2009

User Pays for Waste

Community feedback is sought from people interested in having a say on the costs of rubbish collections and disposing of rubbish at transfer stations

“Given our small communities and distance from the Victoria Flats landfill our communities cannot afford the cost of getting rid of rubbish, we must develop alternatives to landfill and provide education on them”, says Sophie Mander, Waste Minimisation Officer. “The activities identified in the Solid Waste Minimisation Strategy are very good, they are local, small scale, community based solutions and most importantly, are more affordable than sending stuff to Victoria Flats landfill”.

During the strategy’s consultation in 2007, community members suggested alternatives to landfill e.g. increased recycling, greenwaste solutions and education programmes. It is proposed that all of these alternatives to landfilling are funded by the people who produce waste. The cost of implementing the strategy would see an increase in the costs of a Council wheelie bin, a private bin collection and the use of transfer stations.

To fund the waste minimisation activities, the cost of a Council wheelie bin would go from \$192 to \$224, fees and charges at the transfer station would go from \$140 per Tonne to \$201 per Tonne and the good news is that general rates (public good), would go down from \$75 to \$48 per annum. The figures are indicative and would be confirmed through the annual plan.

Councils Waste Minimisation Officer explains, “In terms of rates, those with a Council wheelie bin would see an increase in costs of \$5, while those living outside of the Council wheelie bin collection area would see a reduction in their rates of \$27. This represents a shift from a public good component in general rates for waste disposal, to a full user pays system”.

Feed back is being sought on the proposal, and in particular the following issues;

- Whether the entire cost of waste minimisation activity is passed on to people who produce rubbish, or whether a public good element, paid for by everyone is a more fair outcome.
- Whether the waste minimisation activities agreed to by the community in the strategy are still applicable.
- Whether the risks of fly tipping and private landfilling are acceptable.
- Whether there are methods to help reduce the costs for households that actively reduce their waste, e.g. put small amounts of rubbish in their wheelie bin.

The full Statement of Proposal and a submission form is available for anyone to write their comments. These can be obtained from all Council offices, and may be downloaded from the Council website, www.codc.govt.nz

The official consultation process starts on 12 December through to the 29 January.

For any further information contact:

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