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Media release - for immediate release

22 November 2007

Holiday Season Recycling

The party season is here, along with summer's nor' west winds, and both present challenges for kerbside recycling.

The sheer volume at this time of year is difficult for collectors to cope with, and if material is not prepared properly it leads to overflowing crates, and wind blown litter in streets.

"We want to encourage residents to recycle as much as possible, and to do it in a way that it doesn't create litter in their neighbourhood" says Stephen Bain, Chair of the Real Recycling promotions committee.

Christmas often means piles of wrapping paper, cardboard boxes, and extra bottles and cans. "We want to remind people that it is just as easy to put them in your recycling crate as it is to throw them into a rubbish bag, where they will end up in landfill" says Bain.

Correct preparation can help in dealing with the extra holiday season volume. Real Recycling asks that people rinse and squash all tins, cans and plastic bottles. This provides more space in recycling crates, and allows the collectors to fit more in the trucks.

Wrapping paper, greeting cards and all other paper (newspaper, magazines, circulars etc) can be put in a supermarket bag (along with excess supermarket bags) for kerbside collection. Tying the bag handles keeps the contents secure and stops them from blowing down the street. Placing the full bag on top of the crate for collection also holds down lightweight items that might blow away.

Large pieces of cardboard are easily picked up by the wind, so large boxes and corrugated cardboard should be flattened, securely tied into bundles the size of the recycling crate, and placed next to the crate.

If one recycling crate is not enough, people can contact a council service centre to see if they are entitled to another crate or else people may drop their recycling off at the recycling centres at the Christchurch EcoDepots, or the transfer stations in other areas.

This year Christmas and New Year's Day both fall on a Tuesday. For people whose normal collection is Tuesday it is important to remember to put recycling out the Saturday **before**. Recycling needs to be at the kerbside by 7:30am in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula, and by 8am in Waimakariri.

For more information visit www.realrecycling.com or call 941 8833.

Real Recycling is a partnership between TerraNova, the Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri District Council and Transpacific Industries. ###