



Welcome to the first Real Recycling newsletter

Last year, you were nominated for a Gold Crate for your dedication to recycling, so we know you are as committed to recycling as we are. We appreciate your effort and want to keep you in the loop with what is happening with recycling.

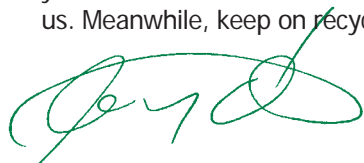
Real Recycling began a television campaign in February – perhaps you've seen some of the ads. The campaign will continue through into 2006. We know how easy it is to recycle and the impact it can have so we want to encourage more people to become committed recyclers. You can help us spread the message.

Kerbside recycling has been a huge success in the Canterbury region, thanks in part to people like you. The amount being recycled has increased by 16 per cent during the last year. There is still a lot of work to be done though. On average, each person in Christchurch produces 730 kilograms of rubbish per year; 20 per cent of that could be recycled and a further 50 per cent could be composted.

Only items which have an established market are collected at the kerbside. As new markets and opportunities are identified the range of items will increase.

However, as new items are collected they take up more room both in your crate and on the truck. This is another reason why it's important to squash all cans and plastic recyclables. If there's no space in the crate or on the truck it's more difficult to collect new items, which is something we all want to do.

We hope you enjoy your first Real Recycling newsletter. We would like to hear your feedback and if there is something you'd like to know more about please feel free to contact us. Meanwhile, keep on recycling – you make the difference!



Richard Lloyd
Chair, Real Recycling Team

The Truth About Glass

Many people don't realise that glass is very hard to recycle at present. In some regions it is being landfilled, but not in Christchurch City or Waimakariri District. Real Recycling is committed to recycling what is collected, and glass collected at kerbside by Real Recycling is not going to landfill.



Richard Lloyd at the paper recycling plant

Glass food and drink containers can be efficiently recycled into new containers, but unfortunately it is cheaper to import new ones. There is only one company in New Zealand which is equipped to recycle glass into new packaging and it cannot cope with the high volume of imported glass. Glass can be reused without being changed, however the reuse market is small and reusable whole bottles are also having to compete with cheaper imports.

The Recovered Materials Foundation processes the material collected at kerbside, and is stockpiling a small amount of glass until a viable reuse or recycling alternative is found. About 1000 tonnes is already reused locally. Crushed glass can be used for sandblasting and is also used in pool filtration systems, including some Christchurch public pools.

Glass can also be used in the making of roads, although this is more practicable overseas; here in Canterbury, shingle and sand is plentiful and cheap. Small amounts of crushed glass are also used as art supplies, and by garden landscapers for decoration and a mulching material.

Currently glass floor tiles - for inside and outside use - are being developed and tested. It is hoped that soon they will be in large scale production and will provide one of a range of options for recycling glass.



You make the difference

Real People - Real Recycling

Paul Reynolds is one of the Onyx drivers who works on the recycling routes. Paul first joined Onyx almost eight years ago, and despite interludes to travel or try other things he keeps coming back.

The job of collecting and sorting the material in the recycling crates may not appeal to everyone, but Paul says it has a lot of good points. "I like being outside in the fresh air, rather than stuck inside all day. It's good being somewhere different each day. We have a set area to cover but then you are helping any other team that needs it. We even go out to Selwyn or Waimakariri Districts - basically wherever we're needed after our own run is done."

Paul is lucky enough to drive the newest of the recycling trucks - a four-wheel drive truck with computerised steering - of which he is very protective! He works with two other staff who empty the crates and sort the materials. Paul started out doing running and sorting too, but earned his truck driver's licence while at Onyx. He hopes soon to move on to become a trainer for other drivers.

Like all jobs there are high points. "When everybody is in the depot together it's good, and it's great to see the guys you've trained improving." The low points of this job are unique though. "The worst things are when people put things like nappies, condoms, sanitary products or broken glass in the crates. All of that stuff has to be sorted by the guys. Only six of the trucks have conveyor belts (unacceptable items are discarded and the rest moves into the truck) and the rest have trays - that means you have to grab everything!"

Paul says people can help the collectors by making sure items are clean, and by squashing cans and plastics. That helps the collectors fit more into the trucks and means it takes fewer trips to complete a round.



Did you know...

...only 14 unsquashed plastic 1.5 litre drink bottles fit in a green Christchurch City recycling crate compared to 26 - almost twice as many - when squashed.



...it takes 26 plastic 1.5 litre drink bottles to make one sleeveless polar fleece jacket.

...it takes 32 recycled plastic milk bottles to make a green Christchurch City recycling crate.

Canterbury Home Show

Canterbury Home Show 14-16 October at Westpac Centre features the environmentally friendly Green Street, Eco homes, and sustainable and healthy lifestyles options. Prices: Adults - \$6, Children 14 years and under free if accompanied by an adult. www.canterburyhomeshow.co.nz/

We need your feedback

Do you think the newsletter is a good idea and what sort of information you would like in it?
Is there someone else you know who would like to receive the newsletter?
Would you prefer not to receive it?

Please let us know - contact details are at the top of the front page.

Kerbside recycling in Christchurch City and the Waimakariri District is undertaken by Real Recycling. Real Recycling is a partnership of Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri District Council, the Recovered Materials Foundation (RMF) and Onyx. Onyx collects the recycling and the RMF processes it.

You make the difference