APPENDICES

GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS OF WASTE TERMS

Education Kit for Junior and Intermediate Educators

Advertising: publicising, making something known to people

Aerobic: able to live and grow with free oxygen. Most decomposition is aerobic. The by-products of this type of decomposition are carbon dioxide and water as opposed to anaerobic decomposition

Alloy: mixture of different metals

Anaerobic: able to live and grow without oxygen

Antique: ancient; old fashioned; relic of ancient art or craft

Aquifer: an underground zone of earth, usually composed of gravel or porous stone, that contains water and frequently serves as a source for a well. An aquifer can become contaminated through poor waste disposal practices

Ash: the material remaining after something is completely burned

Bacteria: single-celled living organisms that can cause disease; they also can break down solid waste

Baling Station: a place where solid waste is compressed in a mechanical baler to reduce its volume prior to transportation to a landfill site

Bauxite: clay mineral that aluminium is made from

Bottle: glass vessel for containing liquids

Brass: alloy made of zinc and copper

Biodegradable: able to decompose through the natural activity of micro-organisms

Breakdown: disintegration or decomposition into component parts or elements

Bulk-buy: to buy a product in bulk or large quantities

'Cash for Cans': a payment for aluminium cans programme operated in New Zealand by Comalco

Celluloid: plastic material made from camphor and gun-cotton

CFC: acronym for chlorofluorocarbon, a coolant used as a refrigerant in refrigerators and air conditions, as a foam blowing agent, solvent and as a propellant in spray cans. When released into the atmosphere they have an ozone-depleting property

Charity Group: registered body which receives free goods for resale, the profit to be used for the recipients of the charity

Chemical: substance produced or used in chemistry

Chromium: metal

Collection: the gathering of waste materials at homes, businesses or industrial site for transporting to a facility for processing, transfer and recycling or disposal

Community: a society of people having common rights and privileges, or common interest, civil, political, etc or living under the same laws and regulations; a group of animals or plants living together in the same environment; the people living in the same district, city, etc

Compact: to press together, compress

Compost (heap): decomposed organic matter, often used for soil enrichment

Compost Bin: a bin made of plastic, wood or wire that contains food scraps and garden waste for composting

Conservation: the use of natural resources in a way that assures their continuing availability to future generations; the intelligent use of natural resources

Conserve: to protect from loss, to avoid wasteful or destructive use of

Consume: to eat or drink up; to use up

Consumer: a person who buys goods or services for

individual needs and not for resale or for production of other goods for resale

Container: a thing that holds, encloses, or includes something; a box, crate, can, jar etc

Contaminants: things that pollute (make impure or unusable)

Copper: reddish ductile malleable material

Corrosive: a material that can burn the eyes and skin or eat away containers

Cullet: crushed glass used in glass making. Using cullet speeds up the melting of silica sand, thereby reducing the cost of and energy needed in glass manufacture

Cycle: a continuous process

Debris: wreckage, litter

Decay: to break down over time

Decompose: to separate or break down into organic components or elements

Depot: (recycling) place where materials are stored for transport to market

Disease: illness

Disposable: made to be used for a brief period of time, then thrown away; neither durable nor repairable

Dispose: to get rid of

DOC: the Department of Conservation

Drop-off Centre: site where recyclable materials may be left

Dump: another name for a refuse tip, not to be confused with a sanitary landfill where refuse disposal incorporates engineering technology

Durable: longlasting in spite of hard wear or frequent use

Earth: the planet on which we live made of water and land masses surrounded by an atmosphere of gases; dry land; the ground

Ecology: the scientific study of the relations of living things to one another and to their environment

Ecosystem: all living things and their environment in an area of any size. All things are linked together by energy and nutrient flow

Energy: the capacity for an object or a system to work

Entangle: catch in a snare; tangle

Environment: the aggregate of surrounding things, conditions or influences, especially as affecting the existence or development of people or of nature

Extrusion: process for production of finished or semi-finished goods

Ferrous: of or containing iron

Fertilise: apply a substance to soil to make it more fertile

Fibre: thread that gives texture or substance to paper or fabric

Finite: having measurable or definable limits

Flammable: can catch on fire easily

Flea market: a market selling second hand and/or new goods

Flint: clear glass

Food chain: a succession of organisms in a feeding chain in which food energy is transferred from one organism to another as each consumes a lower member and is, in turn, preyed upon by a higher member. The food chain is actually circular. When an organism at the top of the food chain dies it is ultimately consumed by organisms at the bottom of the chain

Foaming: plastic foams can be made by injection moulding, extruding and calendaring so as to create rigid or plastic bubbles

Foil: thin leaf or sheet of metal

Food scraps: pieces of leftover food

Fossil fuels: fuel derived from the remains of ancient plants and animals

Furnace: apparatus for heating materials at very

high temperatures.

Garage sale: sale of second hand or goods from a private residence or organisation

Garden waste: garden clippings, leaves, prunings etc

Garden waste composting: the composting of garden clippings, leaves, prunings etc

Generate: to create, make or produce

Glass: a transparent inorganic material produced by silica sand with burnt lime or limestone, with soda ash added to give hardness and chemical durability

Groundwater: water present in an aquifer. Groundwater can be 'free' to float from one area to another. It is often a source of surface water and can become polluted through improper waste disposal practices

Habitat: the native environment of an animal or plant, or the kind of place that is natural for an animal or plant

Hazardous wastes: materials that alone or combined with other materials pose a serious threat to the environment, plant and animal life, and individual health or safety. Hazardous wastes require special handling, storage and disposal in solid waste management

HDPE: (high density polyethylene) the common name for the chemical composition of plastic milk bottles

Horticulture: gardening

Household waste: waste created by the activities in the household

Humus: a brown or black substance resulting from the partial decay of leaves and other vegetable matter; the organic part of the soil

Incineration: the burning of waste materials to reduce the volume of waste needing disposal. Energy can be recovered from incineration heat, and incinerators must meet clean air standards

Industrial waste: waste generated by a business or industry

Infinite: existing without boundaries or limits

Ingot: mass of metal, usually gold, silver or steel

Inorganic: things not made from plants, animals or from carbon compounds (eg glass, metals, sand, salts, water)

Integrated waste management: an approach to waste management that incorporates reducing, recycling, transformation, and disposal of waste

Iron: a metal used for tools

Junk mail: brochures, pamphlets, flyers and other printed materials distributed randomly through the mail to advertise a product or service

Kerbside collection: the pick up of materials at the kerb, this could include refuse, recycling commodities, inorganic rubbish etc

Landfill: a method of disposing of waste on land by utilising the principles of engineering to confine the refuse to the smallest practical area and to reduce it to the smallest practical volume

Landfill cell: compacted solid waste enclosed by soil or cover material within a landfill

Leachate: liquid that has percolated through solid waste and/or been generated by solid waste decomposition and has extracted, dissolved or suspended materials in it. This liquid may contaminate ground or surface water. Leachate is particularly a problem in areas of high rainfall and porous, sandy soils

Leaves: parts that give trees and other plants their green appearance

Left-overs: scraps, remains, discards

Limestone: a rock which has a chemical composition of calcium carbonate

Litter: small quantities of rubbish that is discarded, dropped or scattered without concern for their proper disposal. Litter includes materials that fall out of containers, vehicles and packages and can include paper, metal cans, and bottles

Litter lout: a person who drops rubbish in public places

Litter warden: a council appointed officer who

enforces litter control

Marine debris: rubbish, waste, or discards deposited in bodies of water

Manufacture: make or process a raw material into a finished product

Metal: any of a large division of the chemical elements (gold, iron, tin etc)

Methane: a colourless, odourless, combustible gas produced by the decomposition of vegetable matter. Methane can be used as a fuel

Micro-organisms: microscopic living things involved in the composting of wastes and in sewage treatment processes

Moisture: liquid diffused through air or condensation on the surface

Multi-fill bottle: bottle which can be rewashed and refilled over again

Mulch: moist straw, leaves, yard clippings etc often used as ground cover for plants

Natural: produced or existing in nature; real; not artificial or manufactured

Natural resources: valuable, naturally occurring materials such as timber, fresh water or a mineral deposit

Non-biodegradable: unable to decompose through the natural activity of micro-organisms

Non-ferrous: metals which do not contain iron

Non-recyclable: unable to be recycled

Non-renewable resources: natural materials that, because of their scarcity, the great length of time required for their formation, or their rapid depletion, are considered finite

Nutrients: materials contained in the soil that enrich it, provide for plant growth

Opportunity shop: business premises from which second hand goods are sold, the profits of which go to a designated charity

Organic: derived from living organisms; also, designating any chemical compound containing carbon

Organic matter: chemical compounds of carbon combined with other chemical elements and generally manufactured in the life processes of plants and animals. Most organic compounds are a source of food for bacteria and are usually combustible

Organic waste: discarded materials that were derived from living organisms; for example, food or yard waste

Organism: a form of life composed of mutually dependent parts that maintain various vital processes, any living thing

Overpackaging: packaging in excess of what is needed, eg a boxed bottle wrapped in plastic

Packaging: a commodity's wrapping or sealing, sometimes designed to attract purchasers

Paper: a thin, flexible material made from fibrous materials such as wood and used for writing or printing on, for wrapping, and various other purposes

PET: (polyethylene terepthalate) the common name for the chemical composition of plastic soda containers

Petroleum: oily liquid used to produce gasoline, motor oil, and many plastic products

Plastic: a polymer in combination with various amounts of plasticisers, stabilisers, colourants, fillers and other inorganic and organic compounds

Plastic coding system: a labelling system adopted by the Plastic Industries of New Zealand to identify commonly recyclable plastics

Pollution: the contamination of soil, water, or the air by the discharge of waste, gases, or chemicals

Polymers: (macromolecules) are "giant" molecules which are produced by the conversion of natural products or by synthesis from primary chemicals from oil, natural gas or coal

Post consumer waste: a product that has been used by the consumer, and discarded

Pre-cycle: to reduce the amount of waste we create before we buy the product eg purchasing products with minimal packaging or buying materials in bulk

Pulp: fibre material from which paper and paperboard are made

PVC: (polyvinyl chloride) a common plastic material that, when burned, releases toxic hydrochloric acid

Pyrex: an additive that allows glass to absorb cold and extremes of heat

RDF: (refuse-derived fuel) fuel produced from solid waste when it is burnt, ie as an energy source

Raw material: the unrefined material from which finished products are made, eg cane sugar to refined sugar

Reactive: can catch on fire, explode or give off dangerous fumes when exposed to water or air

Recover: to reclaim useful substances from waste

Recyclables: includes almost all natural and some synthetic materials, most commonly glass, aluminium, newspaper, cardboard, high and low grade tin, plastic and oil

Recycling: the process of collecting and turning used products such as newspapers, cans, cardboard, bottles etc into new products by reprocessing or remanufacturing them instead of throwing them away as rubbish

Recycling bin: bin used for holding recyclables

Recycling centre: a site where used manufactured materials are collected and resold for reprocessing

Reduce: to decrease the amount of waste for disposal by removing material which can be reused or recycled

Refillable: container that can be washed and refilled over again

Refuse: another name for waste

Renewable resource: a naturally occurring raw material or form of energy derived from an endless or cyclical source, such as the sun, wind, falling water, trees etc

Renewable: derived from an endless source, able to be made new or restored

Repairable: able to be restored to good condition; renovate; mend

Resin: natural, organic substance used in varnish, ink, plastics

Resource: valuable material, source of wealth

Resource Management Act 1991: a statute which promotes sustainable management of natural and physical resources

Resource recovery: a process that extracts value from the waste stream in the form of materials, energy or fuel

Returnable: an item which can be returned to the original supplier for reuse

Reusable: a material that can be used over and over again

Rot: undergo decay by putrefaction

Reuse: the multiple use of a product in its original form or for different purposes

Rubbish: waste or worthless matter; litter, trash

Rubbish bin: a receptacle for receiving or storing rubbish

Rubbish dump: another name for a landfill

Safe substitute: a replacement product which is safe to use

Salvage: obtaining a used material through collection and sorting

Sand: power produced by the wearing down of flint, covers for the sea shore

Scrap dealer: a business which sells waste material for recycling or reuse

Second-hand: a material that has been previously used

Shredding: slicing up material into small pieces

Silica: a mineral forming quartz and the chief part of flint; sand

Slaters: insects that live in rotted wood or compost

Smelting: extracting

Soda ash: ingredient used in the manufacture of glass

Soil: the upper layer of earth that may be dug; dirt

Sustainable: able to be sustained for long periods of time

Synthetic: produced by synthesis; specifically, produced by chemical synthesis rather than of natural origin

Tin: a white metal used frequently for coating iron to preserve it from rust

Tip fee: money charged when leaving tip site for dumping rubbish

Transfer station: a facility to assist in the disposal of refuse, not a disposal method in itself. Refuse is brought and transferred in bulk haulage vehicles which take the refuse to the landfill

Trash: rubbish, worthless matter, litter

Toxic: of or caused by or acting as poison

Vermin: rodents such as rats and mice who scavenge on food and animal remains

Waste: leftover, superfluous refuse, or no longer of use; as a waste product, waste paper

Waste minimisation: reducing waste at the source

Waste reduction: the prevention of waste at its source by redesigning products and packaging and changing patters of production, consumption and waste generation

Waste stream: the waste material output of a community, region or facility

Wheelie bin: mobile bin used for the collection and storage of rubbish