



The RCN Group (RCN) and the Community Recycling Network (CRN) are pleased to announce that they have been awarded funding from the Ministry for the Environment through their Waste Minimisation Fund for our eCycleNZ project. eCycleNZ will establish a network of a minimum of 20 user-pays drop-off sites around New Zealand to accept electronic waste (e-waste) everyday – this includes all computer waste, televisions, printers, consumer electronics and other miscellaneous items. The project provides a convenient, responsible solution to New Zealand households, small businesses and schools.

RCN and CRN have formed a partnership which builds on their commercial and community experience in resource recovery. The project will be delivered over two years and expects to divert a minimum of 4,000 tonnes of electronic waste from landfill over the first three years. This will be delivered by partnering with existing community recycling/recovery centres (CRN members), landfill operators, local councils and other operators. RCN's existing recycling processing site in Auckland will be upgraded and new sites developed in Wellington and Christchurch. Some product will still have to be exported under NZ government permits to environmentally friendly (ISO 14001 approved) recycling plants, as New Zealand cannot yet cater for all materials.

Emphasis will be given to ensuring that full traceability of the recovery programme is available so that consumers can be confident where their items have gone and what has happened to them. The health and safety of staff at the drop-off and processing sites will be paramount with an NZQA certified training programme being developed. Recovery in New Zealand will be a target and progress is already being made in this area. All CRT monitors and TVs will be recycled in New Zealand.

The Government estimates that there is 80,000 tonnes of electronic waste disposed of into landfills in New Zealand per year. The eCycleNZ project will assist in quantifying this figure, which will provide the motivation to aid the development of future sophisticated on-shore recycling facilities and encourage manufacturers and retailers to implement local take back schemes for end of life products.

RCN has a dedicated E-Waste business unit, which has successfully operated since 2007 and focuses on recycling of e-waste for corporates, schools and households. Collections are requested via web and telephone and RCN offers a complete solution including packing, freight, shipment reports, recycling and destruction certificates. RCN already have an established infrastructure, which caters for a corporate market and we see this project as clipping onto our existing solutions to target a market which has high demand. Efficiencies and economies of scale will be improved as a result. The business drivers are to divert e-waste from landfill, by providing a user friendly, convenient and responsible solution to customers. This also involves the refurbishment and re-use through donation or sale of some of the higher quality product received. RCN's head office is based in Albany, Auckland with logistics operations in Wellington and Christchurch. See www.rcn.co.nz for more information.

The Community Recycling Network (CRN) Aotearoa/NZ is an umbrella support organisation representing the interests of members from Kaitaia to Bluff. CRN members are involved in a wide range of waste minimisation, resource recovery & education for sustainability initiatives. They operate or are associated with community enterprises that trade to deliver environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits and work towards zero waste targets for their communities. CRN members who operate drop off sites for recyclables, reusables, scrap metal and organics are well placed to add on additional materials and are actively developing their capacity to operate as depots for product take back schemes. CRN members support in principle the onshore recycling of products in NZ

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