



GREEN LIGHT FOR LABEL

The future of the country's top eco label, Environmental Choice, remains assured despite government cutbacks, says the chair of the New Zealand Ecolabelling Trust, Michael Pritchard.

Initiated and owned by the Ministry for the Environment since its inception in 1990, the Environmental Choice planet-and-tick symbol is the country's strongest and oldest-established ecolabel. It is run by the New Zealand Ecolabelling Trust under contract to the Ministry. Last year Environmental Choice was cited in a UK government study as one of the world's top three eco marks because of the integrity and quality of its environmental product assessments.

Government cost controls will mean a reduction in the Ministry's financial support for the label, says Michael Pritchard, but because of consistent growth in licensee numbers its operation and development remains assured.

"While we regret the funding cut, we are in a very sound position to continue the operation and growth of the label. The trust presently has as many companies with applications for assessment as it has companies already licensed, and their solid support enables it to retain its strength and prominence. More than ever, as companies and consumers factor health and improved environmental outcomes into their manufacturing and purchasing decisions, there is a need for a clear-cut, independent, third-party ecolabel. That is the role held by Environmental Choice.

"The government continues to emphasise the environmental implications of its procurement decisions, so to have the support of the ministry underlined at this time is a positive sign. It could be seen as a signal that the government remains committed to improved environmental performance, even if its support is shrinking in the present climate."

NEW ZEALANDER TO CHAIR WORLD BODY

The Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) has elected its New Zealand board member, Robin Taylor, unopposed, to the chair. Previously the deputy chair, Robin is general manager of Environmental Choice New Zealand. He succeeds Canada's John Polak in the role.

Robin intends to continue the drive for multilateral collaboration in standards and systems of ecolabelling. Known as GENICES (GEN Internationally Coordinated Labelling System) this aims to identify and grow opportunities such as mutual recognition agreements that lead to enhanced and more formalised international trust in the development of ecolabelling.

"We need to ensure that interchangeable and mutually trusted international standards are not based just on the most accepted common denominators, but raise core standards closer to the ideal," says Robin. He has already had some success in coaxing differing GEN members together, and intends to continue his intercession across the global ecolabelling community.

Ecolabelling started back in 1978 with the launch of the German Blue Angel scheme, and has now spread to more than 50 countries. The "type 1" label schemes such as Environmental Choice use impartial third-party assessments to measure environmental performance of products against published, internationally-based standards adapted for local conditions. Environmental Choice New Zealand is considered a world leader in the strength and vigour of its specifications and processes.

Robin will chair the board for the first time when it meets in Vienna in April.



Robin Taylor works on AGM draft decisions with Evan Nozowsky of the GEN secretariat. University of Lund, Sweden.

ECOMMUNICATION

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A NEW MILLENNIUM

As Environmental Choice New Zealand prepares to enter its third decade, a new milestone has been reached. Licensed products have now exceeded the one thousand mark and the country's premium ecolabel is now on the path towards its next thousand.

"Our exacting, regular reviews of specifications, and the incorporation of new science, does mean that some products fall away until they can adopt the latest environmentally innovative technologies," comments general manager Robin Taylor.

"Most licensees are genuinely committed to keeping up the best environmental practices, so we have very few drop-outs for that reason."

Our government-backed "type 1" ecolabel at the time of writing had 34 new companies engaged in the assessment process, bringing hundreds more products for consideration. "There's no sign of any slowing in renewals and enquiries," affirms Robin Taylor, "but rather the exponential increase in companies submitting products for assessment suggests that we'll hit the second thousand in just a fraction of the time it took for the first."

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TOP OF THE CLASS

Furnware recently attained the furniture standard for its Bodyfurn range of classroom chairs and desks, and the company has been enjoying the exposure that its innovation and the ECNZ label have prompted.

Working with the label's media man, Michael Hooper, Furnware scored an extended interview about its license on Radio New Zealand National's Morning Report.

Referring to the international respect in which the label is held, presenter Sean Plunkett announced "thousands of New Zealand school pupils are this year using for the first time some of the most eco-friendly desks and chairs in the world".

The interview highlighted the benefits to workers that result from more environmentally-aware workplaces which are part of the Environmental Choice specifications. Furnware factory production supervisor Kevin Higginson commented to regional reporter Hugh Chappell that "the huge and immediate advantage for us is the removal of some of the more harmful and aggressive chemicals and the effects that they can have on you." Another work colleague interviewed admitted to feeling "going home feeling much fresher" when working in a factory that met the Environmental Choice standards.

Hastings Intermediate principal, Andrew Shortcliffe, whose school has bought the Bodyfurn furniture, had a strong message, especially relevant to other manufacturers thinking of applying for an Environmental Choice label. "This company is trying to make furniture that is environmentally sensible. If we are looking at two companies and one of them is supporting our philosophy of looking after sustainability for the planet, then we need to model that by saying we'll go with this company".



Export-minded Furnware managing director, Hamish Whyte, is delighted to carry our ecolabel that has been listed in a UK government study as leading the world in its authority and specifically in its furniture standard. "It's definitely one of the world's most robust certifications," says Hamish, "and in many areas it is even more exacting than some of the world's most established environmental marks such as those of the Nordic countries and Germany. This puts Furnware's Environmental Choice certified products, in environmental terms, at the top of the class. They've passed one of the world's toughest tests."

Hear the radio clip by visiting:

<http://www.furnware.co.nz/CompanyProfile/EnvironmentalChoiceNewZealand/tabid/107/Default.aspx>

ROOM TO GROW GREEN BRAND SUGGESTS SURVEY

The government's latest Household Sustainability Survey has been released, analysing data gathered in September 2008. The telephone survey of 1000 representative New Zealanders over the age of 15 updated results from the benchmark survey in 2007. Detailed results are on the MfE website

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/sus-dev/household-sustainability-survey-11-2008/index.html>

Some of the survey's more interesting points are as follows.

Half the respondents believe steps need to be taken urgently to protect the environment, and 83 percent believe it is everyone's responsibility and not just the

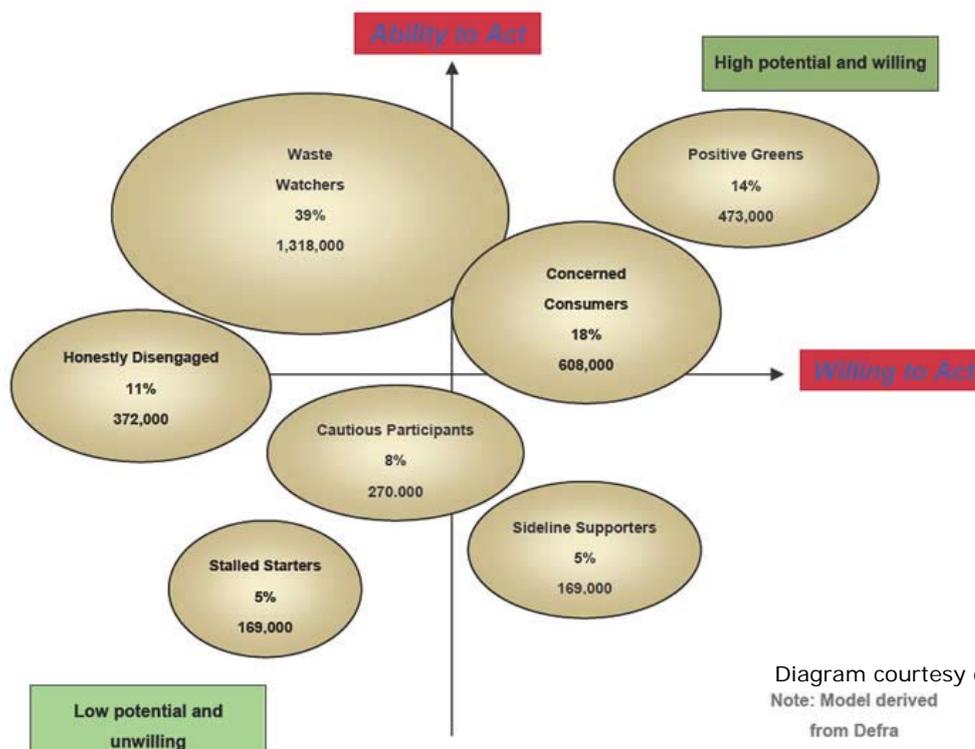
government's. 75 percent are conscious of acting in an environmentally responsible manner, and 71 percent state they would like to do even more to act sustainably.

The survey suggests that up to a third of them are finding it difficult to know how to improve their sustainability. We clearly have more work to do in reaching these aware but undirected people!

On the positive side, many countries would be jealous that almost two-thirds of us compost our organic waste at home. On the negative, 64 percent of commuters admit to driving solo!

Using methods developed by our friends at Defra, the British Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the survey found that Kiwis can be classified, in descending order of environmental commitment, as:

- Positive Greens – 14 percent. (have highest average household income)
- Waste Watchers – 39 percent (have high home ownership at 75%)
- Concerned Consumers – 18 percent (76% home ownership, 56% under 40 yrs)
- Sideline Supporters – 5 percent. (unlikely to own homes or have gardens)
- Cautious Participants – 8 percent.
- Stalled Starters – 5 percent.
- Honestly Disengaged – 11 percent (mostly older home-owners)



The first three groups, comprising 71 percent of the sample, almost totally disagree with the statement that it's worth doing environmentally friendly things only if they save money. The obvious implication is that, for these groups, the Environmental Choice label can transcend the restriction of "buying a bargain" – at least as of last September!

When all respondents in the survey were asked whether they considered the sustainable manufacturing and disposal credentials of products they might buy, 25 percent said they did so every time or most of the time, while 37 percent would sometimes take this into account. Respondents who had renovated or built a home in the last 2 years generally did take into account the sustainability of products (85 percent).

GREEN FILM SPREADS



Reel Earth, New Zealand's Environmental Film Festival, is moving into its fifth season with a strong field of New Zealand and international films entered in competition.

Environmental Choice has agreed to sponsor Best Short Film this year. Last year the label sponsored Best Young

Filmmaker, and we were delighted when the winner was a trio from Nelson College.

Ross Inness McLeish, Oliver Neas and Jack Tippler collaborated on a 5-minute film called Bright Ideas, and in the process reduced their school's electricity usage by 15 percent. The film also won a Royal Society of New Zealand award.

The festival this year promises to be bigger and brighter, with more entries and moving its opening to the Regent in Palmerston North, with capacity for 1300. With over 200 films from 28 countries, the festival team is pleased with the high level of interest from New Zealand and abroad, says organiser Brent Barrett. "Film subjects range from natural history to environmental justice, with a strong showing from New Zealand and Australian filmmakers."

STARS IN SPACE



One of the recent furniture makers to be granted an Environmental Choice license is Europlan, a company that started in Auckland in 1963. Their Verde Tambour storage system is fully recyclable and can be returned to points in any of the four main centres.

Managing director Paul van Dorsten says Europlan applied for the Environmental Choice specification for its range of Verde Tambour storage units as evidence of a commitment to producing a product which supports the environment and brings sustainability to work places.

Total production budget of films entered in Reel Earth is in excess of \$40M.

"Reel Earth partnering again with Environmental Choice provides the opportunity to recognize the fresh wave of film talent in New Zealand, with the conferring of the Environmental Choice Short Film Award by a credentialed jury panel.

"Environmental Choice focuses on recognising leadership in sustainability, and Reel Earth provides a natural extension to recognition of excellence in filmmaking about our environment. The festival's

Some sponsorships are still available, says Barrett

focus on local filmmakers especially brings our burgeoning New Zealand film culture to the fore."

Reel Earth has received filmmaker entries from cities and districts throughout New Zealand. Brent Barrett says there are still some awards to be sponsored - Emerging Talent, Best Animation and Best Short Film. If they fit with your company profile you might like to contact Brent for an update on the sponsoring opportunities and more details at bb@actrix.co.nz.

Award nominees will be announced on Earth Day, 22 April. Awards will be announced at the gala opening, 16 May in Palmerston North.

Paul also believes Europlan's exports across the Tasman could benefit. "Many large corporate and government departments are increasingly preferring their offices to be 5 Star Green rated or to move into Green Star rated buildings, and the Verde range now having the Environmental Choice mark will contribute significantly in achieving this goal.

"Furthermore this will enhance our opportunities to tender for contracts in Australia where in most instances there is a mandatory requirement to have an environmental certification on products being submitted."

Europlan managing director Paul van Dorsten



KEEPING IT TIGHT AND TRUE

Last December the Commerce Commission issued "Guidelines for Green Marketing" (see link below).

It is clear from this, and discussions with other agencies, that there is a growing focus on accountability for labelling claims generally. This includes environmental claims that may need to be defended in the face of consumer, competitor or ultimately Commerce Commission challenge.

Environmental Choice, being the government-owned "Type 1" (by ISO definition), is robust and resolute proof of the environmental preferability of its licensed products. It is "hard evidence" that the products meet the criteria laid down transparently in the specifications.

For this proof to remain strong and incontestable, we have been asking that licensees remain vigilant in the correct application and use of the license.

The conditions of a licence detail rules on its display and labelling, and this clarity is protection for both the producer and the consumer. Any suggestion that a company, brand or a whole range of products can be associated with a specific licensed product weakens that product's hard-earned position.

Correct use of the ecolabel ensures licensed products, and the label itself, continue to stand above "greenwash" and grow credibility and demand.

Commerce Commission link:

(<http://www.comcom.govt.nz//FairTrading/GuidelinesforGreenMarketing/ContentFiles/Documents/The%20Fair%20Trading%20Act%20-%20Guidelines%20for%20Green%20Marketing.pdf>)

- Always state product category and license number with the ECNZ logo (as set out in section 7 of the specifications)
- Ensure the logo is applied and used in reference only to the licensed products - not to organisations.
- Use the correct term *licensed* when referring in copy to a product's ecolabel achievement..
- Avoid loose terms such as "given the tick".

THE NEW BLACK



Most Aucklanders are familiar with the old Fisherman's Wharf restaurant, prominent on Northcote Point. Following its boom time as Fisherman's Wharf, from 1971 to 1998, it changed to Doyles Seafood Restaurant for a short period in the late 1990s, then came back to life for a few brief months as the Phoenix Club before its ill-fated association with the Rawaka Maori culture tourism

venture in 2004. Now the Wharf has been reinvented with a striking new look as a conference, events and entertainment venue.

The Wharf exterior features Resene Lumbersider Cool Colour tinted to Resene Black on its extensive base area and centre sides, a bold product and colour choice. Many specifiers would steer away from using such a dark colour in this harsh environment due to its tendency to soak in heat causing stress on the paint, substrate and transferring heat inside. Resene Cool Colours use unique pigment technology to reflect more heat than a standard colour, reducing the heat build up.

The Resene Cool Colour range is Environmental Choice approved and can be used on all sorts of exterior surfaces and applications, from weatherboard cladding and concrete blocks to windowsills. Originally developed for high-gloss roof coatings, Resene Cool Colours are now popular in a wide range of finishes.

TRUSTEES REVOLVE

The deed setting up the New Zealand Ecolabelling Trust allowed for the “rolling” renewal of members. Two new trustees have recently joined the board while three have stepped down.

WELCOME

Barbara Glenie, QSO

As a long time advocate for women and families, Barbara has been pivotal in the National Council of Women, of which she was president for four years. Barbara also managed the Parent and Family Resource Centre for the Auckland region, driving change in the disability sector. Health and anti-discrimination causes are also among those that have benefitted from Barbara’s commitment. Barbara has extensive experience in print media and is a past editor of Landscape New Zealand. She was awarded the Queen’s Service Order in 2004.

Judy Lawrence



Judy Lawrence is a Wellington-based strategy and policy consultant in science, climate change, energy, environmental policy and sustainable development, and advises on related governance and institutional issues. Prior to that she had a 30 year career in the public service spanning

regulatory, operational and policy roles. She is a former chief executive of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and director of the NZ Climate Change Office at the Ministry for the Environment.

Judy has managed significant funding grants (\$40-60m) for environmental research. She managed several environmental policy areas at the Ministry for the Environment from 1987-1993, often at the interface with industry groups, and was environmental strategy manager with the dairy industry in 1994. Judy was seconded as a

consultant to the OECD on sustainable development in 2000- 2001.

THANKS - A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

In 2008 three trustees left NZET. I would like to thank them for the time and energy they have devoted to the work of the trust, especially during the establishment years when NZET was successful in securing the contract from the Ministry for the Environment to take over the Environmental Choice programme that had been previously run by first TELARC and then IANZ.

Marie Taylor was a member of the Environmental Choice Management Advisory Committee [ECMAC] from the time when the programme was administered by the original contractors. Marie contributed a great deal to the direction of NZET in the area of consumer affairs and public recognition of the label.

Barbara Hammonds, an environmental scientist who has had a long and continuing interest in life cycle analysis of the end of a product’s life, brought to the board a rigorous scientific background. It was backed by a continuing involvement with recycling and resource recovery and a sharp eye for detail.

Wayne Sharman, from BRANZ, contributed a good understanding of the building industry. His knowledge was of great assistance in developing the specifications relating to construction materials. His associating with “green building” in general helped to develop positive relationships with this important sector of the economy.

The change of perception by the policies of “govt3” was seen by these trustees as a recognition of the need to put environmental benefits to the front of purchasing decisions which would flow down to consumers. The remaining trustees wish to acknowledge their colleagues’ long and loyal service to the Environmental Choice label.

Michael Pritchard

FUJI XEROX LAUNCHES ECO PRODUCTS

According to Robert Ramsey-Turner, New Zealand Environmental Manager for Fuji Xerox, the company’s new multifunction devices are an industry first, and a number are Environmental Choice licensed.

The ApeosPort-III C3300/C2200/C2201 and DocuCentre-III C3300/C2200/C2201 were presented with the prestigious Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Prize in the Eco Products Category at the 4th Eco-Products Awards held in Japan last year.

They boast a variety of environmental enhancements. Parts for the output unit, including the paper feeder, are now using lead-free shafts, says Robert Ramsey-Turner, and by using a newly developed biomass plastic comprising of over 30 percent plant-derived material to make moving

parts, Xerox have effectively reduced carbon dioxide emissions during production.

An energy-saving controller, high-efficiency lamp and temperature-controlling technology reduce power consumption in sleep mode. The MFDs also have a newly developed print head that uses LED as a light source to write images on the photoreceptor drum. Fuji Xerox says it delivers high image quality of 1200 x 2400 dpi, equivalent to laser systems. The new technology also reduces noise emission and allows finishers such as a stapler to be incorporated.



ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE ACTIVE IN PROCUREMENT TALKS

In November, consulting company Tonkin & Taylor hosted a meeting between the New Zealand Ecolabelling Trust, GreenMark (the Taiwanese government's environmental labelling programme) and New Zealand Government officials.

Dr Ning Yu, the head of GreenMark and past chair of the Global Ecolabelling Network) was here for meetings with the Ecolabelling Trust and government officials. They discussed approaches that governments in Asia and New Zealand are taking to promote stronger government green procurement policies.

Marje Russ, T&T's principal responsible for services to the New Zealand Ecolabelling Trust, says the meeting involved a detailed presentation by Dr Yu as well as very useful and open discussions. A separate meeting was held with Dr Yu and staff involved in Environmental Choice projects, providing an opportunity to exchange information on approaches to assessments, as well as strengthening confidence in the mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) between the New Zealand and Taiwanese programmes.



Pictured: Peter Millar, Managing Director, T&T
Dr Ning Yu - President, Environment & Development Foundation, Taiwan
Yvonne Lucas - Director, Competition, Trade & Investment, Ministry of Economic Development
Robin Taylor, General Manager, NZ Ecolabelling Trust
Mike Pritchard - Chair, NZ Ecolabelling Trust

A list of the countries with MRAs with New Zealand is at
www.environmentalchoice.org.nz

BESPOKE DUSTMEN



Pressure is on local authorities to increase recycling rates in Britain, but it has been widely reported that the different approaches to recycling are confusing residents, especially those living away from the kerbside. Low, medium and high rise residents have usually been expected to place waste in receptacles quite some distance from their door step but this is a disincentive - participation rates are low and waste that could be recycled is placed into landfill waste streams, leading to issues with blocked chutes and overflowing bins.

To get round this problem, Connaught Environmental has trialled two schemes in London - in the Royal Borough of Kingston and in Clapham Park. Greg Skrimshire, business development manager for Connaught Environmental, explains (in typical English fashion) how "the dustman" has been reformed.

"To make recycling a good deal easier, we set up a bespoke service to collect the recycling materials from the doorstep of flats, but to make sure residents knew what to put out, we instigated a waste doctor, who visited individual homes to educate, inform and provide simpler methods. Too often, the traditional bin man has given way to waste operatives that no longer engage with the community," comments Mr Skrimshire.

Throughout the week the team knocks on doors and talks to residents about how they manage their domestic waste and recycling. Where residents are not recycling or placing the wrong items in sacks, the team will actively try to communicate with them at the time of collection in order to provide them with guidance on how, when and what to recycle.

The Connaught waste collection model breaks down into four steps. First, the resident places plastics, paper and metals in one bag, then glass in a separate orange recycling sack. Residents get leaflets and fridge magnets detailing what day of the week sacks will be collected.

The total number of sacks collected at each location is entered onto the team's PDA to assist in providing statistical analysis and provide the foundation for the keystone to the scheme, being following up with processes of education by the waste doctor.

"The scheme was a great success," says Skrimshire. "The borough has seen participation rates in excess of 90%, and since the start of the project levels of collection have increased by over 450%." It's an interesting angle on the traditional value of the dustman engaging with the tenants.

HOUSE OF PAPER

Office Paper and Stationery standard licensee Spicers Paper is a company with quite a list of sustainability claims, including the recent construction in Auckland of a 200,000sq ft warehouse which contains a large number of sustainable attributes.

Business development manager, Noel Kerrisk, says that over recent years Spicers Paper has been very focused on sustainable initiatives. This includes gaining the Environmental Choice Eco Label on the company's Reflex 50% Recycled 80 gsm paper.

"Some of our other achievements include world recognition as the first paper merchant to obtain Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) and to have Programme Endorsement of Forest Certification

(PEFC). We have the Enviro Mark Gold Certification and are ISO 14001 certified. We've measured our "Carbon Footprint" through Landcare Research and introduced a "Carbon Policy" to the company to help mitigate CO2 emissions. And All our sites are MFA certified."

Staff have been motivated to support the initiatives, too. An annual programme with an \$8000 prize encourages staff to reduce their household carbon footprint, and teams were issued pedometers to measure their steps over 3 months, with more prizes in addition to the 'carrot' of weight reduction!

A sponsorship arrangement with WWF, says Noel, will benefit the fund by approximately \$60,000 this year.

SOLAR ENERGY IN HOT WATER



In Ireland, a renewable energy technology firm has claimed that it has designed the most efficient solar panel in the world to date. Mayo-based company

Surface Power has announced plans to launch the new renewable energy product, which has been tested by Independent Certification and compared to over 50 other collectors holding the Solar Keymark.

Company founder John Quinn commented: "The solar panel is a hot water type designed specifically for the retrofit market although it is perfectly suitable also for new builds. It was designed to deal specifically with Irish climatic conditions such as wind, rain and cloud. It may be classified as new technology and simpler to use and install but it is not more expensive to produce."

According to Mr Quinn, the product proved to be as much as 131% more efficient than other leading solar panels in the morning and evening.

WOMBLES RECYCLE



Remember the Wombles of Wimbledon?

Well last month the creatures from The Common received a T-shirt worn and signed by singer Debbie Harry, an armchair owned by actress Joanna Lumley, and tennis star Pat Cash's old sofa. They were up for grabs at a raffle with a difference.

The trio were among a group of celebrities who donated furniture and other household items to [The Big Womble](#), an event promoting furniture reuse.

Organised by the Furniture Reuse Network (FRN), the event at Wimbledon College, in London, encouraged people to become Wombles for the day by making good use of old furniture that they found.

Every year, millions of household items and pieces of furniture are thrown away in the UK, but many can be reused. Every tonne of furniture rescued from landfill saves an average of nearly three tonnes of carbon. One of the highlights of the event, on February 20, was the raffle of items donated by celebrities, with money going towards FRN's work to help people on low incomes get second-hand furniture and other household items.

Debbie Harry said: "I've donated to the Big Womble because people who've been homeless need a helping hand and many of these organisations help with that."

There was also a workshop showing people how to make tidy bags out of T-shirts, and masterclasses on effective reuse.

(Courtesy *Environmental Data Interactive Exchange*)

LUNDIA JOINS THE FAMILY



A member of a worldwide group boasting sales of \$800m, Auckland-based Lundia is represented in 33 countries. Its own branches extend as far as Dubai.

Lundia storage systems are constructed from plantation-grown *Pinus Radiata* sourced from North Island timber mills. Managing director Monte Stone says these mills have managed approval under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and Chain of Custody Certification, assessed under the Qualifor programme.

BOY RACERS: THE NEXT GENERATION?

A planned trial of speed bumps which generate energy to power road signs and streetlights has been put on the back burner by council chiefs in Ealing, West London.

Reports in the media this month claimed that the speed bumps, manufactured by English company Highway Energy Systems, would be used in a pilot

Director Greg Stone believes having the Environmental Choice label for their licensed mobile and static shelving units will elevate their sustainability profile here and overseas. Their use of plantation-grown pine motivated Lundia to apply for the label. "It goes hand-in-hand with what we're about – and we didn't want to talk greenwash!" He also says the Green Star building rating further prompted the application.

Like many licensees, Lundia also had an eye to easing the passage into key export markets, where having New Zealand's globally recognised eco mark can make the essential difference in opening doors. "We have a lot of work on in Dubai," says Greg Stone, "and we're starting to get into Sydney where we couldn't win any jobs unless we were certified."

scheme, however, Ealing Borough Council has decided to spend the funding on other transport schemes.

The speed bumps generate energy when traffic passes over them, putting weight on a number of plates which move up and down and drive a generator which produces an AC or DC current.

DR NO - AND DR YES

The Swedish government is set to reverse its thirty-year policy of phasing out nuclear power and will end a moratorium on building new reactors. (Sweden's domestic energy generation is built primarily on hydro and nuclear generation.)

Over the past three decades it has been committed to scaling back on its reliance on nuclear power but now the government says it is needed to keep the country's carbon emissions down. It has also said it will develop renewable sources such as CHP and wind power.

"Climate change is now in focus and nuclear power will thus remain an important source of Swedish electricity production for the foreseeable future," said a statement from the Swedish government outlining the decision.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Europe, environmental campaigners are claiming victory after Greek development minister Kostis Hatzidakis ruled out future investment in nuclear and, perhaps more importantly, coal-fired power plants.

WWF Greece was part of a coalition that has been fighting a 'no to coal' campaign amid a will-they-won't-they saga over government backing for coal plants and rumours that the ruling administration planned to introduce nuclear power to the country's energy mix.

The government change of stance on the issue was signalled by legislative changes to streamline and assist investment in renewable energy and by Mr Hatzidakis emerging from a cabinet meeting in late January to say "We want 2009 to be the year of renewable energy sources ."

LAMINEX LIFTING THE BAR

The Laminex Group is currently working with customers such as Formway, Bournville, Dexion, UltraOffice and Cabinet Place to educate the market on E0 product which is the lowest formaldehyde wood panel commercially available in NZ.

Marketing Manager Chetan Kapoor says their aim is

to continually lift the bar on environmental performance "and to work towards the highest sustainable outcomes possible".

All The Laminex Group decorated board and raw board is ECNZ licensed, as is part of the Greenfirst™ range.