

Entyre brings jobs to Ōtaki

More than 50 jobs could be created in Ōtaki when the Entyre rubber recycling plant gets fully into production, converting a sizeable chunk of New Zealand's waste tyres into products such as mats for dairy farms.

Six staff are already working for the company, based at Ōtaki's Clean Tech Tower, but the workforce will grow in August when the company begins its recycling work in earnest.

That is when the first of the 12 innovative tyre shredders built in Ōtaki by Riverbank Engineering will start to reduce tyres to small strips that are easily transported back to Entyre's factory by container for further processing.

By 2016 the company hopes to be capable of processing about 40% of the 4.5 million tyres discarded annually in New Zealand.

There is no waste. The process recycles 100% of the tyre – 85% rubber, 12% steel and 3% fibre. The steel is collected and cleaned then sent to New Zealand steel mills for reuse. The fibre is compacted and exported to make fleece jumpers and other products.

Entyre managing Director Reiner Wenzel has extensive experience in this technique (devulcanisation) starting in 1989 when he began to design and build tyre recycling machinery. He also worked out practical and cost-effective ways to reuse the material, including manufacturing floor matting and playground components. This led him to set up companies in Switzerland, Germany, China, Austria, Spain, USA and Australia.

Why bring the concept to Kāpiti? Reiner says he loves the area and the lifestyle. Plus, there has been fantastic support available at every stage.

Council awarded the company \$31,000 from its waste reduction grant budget to help kick start the building of the first tyre cutter, seeing the merit of reducing the tyre waste in landfills and encouraging recycling.

"We are working with the Council to help grow their forward-looking Clean Tech initiative. The Clean Technology Park is a new commercial business centre supporting businesses to run in a more environmentally-friendly and sustainable way, which fits in with our company philosophy," says Reiner.

Council's next round of contestable waste reduction grant funding opens later this year. Funding is awarded under the Waste Levy Grants process and from the Waste Levy Fund. This does not come from rates. The levy money comes from the Ministry for the Environment for the purpose of waste minimisation and has to be spent in accordance with Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

People interested in applying for grants should email waste@kcdc.govt.nz or call Simon Calcinai, Council's Waste Minimisation and Services Officer, on (04) 296 4765



Ōtaki Ward Councillor Penny Gaylor is shown the portable tyre shredder by Entyre's Reiner Wenzel (crouching) and Nigel Pritchard of Riverbank Engineering.

Rubbish dumping unacceptable

Community Board Chair James Cootes is urging Ōtaki people to take a more responsible attitude to the dumping of rubbish – and Council to take strong action against those who litter the town's beaches.

At the last Community Board meeting he raised the issue of rubbish being dumped at the beach area, after being astonished to find much of the litter could have been responsibly recycled.

"Over 80% of the rubbish in the picture could have been recycled for free. The value of the goods which were identifiable in the rubbish was \$616 with most purchased recently. So the person responsible was certainly not someone poor who couldn't afford to pay for its disposal.

"Plus, the cost of a rubbish bag has come down since the private operators have come into the market.

"As a community we take pride in how our town looks and if anyone sees this happening they should note the car registration number and report to Council.

"We must discourage people from doing this and issue infringement notices where possible," he said.



James Cootes with the contents of one rubbish bag that was left at Ōtaki Beach.

Fight continues against legal highs

Council and the Ōtaki Community Board are to continue working with Police, the Ministry of Health and local people on a policy to reduce the harm being done to the community by legal highs.

It is now illegal to sell most psychoactive substances, but Council has been advised by the Ministry to develop a Local Approved Product Policy (LAPP). Ōtaki Ward Councillor Penny Gaylor and the Community Board have been taking a leading role in working with all parties locally, exposing the dangers of legal highs and the effect they are having, particularly on local youth.

As chair of the Environment and Community Development Committee, Councillor Gaylor arranged for a representative from Regional Public Health to talk to councillors.

"I wanted my fellow councillors to hear first hand from the professionals about the havoc these drugs have caused in our community and to discuss the role we can play in keeping them out of our shops and homes.

"We were told these drugs are killing our youth. We need to act

now to minimise the damage being done."

Councillor Gaylor says the Government-imposed product recall gives the Council more time to discuss the issues with stakeholders and communities to ensure the LAPP represents their interests.

"We'll be working with other agencies including the Ministry of Health and Police to achieve this."

Council will also be advocating with District Health Boards to get more help for users and their families through increased alcohol and drug services, says Councillor Gaylor.

"We also want to stress that no substances can now legally be sold across New Zealand. People who think the law is being flouted should contact their local Police.

"If they need advice and support they should contact the Drug Helpline on 0800 787 797."