



Find out more: phone 379 2020 or visit [www.aucklandcity.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz)

Courtesy of Ngati Whatua o Orakei  
and the Waitangi Day Festival

## Case study on Zero Waste

### Event summary:

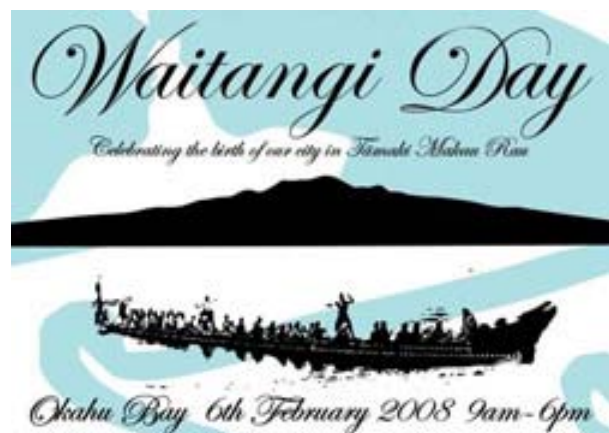
Waitangi Day, 2008, local iwi Ngati Whatua o Orakei and Auckland City Council collaborated to host a free celebration of Waitangi Day and its significance for Aucklanders.

Waitangi Day Festival '08 was held at Okahu Bay - a historical site where in 1841 Ngati Whatua o Orakei welcomed Governor Hobson gifting to him all of the land now known as Auckland's CBD.

Now, 167 years on, Okahu Bay was once again a site of celebration.

Waitangi Day Festival '08 was an alcohol and smoke-free family event, enriched with tradition, culture, food, art and live entertainment. A waka-themed playground and children's rides added to the whanau focus of the inaugural festival - making it the family outing of the summer.

A zero-waste policy encouraged people to consider the environment and to adopt a "pack in, pack-out" attitude on the day - disposing of their own waste at home.



# WAITANGI DAY – Okahu Bay 2008 'ZERO WASTE' CASE STUDY



By Ngarimu Blair  
March 2008  
[ngarimu@ngatiwhatuaorakei.com](mailto:ngarimu@ngatiwhatuaorakei.com)

## Acknowledgements

Nga mihi whaanui ki eenei roopu, ki eenei Tangata. Na ratou i tautoko i a matou, ko Ngati Whatua o Orakei, i runga i teenei kaupapa hei tiaki te whenua i tuku mai i nga Tuupuna.

Nga mihi;

- All the volunteers
- Chris P Ltd
- Zero Waste Trust – Jo Knight
- Landcare Research
- Watercare Services Ltd
- Auckland City Council
- ko te PŪKĀKĪ staff
- Michelle Dawson and her worms
- Photos courtesy of Jo Knight



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report reviews the attempted 'zero waste' strategy employed by Ngati Whatua o Orakei (NWoO) at our Waitangi day event at Okahu Bay in 2008. This case study is written to provide other groups who may wish to attempt a 'no-waste', 'zero-waste', 'resource recovery' event with a description of the experiences of NWoO and a list of recommendations to assist others in their own event planning.

## 2. EVENT DESCRIPTION

NWoO hosted a free public Waitangi Day festival at Okahu Bay on February 6, 2008 in partnership with the Auckland City Council. More than 30,000 people came through the festival over the day. The festival began at 9am with a formal powhiri. There was also a main stage that played live music from 10.30am to 7pm. There were also 108 stalls with 51% of those being food stalls and merchandising being the balance. The 2 main event areas were located on Okahu Park. Tamaki Drive separates the park from the beach area which also attracted many people. 3 ticketed car-parks were located at the Watene Reserve, the sports fields and on the papakainga land overlooking the park. The 4 key areas of the festival requiring Resource Recovery (RR) therefore were;

- i. Okahu Park
- ii. Okahu Beach
- iii. Sportsfield car park
- iv. Watene car park



### 3. RESOURCE RECOVERY RESULTS ACHIEVED

While Zero Waste was not achieved the following results were;

Waste Stream	Weight kg	Weight tonne	% of Total waste stream
Landfill skip at back-end	660kg	0.66t	10.6%
Landfill from contaminated recyclables	640kg	0.64t	10.4%
<b>Total Landfil</b>	<b>1,300kg</b>	<b>1.3t</b>	<b>21%</b>
Compost – Worm farm	1,400kg	1.4t	22.6%
Recycled glass and plastics	3,000kg	3.0t	48.4%
Cardboard	500kg	0.5t	8%
<b>Total recycled/composted</b>	<b>4,900kg</b>	<b>4.9t</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,200kg</b>	<b>6.2t</b>	<b>100%</b>

The waste strategy employed by NWoO involved the following;

- Getting 'buy-in' of the event directors
- Contracting waste management advice from Chris P Ltd
- Employing 7 paid staff for the day.
- Seeking advice from Xtreme Waste, Zero Waste Trust;
- Identifying compostable product suppliers;
- Developing a communications strategy to prepare event visitors to adopt a 'pack-in pack-out' attitude;
- Developing a volunteer engagement strategy.

### 4. RESOURCE RECOVERY STATIONS (RRS)

The RRS was composed of;

- x1 volunteer/kaimahi
- x1 BLUE bin lined with plastic bag for assorted plastics/glass
- x1 GREEN bin lined with bio-film bag for organic.
- KNZB plastic bags for landfill rubbish.



The stallholders RRS was composed of;

- x1 50 litre paper bag for organics
- x1 garden black sack for co-mingleds
- KNZB bag for take home litter.

## 5. EVENT-DAY WASTE STRATEGY

The event-day strategy was composed of 2 parts being the 'Front-end' and the 'Back-end'.

### 5.1 Front-end

The front-end had 50 RRSs manned by a volunteer who would educate the general public and ensure the waste would be separated correctly at-source. This would then reduce the sorting demands at the back-end. It would also proactively raise the environmental awareness of the event-goer. Landfill rubbish represented a very minor part of the waste stream at the front-end.

### 5.2 Back-end

1. Contractor gantry bin for co-mingled and cardboard;
2. Contractor gantry bin for organic
3. Contractor gantry bin for landfill waste
4. Sorting tables
5. Canteen.
6. PotatoPak
7. Contracted staff
8. 1 4-wheel bike and trailer



### 5.3 Stallholder Officer

It is imperative a stallholder officer be appointed for future events and accorded the status that Public Health Officers enjoy. That is, having the ability to shut down a stall should that stall not comply with the zero waste kaupapa. The officer could also direct the stallholder to purchase complying packaging product.

#### 5.4 Volunteer Welfare

The welfare of volunteers is paramount given they are providing their time free of charge. It is vital therefore that volunteers are looked after well. A buddy-system for future events is suggested to aid in resting volunteers and generating a team approach. A volunteer canteen with seating, a toilet and hand-washing facilities is also suggested.

#### 5.5 Volunteer Training and 'Impassioning'

The volunteer training, impassioning and hosting at the marae was the key to the success or failure of the exercise. Staying at the marae the night before raising the commitment levels of everybody whilst also sharing ideas was essential. The whanaungatanga and camaraderie developed in such a short space of time is something that must happen for future events.

#### 5.6 Waste Management Budgets

Currently resource recovery at events is seen as important but with low status. Budgets allocated to Waste Management for events are not presently realistic to run effective zero waste programs. It is also very difficult to compete with the large companies who charge very little to remove waste, most of which goes to landfill. At present zero waste events must rely on volunteers. The ideal is to increase the status and budgets for Resource Recovery so that there is less reliance on volunteers while jobs are created.

#### 6.0 SUMMARY

Despite this being the first attempt and the problems described above, an astounding result was still achieved. To recycle and compost 79% of the waste stream at an event with over 30,000 people is a major achievement. The result was simply down to the dedication of the volunteers and workers and Ngati Whatua o Orakei steadfastly holding to their cultural principles. The volunteers are the greatest resource and their welfare is paramount. It should not be assumed that volunteers will be so willing to commit themselves to such a huge effort again. Above all, any attempt at zero-waste, waste minimisation must be done with integrity, honesty and transparency.

### **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **7.1 Stallholders and Event Sponsors**

- 7.1.1 A minimum \$200 bond is added to stallholder registrations with bonds to be returned to stallholders that comply at the conclusion of the event.
- 7.1.2 Stallholders to be issued with 'Zero Waste' compliance certificates on the bump-in morning of the event. Stallholders cannot trade if they do not receive their certificate or produce it when asked.
- 7.1.3 Event organisers must provide a comprehensive list of products banned from the event;
- 7.1.4 Get a detailed product list from each supplier before the event. Work closely with stallholders to advise banned products;
- 7.1.5 Ensure compostable products can only be purchased from a single supplier to avoid conflicting messages from multiple suppliers.



7.1.6 Appoint and empower a stallholder officer for the event.

7.1.7 Ensure event sponsors do not bring waste to the event.

## **7.2 Event Communications**

7.2.1 Events must completely embrace the zero waste kaupapa and it must feature prominently in all marketing and communications.

7.2.2 On stage key messages must be as prominent as health&safety and sponsor messages.

7.2.3 Post event communications of results is important.

## **7.3 Resource Recovery Stations and Sorting Station**

7.3.1 Further develop the optimal RRS

7.3.2 The RRS bin labels and signage to include alternative wording, symbols and te reo Maori.

7.3.3 Use clear plastic bags to line co-mingled bins.

7.3.4 Use black plastic bag at RRS for 'Landfill' rubbish.

7.3.5 Use gloves with rubberised palms to improve health&safety.

7.3.6 Develop a solution for nappies, cigarette butts and dog tiko.

## **7.4 Event-Day Strategy Implementation**

7.4.1 Establish a hierarchy of leadership and communication. Leaders must be able to move out amongst the RRSs' to gather information and inspire and support the staff.

7.4.2 A volunteer schedule of available hours should be taken at the beginning of the event.

7.4.3 The number of RRSs' for future events of the same size can be reduced.

7.4.4 Use a buddy system of 2 people at each station so they can relieve each other throughout the day;

7.4.5 Consider establishing 'sectors' with sector leaders responsible for areas within the event. Generate some healthy competition between sectors to help raise spirit.

7.4.6 Include a group of roving staff who educate the public about the RRSs and monitor outlying areas and identify and address problem areas before they reach crisis point.

## **7.5 Staff Canteen and Chill-Out Space**

7.5.1 Establish a comfortable space for staff to eat, sit and rest. Include a port-a-loo and hand washing facilities.

7.5.2 Ask staff and volunteers if they have particular dietary requirements.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT;**

**NGARIMU BLAIR**

**ngarimu@ngatiwhatuaorakei.com**

**0272790735**

