

Dramatic step for plastic recycling in New Zealand

New Zealand's capability to recycle plastics locally took a significant step forward with the introduction of a state-of-the-art Erema extruder at Astron Plastics in Auckland. The extruder, the first of its kind in the country, was unveiled by the CEO of the Ministry for the Environment, Mr Hugh Logan, at a ceremony on 12 October 2006.



Left:
Hugh Logan, CEO Ministry for the Environment addressing attendees at the Erema Extruder opening 12 October 2006

The new extruder can process 9.6 tonne of industrial plastic waste per day, adding substantially to the national recycling capacity. Its laser filter is the most advanced in Australasia and enables Astron Plastics to recycle contaminated plastic which previously had to be shipped offshore.



Right:
The new Erema extruder – the latest technology in plastic recycling and the only one of its kind in Australasia

This advance is especially pertinent in the light of the proposed Waste Minimisation Bill before Parliament. If passed, the bill will introduce measures to reduce the amount of solid waste going to landfills, as well as promoting reuse and recycling.

Expanding New Zealand's recycling capability means less waste will have to be shipped offshore, to countries where different environmental standards may apply. It benefits the economy too, because the more recycled resin is made available locally, the less plastic needs to be imported into the country.

At the Open Day several key customers were awarded Certificates of Environmental Responsibility for their commitment to the principles & practices of recycling. Hugh Logan – CEO for the Ministry for the Environment & Richard Anyon – CEO Astron Plastics presented the certificates.

Cryovac Sealed Air – Hamilton

Cryovac embarked on a zero waste programme 7 years ago. 80% achievement of this ambitious target has been achieved. Wendy Cheffings & George Campbell received the Certificate of Environmental Responsibility

From left to right: Hugh Logan - MFE, Richard Anyon – Astron Plastics, Wendy Cheffings & George Campbell - Cryovac Sealed Air Hamilton



Fisher & Paykel Recycling

George Gray, Fisher & Paykel Recycling receives the Certificate of Environmental Responsibility. Fisher & Paykel have been pioneers in producer responsibility and bring back schemes for their products as well as recycling

From left to right: George Gray – F&P, Hugh Logan - MFE, Richard Anyon – Astron Plastics.



Marley New Zealand Ltd

Joe Killen, Marley New Zealand receives the Certificate of Environmental Responsibility. Marley have been proactive recyclers of plastic waste have implemented a Zero Waste Programme and run a very efficient operation.

From left to right: Joe Killen - Marley NZ, Hugh Logan - MFE, Richard Anyon – Astron Plastics



“Apart from being financially prudent, companies demonstrate their corporate responsibility by getting their industrial plastic waste recycled locally,” says Richard Anyon, managing director of Astron Plastics. “It helps our country do business in an environmentally sustainable way.”

Astron Plastics has been at the forefront of recycling plastics in New Zealand for over 20 years. The company is the largest recycler of industrial plastic waste in New Zealand and the largest supplier of recycled plastic resin in Australasia. Astron Plastics is New Zealand owned and managed, with plants in Auckland, Christchurch, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.