

Since being founded in 1981, Tecpak Industries Limited has grown to be an Australasian supplier of injection moulded packaging. Specialising in thin-walled rigid containers, the company manufactures and markets quality containers and accessories to suit a wide range of packaging applications that can now be found throughout Australia, New Zealand and other markets. Tecpak has offices in Melbourne, Auckland and Dunedin.

**Our Objective:** To look at the viability of introducing kerbside recycling of Polypropylene with Dunedin City Council.

**Cost:** Staff time only.

**Project Description:** The main material used by Tecpak in their packaging products is polypropylene (PP). There is now a total of over 11,000 tonnes of polypropylene packaging produced each year by New Zealand companies. Currently only a very small portion of this is recycled.



#### How we implemented the project:

Meetings held with Plastics New Zealand, resin suppliers and users of PP to understand why PP packaging is not picked up at kerbside in Dunedin and why Auckland and North Shore City Councils discontinued this recycling. Meeting held with Enviro Waste, Dunedin City Council (DCC), Plastics New Zealand, Tecpak and EPI to assess Dunedin potential for recycling. Decision by DCC and Enviro Waste was not to proceed with kerbside recycling at this time and look into trialling industrial pickup and use of this stream by EPI, another Dunedin based plastics company.

**Key Challenge:** Finding a financially feasible local solution for recycling polypropylene given the small volumes involved.

**The Solution:** In the short term the opportunity to focus on commercial polypropylene recycling provided a way of increasing recycling.

**The Future:** Now that commercial recycling has been focused on Tecpak is looking at two further initiatives. The first is looking at getting Enviro-Mark certification, if they proceed with this they will be the first Dunedin based company to gain certification. The second is looking at how Tecpak can work alongside other plastics companies to ensure access to kerbside recycling for rigid polypropylene packaging throughout New Zealand. A new New Zealand rigid plastics packaging group is being formed in 2005 which is made up of the main polypropylene manufacturers, brand owners, retailers, Councils and Recyclers which Tecpak will participate in.

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#### Links:

www.tecpak.com  
Polypropylene Recycling Fact Sheet [www.plastics.org.nz/page.asp?id=634](http://www.plastics.org.nz/page.asp?id=634)  
[www.ronz.org.nz](http://www.ronz.org.nz)