



MEDIA RELEASE
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Councils Must Back Rural Recycling

Local councils should demonstrate good environmental citizenship by purchasing agrichemicals from companies which belong to the Agrecovery scheme, says AGCARM.

AGCARM chief executive Graeme Peters said some councils are purchasing agrichemicals from businesses that don't financially support the Agrecovery recycling and chemical collection schemes.

The nationwide Agrecovery Rural Recycling Programme is backed by over 40 industry players. The 13 cents a litre levy paid by agrichemical and veterinary medicines producers funds the free recycling of plastic containers and disposal of unwanted chemicals.

"These companies are investing in practices which will lead to better outcomes – better for the environment, better for farmers and growers, better for industry, and better for councils," Mr Peters said.

"We are encouraging councils to endorse and support these initiatives by buying agrichemicals from responsible manufacturers who make the extra effort to operate in an environmentally-responsible manner."

He said there had already been a successful push by many councils to recover and dispose of unwanted agrichemicals.

"I applaud the effort made by local authorities to work with us to recycle and recover agrichemicals and plastic. However, it is illogical to buy agrichemicals from businesses that aren't also interested in recycling and safe disposal."

Mr Peters said there were only a few agrichemical companies in New Zealand that do not belong to the scheme.

The Agrecovery Rural Recycling Programme has been running since 2007. The new Agrecovery Chemicals retrieval scheme has been operating since July this year.

Agrecovery labelling is being introduced to programme members' products, with some products already bearing the Agrecovery logo.

Purchasers of Agrecovery-affiliated products can return empty containers to an Agrecovery collection site for recycling and can also arrange for the disposal of unwanted agrichemicals through Agrecovery.

AGCARM is an industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving.

Initiatives of the organisation include providing safe and sustainable animal health and crop protection technology for the future of New Zealand, and educating the community about the industry's contribution.

It is also a trustee of the Agrecovery Foundation which was formed in 2005.

Agcarm is the industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving. Member companies are committed to ensuring that these products are used safely, effectively and sustainably

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