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 sort 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
www.ronz.org.nz