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Submission from the Beacon Pathway Limited on the Draft Proposal for a Waste Levy in New Zealand 12 May 2006:

About Beacon

Beacon is a residential building industry research consortium aiming to drive sustainability outcomes consistent with New Zealand sustainable development requirements. Beacon is funded by industry, with matched monies from Government research funds from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology. There are currently five shareholding partners – The Building Research Association of New Zealand, Scion, New Zealand Steel, Waitakere City Council and Fletcher Building.

Submission

We are generally supportive of the proposal for a Waste Levy in New Zealand. Such a user-pays levy is necessary to support the NZ Waste Strategy and its waste minimisation goals.

However, we submit:

1. Funding should not be provided for activities which are already being undertaken at the time of introduction of the levy. For example, those Councils who are already operating recycling programmes, cleaner production programmes and waste education centres should not be able to seek funding towards their existing activities, but only for the expansion of these activities.
2. The Packaging Accord should be made compulsory to ensure that manufacturers and importers of packaging redesign and reduce packaging waste.
3. Container deposit levies should be introduced to encourage re-use and recycling of bottles and other containers.