

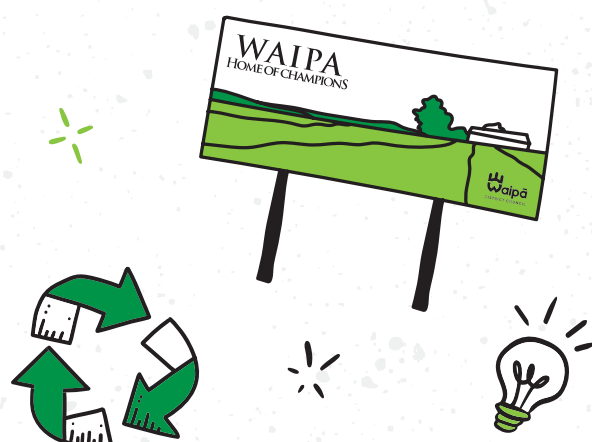


**We want to know what you think about our plans
to minimise and manage waste in Waipā.**

Draft Waste Minimisation and Management
Plan summary document

wastelesswaipa.co.nz





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Welcome!

This document is a summary of our 2023-2029 draft Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (WMMP) that we're calling *Waste less, do more!*

It summarises how we propose minimising and managing waste across the Waipā district over the next six years. It is our detailed plan for how we will deliver on our longer-term Waipā Waste Strategy.

It doesn't contain ALL of our proposals – but it does cover the main issues we're seeking feedback on.

By law, we must review this plan every six years so we can keep receiving the government's waste levy. That's important, because it's the waste levy – and not Waipā ratepayers – which funds most of Council's waste minimisation activities, including most of those proposed in this draft plan.

So please,

read onget involved and (most importantly),
have your say on what we're proposing. We
need to hear from you by Sunday 23 April 2023.

Your feedback will help form our final Waste
less, do more! Plan which will guide our actions
to minimise waste for the next six years.

**HAVE
YOUR SAY!**

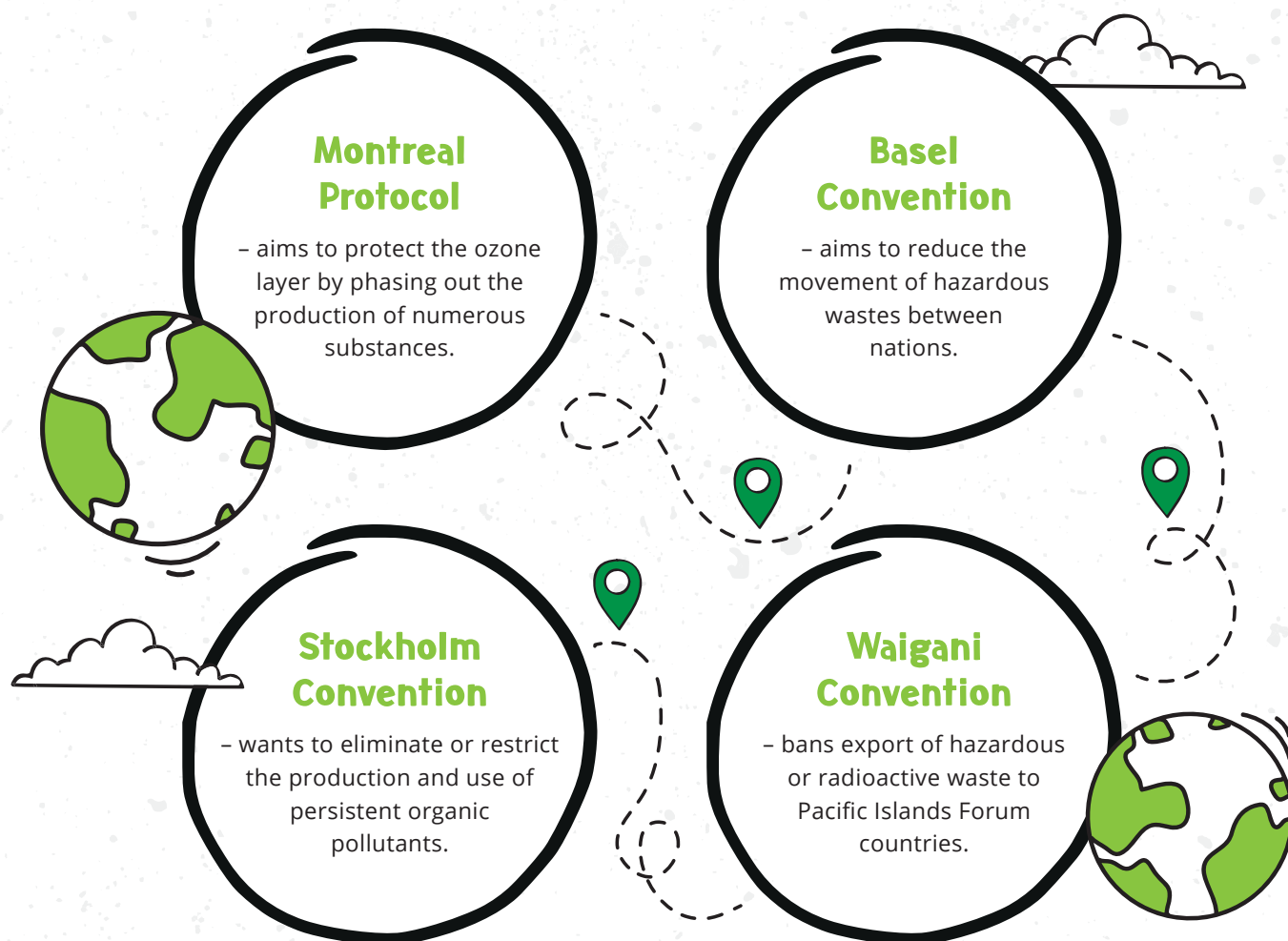


Let's look at the bigger picture

International agreements

Waste impacts everyone, all over the world.

That's why New Zealand is party to the following international agreements:



These agreements matter to people in Waipā because the impacts of international policies and agreements are real. For example, they influence the quality of products we can sell from our local recycling sorting facility and they have a direct impact on whether our contractor can export recycled material. That impacts on costs, including what Waipā ratepayers pay for waste services.

Across New Zealand

Here at home our government is taking a much more active role in waste. In the last few years we've seen:

- Work on a new national waste strategy plus new legislation to better regulate how we manage products and materials.
- Increasing the landfill levy (the fee placed by the government on waste material sent to landfills) and applying that levy to more classes of landfill.
- A commitment from the waste sector to reduce carbon emissions.
- A national infrastructure strategy for waste.
- The government encouraging all councils to provide a kerbside food waste collection service.
- Using regulation to put responsibilities on producers, importers and retailers for the products they create and sell, right up to the end-of-life outcome for that product. In other words – there's a push to put the responsibility for waste on those who generate it.
- Work on a refreshed 'Cash for cans' scheme.
- Progress on standardising what items we can recycle kerbside nationwide.
- Work which may require some businesses to separate food waste.
- Creating a Plastics Innovation Fund to help reduce plastics in our environment.
- Phasing out single-use plastic shopping bags and other hard-to-recycle plastics.



Mātauranga Māori

Past Waipā Waste Minimisation and Management Plans do not refer to te ao Māori or mātauranga Māori approaches to waste minimisation. To support the best possible waste outcomes for Waipā and its people, more effort needs to be put in this area.

Waste less, do more! proposes partnering more actively with tangata whenua and Māori groups to support the kaupapa around waste minimisation. That will mean actively encouraging marae and Māori organisations to apply for waste minimisation community funding.

It will also mean supporting Para Kore Marae Incorporated, Aotearoa's leading te ao Māori based zero waste organisation, to lead work in this space locally. These actions will be funded by the Ministry for the Environment's waste levy.

The circular economy - keeping things in use

Earth has finite resources. It's not acceptable (or sustainable) for products to only be used for short periods of time (often just minutes) and then thrown in a landfill. Throwing things is a waste of valuable resources that could be recovered and reused.

Minimising waste means more efficient use of natural resources, reduced pollution and less harm to our environment. That's why the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment is pushing hard towards creating a circular economy. A circular economy ensures we can unmake everything we make. It's about keeping

resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them while they are in use, then recovering and regenerating the products and materials at the end of their service life.

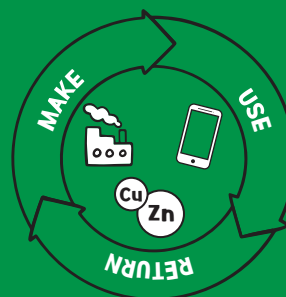
When a product is designed for the longest use possible, and can be easily repaired, remanufactured or recycled (or used, composted and nutrients returned) we consider it to have a circular life cycle.

A circular economy is fueled by renewable energy (e.g. solar, hydro, wind and tidal power, and biofuels).

Circular economy



Biological materials



Technical materials

Energy from renewable sources [Image: Ministry for the Environment](#)

Consumer demand for waste reduction is seeing a small but growing number of circular products, systems and solutions coming to market in New Zealand. Our very own Waipā Zero Waste Guide released in 2021 lists more than 30 different local businesses and organisations already offering products or services in the waste reduction and circular economy space.

The waste hierarchy

We love the old 'reuse, reduce, recycle' jingle but the reality is that, while we see a lot of recycling, we don't see as much reducing or reusing. It's hard when the easy availability of cheap products and an inability to repair products have all changed how we view our 'stuff'.

So, in addition to reuse, reduce, recycle there is another R that need to be considered too... Rethinking our waste - as well as our consumption - in the first place.

Now... let's take a closer look at Waipā

In the last few years, there's been a lot of change in the waste space...



In 2016,

Waipā locals were recycling glass, plastics, tins, cans, cardboard and paper via a crate-based recycling system.



In 2017,

China said it would no longer accept recycling materials from other countries – leaving us with fewer recycling options.



In 2019,

Council rolled out recycling wheelie bins.



In 2022,

Waipā District Council completed its second formal Waste Assessment, taking a good look at waste services (private, Council and community-led).



In 2022,

New Zealand published its first ever Emissions Reduction Plan, setting out what we must do to meet carbon emissions targets (and that includes waste).

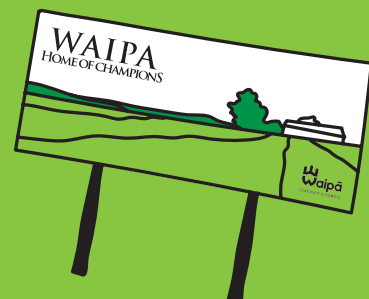


In 2019,

single use shopping bags were banned and pressure came on other hard-to-recycle plastics.



Overall, the government has begun taking a much more active role in waste. We're reviewing our Waste Minimisation Plan at a real time of change. We'll need to be nimble, innovative and flexible.



Our current rubbish and recycling service

At Waipā, recycling collection is a Council service and is rates funded. Plastics 1,2,5, tins, cans, paper and cardboard is collected fortnightly and glass is collected monthly.

Rubbish collection is a private service and is a pay as you go service. Most houses in Waipā use pre-paid bags and MOST only place out one per week.



Standard rate per urban property
for Council recycling in 2022-23

= \$124



Pre-paid bags cost \$4.50 each.
Annual additional cost if you put
out weekly

= \$234

Total rubbish and recycling service cost = \$358



Compare this to Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Western Bay of Plenty District Council started a new contract in 2021 which includes a similar recycling collection to Waipā, a weekly kerbside food waste collection and pay as you-throw wheelie bins for rubbish all for \$354.

Most places in Western Bay will pay less if they put their rubbish bin out less frequently. Residents save \$3.95 each week they don't need to place their rubbish out for collection.



A snapshot of Waipā's waste



- Each and every Waipā resident generates around half a tonne of waste each year.
- Audits from 2020 show that 12 per cent of the stuff thrown in our rubbish bins could (and should) have been recycled.
- More than half of the stuff destined for landfill was organic (mainly food or garden waste).

Our audits show we've got a problem in Waipā with how some people are recycling. Audits have also identified a potential opportunity to reduce waste via a kerbside food waste collection service. You can read more about this on page 9).

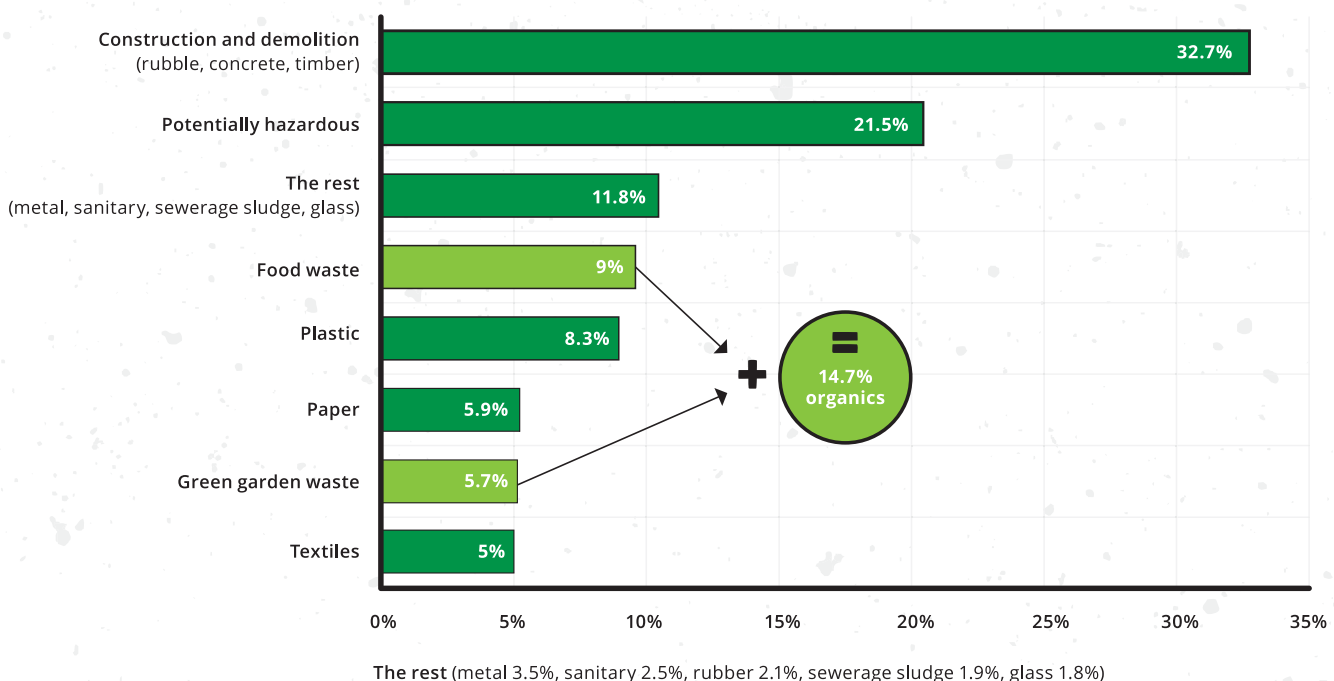
And remember, the data we capture from within our district does not capture the whole waste pie. Large volumes of waste can head directly out of Waipā to a landfill.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified that construction and demolition waste is the largest source of waste in Class 1 landfills (32.7%). This is followed by potentially hazardous waste (21.5%), food waste (9%) and green garden waste (5.7%). Plastic waste fills fifth place (8.3%).

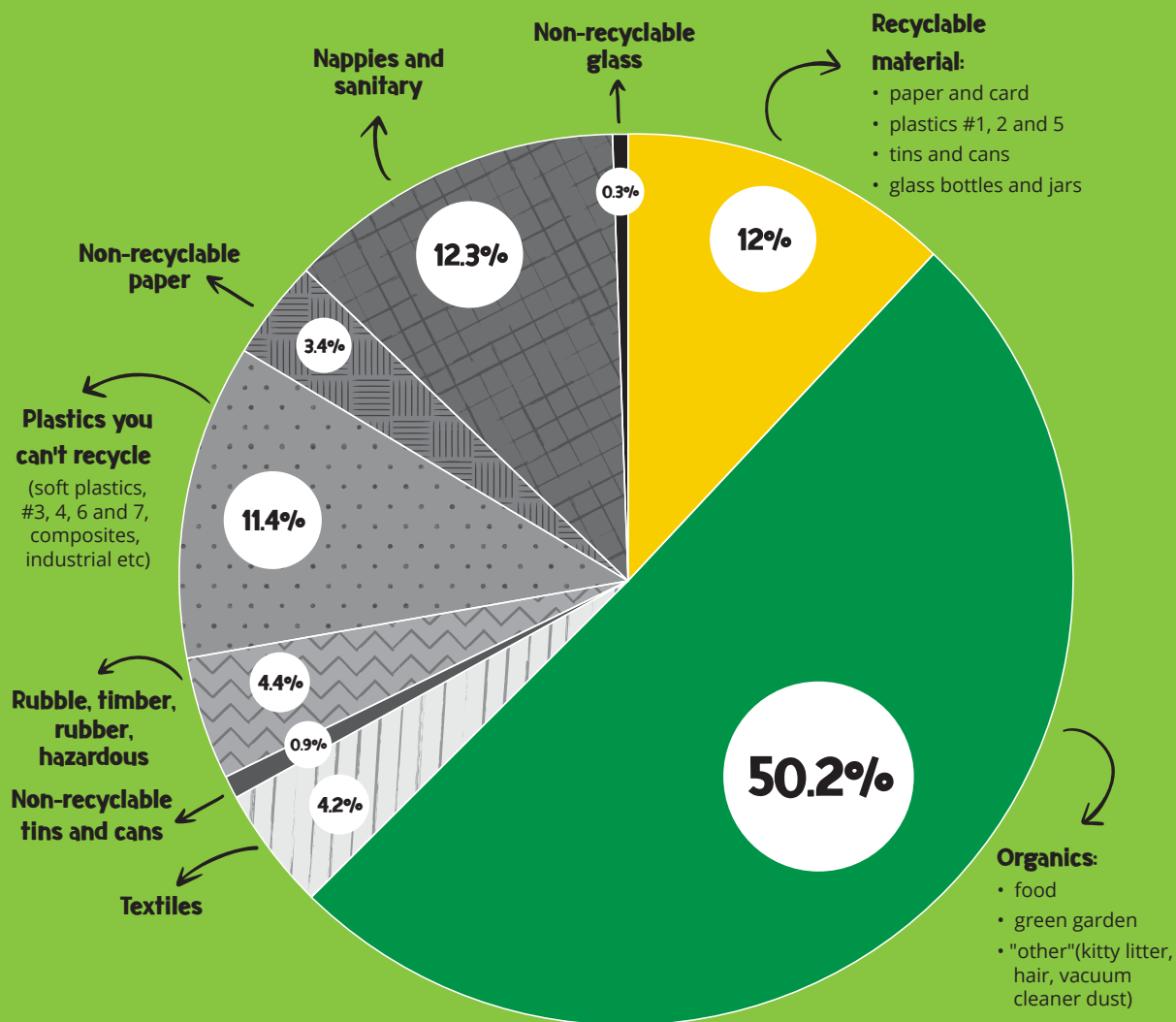
There is no data to say Waipā will be any different from the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand in terms of the kind of waste we send to out-of-district Class 1 municipal landfills. We may even be worse because districts like ours do not have access to as many infrastructure solutions (like construction and demolition material recovery facilities) as bigger centres.

We need to keep an eye on the whole waste pie when looking to make change and act locally.

Waste composition of Class 1 landfills in Aotearoa NZ



Waipā household rubbish



Waipā's waste strategy

Council already has a Waipā Waste Strategy 2017-2035 which details our overall goals and lays out a strategic framework for managing waste in Waipā over the next 18 years.

Its vision is 'Building zero waste and sustainable communities'. Our Strategy has four clear goals:



Goal 1: Reduced waste and increased resource recovery

Goal 2: Collect waste information for informed decision-making, in line with the National Waste Data Framework.

Goal 3: Connect with our community by developing collaborative and enduring partnerships with key stakeholders.

Goal 4: Progressive and effective waste minimisation and management services and facilities, without unreasonably burdening future ratepayers.

The big six

(The six main issues we need your feedback on!)

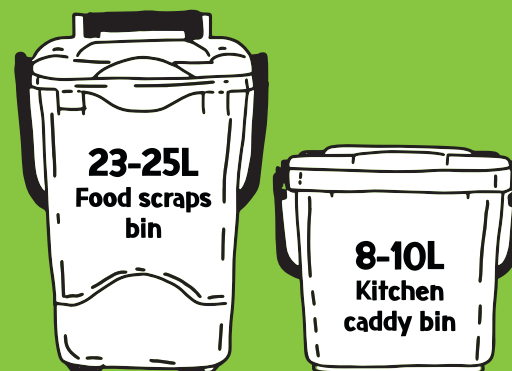


Reducing food (organic) waste

Our waste audits show that more than half of all household rubbish put out on the kerbside is organic material - mainly food.

Organic matter (like food) generates four per cent of total gross emissions for New Zealand when disposed of in a landfill. That's a lot!

By reducing food waste in our rubbish, we can significantly reduce how much methane-producing waste goes to landfill from Waipā households.



So what can we do about it?

To reduce organic waste, we're proposing to:

- Investigate Council providing a kerbside food waste collection service (noting no decisions would be made until there had been consultation with the community).
- Support opportunities to reduce food waste across all sectors from paddock to plate.
- Provide community education focussed on reducing food waste in the home.
- Encourage home composting and support community composting initiatives.



These actions will be funded by the Ministry for the Environment's waste levy.

What do you think?

Which of these actions will have the biggest impact?

What else could we do to help reduce food waste?



Tell us what you think using the feedback form or online at wastelesswaipa.co.nz



Do we need to change the way we collect rubbish?

It's been more than 20 years since Waipā District Council provided kerbside rubbish collection funded by rates. Currently people in Waipā choose their own, private provider to collect their rubbish. Now's the time to assess if Council and the community wish to reinstate a council-provided kerbside rubbish service.

Based on preliminary research into other similar-sized councils, it's likely Waipā District Council could develop a contract package (rubbish and recycling at a minimum) that would result in most households paying less for rubbish collection in the future.

Providing a rates-funded rubbish service, with a user-pays element, could have big benefits for Waipā:

- There would be consistent services across the district (rural and urban).
- It would likely reduce contamination (and the cost of that) in the recycling wheelie bin.
- Council will be in charge of the collections so there is one point of call for all customer questions.
- Truck movements in neighbourhoods would be reduced.
- There would be more stability and certainty about cost.
- Council would have access to more data on Waipā's rubbish habits and could use this to minimise waste even further.

On the down side, introducing a council rubbish service may adversely impact businesses that currently provide private rubbish services. Further investigation and public consultation into possible cost efficiencies, benefits and impacts would be required before any changes were initiated.

So what can we do about it?

To further investigate waste contract possibilities, we're proposing to:

- Investigate what the cost savings would look like if we introduced a rubbish service that is provided by Council rather than through commercial providers (as it is currently).



This investigation will be funded via the Ministry for Environment's waste levy.

****At this stage, we are just proposing to investigate the options. Further community consultation will take place before any changes are made to our current service.**

Any future services would likely be funded partly by rates and partly by individual households. For example there could be a base charge covered by rates and then each household would buy tags to attach to wheelie bins. This type of charging means those households that don't make as much waste, don't spend as much.

(Note: A case study on Western Bay District Council, which recently began a new waste contract, is included in the full Waste less, do more! document and online at wastelesswaipa.co.nz)

What do you think?

Do you support us investigating a Council-provided rubbish service?

Tell us what you think using the feedback form or online at wastelesswaipa.co.nz





Reduce recycling contamination

More than 11,000 recycling bin inspections in 2021 showed many households in our community are recycling really well. But about 10 per cent of Waipā households are still placing rubbish items in the recycling bin – and that has serious consequences. Once contamination/rubbish items gets mixed up with other recycling, good clean recycling material is contaminated. When that happens, we have no choice but to send it to landfill.

Items like knives, scrap metal, engine oil, nappies (and worse) also pose a huge health and safety risk to our recycling sorting team. This contamination costs

ratepayers lots of money from cleaning shutdowns, specialised cleaning costs, equipment damage and landfilling costs.

There's also some confusion about what can be recycled in Waipā and what cannot, especially for new residents. That's because different councils accept different items for recycling.

We've supported a proposal from government to standardise what items are collected for recycling nationwide. It means you'll be able to recycle the same items in Waimakariri, Waipu and Waipā – easy peasy!

So what can we do about it?

To help reduce recycling contamination, we're proposing to:

- Continue pre-collection bin audits and wider community education on recycling correctly.
- Investigate the possibility to secondary sort all 'contamination' that comes off the sorting line in first pass.
- Advocate for national recycling standards and align to them fully when implemented.
- Continue to work hard to reach those in our community who need to improve their recycling knowledge.



These actions would be funded via rates as well as the waste levy from the Ministry for the Environment.

What do you think?

Which of these actions will have the biggest impact?

What else could we do to reduce contamination?



Tell us what you think using the feedback form or online at wastelesswaipa.co.nz



Diverting construction and demolition waste

Construction is a major sector of the Waipā economy and also a major contributor to the waste stream. Surveys show construction and demolition waste is the largest source of waste (33%) in municipal landfills. Some larger councils have a staff member solely dedicated to helping reduce construction and demolition waste because it is such a significant part of waste in New Zealand.

It's not easy to access construction and demolition collections and services and there are challenges making the market for product viable. In Waipā, we'd need government support or at least regional co-operation.

In the past large infrastructure projects are developed via the waste levy fund through public funding of private businesses. Private organisations often want to stay in large metro areas. That's good for big cities, but doesn't help grow a national network of construction and demolition diversion facilities, or provide access to these facilities for districts like Waipā.

With housing intensification occurring (more houses in smaller spaces) there is a lot of house demolition in our district. It costs about the same to pay a local crew to take down a house (deconstruct) and use (sell or upcycle) those resources again... or demolish a house and send it all to landfill.

By choosing the right house, sales can be generated from the houses materials. Money the developer would have paid to knock down, crush up and transport the crushed house to landfill can be used to take reusable resources out of a home for reuse or sale. The rest, like old tin roofing iron, can be recycled.

In other words, deconstruction can provide meaningful work for local people, while diverting huge amounts of waste from landfill.

So what can we do about it?

To improve construction and demolition waste diversion in Waipā, we're proposing to:

- Investigate the possibility of community group/s having a role in de-constructing buildings.
- Ask the Government to ensure funding is spread fairly and support work to help minimise construction waste in our district.
- Support those industries which share our goals to reduce construction waste.



These actions will be funded by the Ministry for the Environment's waste levy.

What do you think?

Which of these actions will have the biggest impact?

What else could we do to divert construction and demolition waste?

Tell us what you think using the feedback form or online at wastelesswaipa.co.nz





Making sure we have right infrastructure

Waipā District Council owns no waste assets, transfer stations or machinery. There are no Class 1 municipal landfills in Waipā district. However, there are two Class 1 landfill disposal options within 100 km.

Waipā District Council is the only Waikato council that does not own a Refuse Transfer Station. There are two privately-owned transfer stations in the district, one in Cambridge and one in Te Awamutu. These stations are central bulking points for rubbish, where recyclables and a few selected waste streams of reusable materials are separated out from waste prior to transfer to landfill, for example, scrap metal, recyclables and green waste.

During community consultation on the (2021-2031) Long-Term Plan, the community strongly supported investment

in Waipā's very first resource recovery centre. A resource recovery centre is primarily about reuse (not about rubbish). It's about getting as many items as possible back into reuse through upcycling, reuse, repurposing, second-hand shop sales, composting or recycling. (There's a great example of a resource recovery centre in Raglan at Xtreme Zero Waste). The good news is..... we've already secured some government funding to progress this concept.

We're also well aware that natural disasters are significant waste generators (think about the Christchurch earthquakes and recent flooding over summer). A Disaster Waste Management Planning Guide has now been developed by regional councils, linked to the Civil Defence Emergency Framework.

So what can we do about it?

To improve infrastructure and resilience in Waipā, we're proposing to:

- Start work on planning for a network of resource recovery centres over the next 15-20 years including urban areas and provision for servicing of rural villages.
- Utilise Waipā's existing GIS planning tool to complete desktop preparedness and link to the Civil Defence Emergency Framework.
- Support community capacity growth in resource recovery operations.



These actions will be funded by the Ministry of the Environment's waste levy.

What do you think?

Which of these actions will have the biggest impact?

What else could we do to make sure we have the right infrastructure?

Tell us what you think using the feedback form or online at wastelesswaipa.co.nz





Getting the most from national waste policy

The Ministry for the Environment is currently consulting on a draft New Zealand Waste Strategy which charts a path away from a linear economy model to a circular economy (see page 4). It includes a proposal to licence waste operators nationally rather than each council having to licence the same few companies. This will save time and provide better access to important information.

In July 2020 the Government declared six priority products for regulated product stewardship under the Waste Minimisation Act. Regulated product stewardship makes producers responsible for specified products at the end of their life. It ensures the costs of waste management are paid by producers, retailers and consumers - not communities, councils and the environment.

The six priority products are:

1. Tyres and large batteries (currently consulting on proposed regulations)
2. Electrical and electronic products [e-waste]
3. Farm plastics
4. Refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gases
5. Agrichemicals and their containers
6. Single-use plastic packaging

The Government is also designing an improved 'cash for cans' scheme, now called the container return scheme, which will have customers pay a returnable cash deposit on bottles and cans of drinks.

In other countries the community and not-for-profit sector plays a part in collecting eligible drink bottles and cans e.g. bottle drives, sports clubs, or to even run larger-scale bulking facilities. This scheme may be implemented by 2025 and offers a great opportunity for Waipā community groups to become more involved in resource recovery.

So what can we do about it?

To gain the most benefit from national policy, we're proposing to:

- Advocate for national or regional licensing of waste operators. If that is not possible we'd use existing bylaw clauses to enact licensing locally.
- Support increased understanding of, and participation in the circular economy by locally operated businesses and industry.
- Support our community to make the most of opportunities generated by the regulated product stewardship scheme (e.g., farmers for agrichemicals and containers, Waipā Urban Miners with e-waste and small batteries) and community groups (container return scheme).



These actions will be funded via the Ministry for the Environment's waste levy.

What do you think?

Which of these actions will have the biggest impact?

What else could we do to get the most from national waste policy?

Tell us what you think using the feedback form or online at wastelesswaipa.co.nz





Come and see us!



**to find out more and to
have your say in person!**



Monday 3 April

10am – 2pm

Mainstreet of Cambridge (in front of Sports World)
50 Victoria Street

Friday 14 April

9am – 2pm

In the carpark of Mitre 10 Mega, Cambridge
1 Oliver Street

Saturday 15 April

8am to 12 noon

Cambridge Farmers' Market
Victoria Square, 79 Victoria Street

Monday 17 April

10am – 2pm

Mainstreet of Te Awamutu (in front of Peach and Porker)
97 Alexandra Street

Thursday 20 April

1.30 – 5.15pm

Te Awamutu Twilight Produce Market
Selwyn Park

Friday 21 April

10am – 2pm

Pak n Save carpark, Te Awamutu
670 Cambridge Road



**Waste less,
DO MORE!**



**Have your say at
wastelesswaipa.co.nz**

**0800 WAIPADC (0800 924 723)
info@waipadc.govt.nz**