Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Council considering taking a greater role in the District’s kerbside collection?
Since the introduction of the first Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in 2010 very little progress has been made towards reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. Audits of what people throw away show that about 70 percent of what’s in the average wheeled bin or bin bag could be diverted from landfill. This is mostly food waste that could be composted - or glass, paper and plastics that could be recycled.

Earlier consultation through the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and the Long Term Plan, over the past two years, demonstrated community support for a greater Council role in waste services. Further investigations by Council into potential models, their benefits and costs resulted in several options from which the proposed one is determined to be the most effective and suitable for the District.

There is an opportunity for Council to improve management of waste and provide a higher level of service to the community through a Council-contracted and managed kerbside collection.

Why are we considering a new system for household recycling and waste collection?
Council adopted a vision of “minimising waste to landfill” in its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in 2017. To achieve this, changes are needed to increase recycling and diversion. To date Western Bay’s rubbish and recycling has been collected by private arrangement between individuals and rubbish collection companies, with minimal involvement from Council.

The new proposal is for a Council-contracted rubbish and recycling kerbside collection scheme. The proposal gives the Western Bay the opportunity to create a system that can reduce the amount of waste to landfill, encourage greater recycling and diversion, manage waste more efficiently without increasing average household costs. This is just a proposal and public feedback will be sought in March/April 2019 alongside the Annual Plan.

What is the proposal?
Council’s identified preferred option includes:

- Pay-per-pick-up service for rubbish (weekly wheeled bin)
- Kerbside glass collection (fortnightly crate)
- Kerbside recyclables collection (cardboard/paper, cans and plastics 1 and 2) (fortnightly wheeled bin)
- Food waste collection in urban areas only (weekly smaller bin).

However, this is still a proposal and not a final decision. Council will be consulting with the community in March/April 2019 and will include other options for comment and will want to hear from you.

What are the benefits of a Council-contracted kerbside collection?
There are several benefits of a system where Council contracts kerbside services

- Greater ability to encourage waste recycling and diversion and reduce waste to landfill
- Increased level of service for residents
• Average household costs for waste disposal and recycling are reduced compared to current private options.
• Improved efficiencies, due to fewer trucks operating on the same route.
• The largest component of divertible waste – food waste - is addressed in urban areas
• Increased ability to monitor the waste generated in the District
• Council can achieve economies of scale by purchasing services for the whole community.

What are the costs of a Council-contracted kerbside collection?
Modelling was carried out to establish the potential costs providing this service. Details of this work can be found in the Eunomia reports linked on this page. For the preferred option the modelled costs are:

• $3.50 per pick-up of rubbish (you only pay when the bin is put out for collection). For the average household this would be about $160 a year. The service will be offered weekly and you choose whether you put your bin out.
• Urban customers: $105 fixed annual charge (targeted rate collected). This covers fortnightly collections for glass and recycling and weekly food waste collection
• Rural customers: $53 fixed annual charge (targeted rate collected). This covers fortnightly collections for glass and recycling.

The average household annual costs for the preferred option would be:
• Urban household: $265
• Rural household: $213.

This is less than current average cost to households, which is $267, and offers an increased level of service and opportunities for diversion.

What would it cost Council?
The costs of the preferred option are:
• Tender costs of $70,000 (2019/20)
• Set-up and initial education costs $70,000 (2020/21)
• Cost of service $3.7 million – recovered by rates ($1.5m) and user charges ($2.2m) – 2021/22 onwards.

When would a new service be implemented?
Implementation would not be expected until 2021. Following engagement in March/April 2019, Council will make its decision in June 2019. A year has been set aside for industry engagement and the tender process, with another year to allow for the set-up and establishment of a service before it goes live.

Why is it important to reduce waste to landfill?
How we can reduce waste and keep the ‘useful’ reusable and recyclable parts out of landfill is important. This reduces the cost of dealing with what is left, extends the life of landfills, improves the environment through less leachate and methane, and means we can make the most of all our resources.

Who would deliver the service?
Council would not deliver these services itself, but would look to contract them out to industry. The actual model for any contract would be worked through once a final decision is made on services.
**Would everyone get a service?**
A Council-led kerbside collection service would be available for most households in the district, however not everyone. This is because some roads may not be suitable for the collection vehicles to use, or there may be too few households to make it economic. The modelling has assumed approximately 83% of households would get a service – which generally means that if you receive a private service now, you will likely receive the proposed Council-contracted service. The approximately 3500 households not eligible would be able to use the community recycling centres or unmanned recycling drop-off points also included in the preferred option. Targeted rates would only be charged on those households that have a service available.

**Can businesses use a Council-contracted service?**
The proposal allows for commercial properties to opt in to the Council-contracted service where their needs meet those of a household. They would pay the same targeted rates and charges as urban households. Council is not proposing to set up bespoke services for business waste.

**What will this mean for the community recycling centres?**
The current Community Recycling and Greenwaste Centres run by Council would continue to operate as usual. It is likely that there will continue to be a need to for a place to drop off excess recyclables and other material, even if a kerbside service is in place. The actual operations of the centres would be reconsidered following any introduction of a kerbside service, once actual volumes and changes to habits are fully observed.

**Is there any provision for greenwaste collection?**
A Council-led kerbside collection service for greenwaste (garden waste) was discounted early in the investigations. Where this is offered as a Council service, there is often a dramatic increase in the amount of waste collected with little reduction in the amount going to landfill via people’s rubbish bins or bags. Greenwaste would continue to be processed on the property, taken to a Council-run greenwaste centre, or private arrangements made with a contractor to collect.

**What is a Rural Recycling drop-off point?**
Council’s preferred option is to set up three unmanned recycling drop off points to make it easier for those living in the more remote rural areas to recycle. This would essentially be a converted shipping container. Similar initiatives have been used in the Hastings, Marlborough and Tasman Districts, among others. This would be funded by a targeted rate on those households where a kerbside service was unavailable, and would be about $16 on rates for those households a year.

Actual locations and sites would be determined in consultation with those communities. This would also be consulted on in March/April 2019.

**What is a Community-led Reuse Facility?**
Construction and demolition waste is a large part of the overall waste stream. As a growing district this is particularly important for us. We want to make it easier to recover and reuse construction and demolition waste and encourage better diversion of useful materials. It would also make available useful materials and items available for purchase by community groups and individuals. We want to work with the community to help establish a facility for our sub-region.

We are proposing to work with Tauranga City Council to investigate this option further and want to hear from interested community groups. No budget has been included through this plan, but funding towards establishing a facility may be considered at a later point. It would be expected that any facility would be community-led and become self-funding. This would also be consulted on in March/April 2019.

**When can I have my say?**
Consultation on the proposal will be undertaken alongside the Annual Plan in March/April 2019.