



Mahere Whakahaere, Whakatāharahara Para **Waste Management and Minimisation Plan**

Decision Document
2024



**Western
Bay of Plenty**
District Council

Introduction

We've undertaken a review of our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. This plan outlines Council's actions for our solid waste activities over the next six years and works towards our vision of minimising waste to landfill.

This decision story gives a quick overview of the key changes and a summary of the Plan. To view the final Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, this is available [here](#).

Why has the plan been developed?

It is a requirement under the Waste Management Minimisation Act 2008 that Council must have an operative Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) and that this plan is reviewed every six years.

Council receives funding from Central Government through the Waste Levy, which is to be used towards waste minimisation initiatives. To be eligible for this funding, Council must have an operative WMMP in place. This funding can then be used for some actions in the plan.



Engagement with our community

In June 2023, we asked our community for their thoughts around what waste they struggle with and what services they would like to see more of. Over 600 people shared their views, which helped us to prepare our draft Plan.

Key themes of this feedback included:

- Large inorganic waste is the biggest issue for people (such as old furniture and whiteware)
- Frustration around the lack of transfer stations within the District
- Requests for inorganic waste collection days
- Concern around the lack of options to recycle soft plastics.
- Easier access to e-waste recycling
- A lack of services and facilities for greenwaste disposal
- Interest in the establishment of resource recovery centres.

This feedback was incorporated into our draft Plan, which we then consulted on from 10 November to 10 December 2023.



Your feedback on the draft plan

Our actions within the draft plan were split into six key areas. This included:

- Education
- Infrastructure
- Services
- Leadership and Collaboration
- Monitoring and Reporting
- Regulation

We heard from 83 people and organisations regarding their thoughts on these actions and the wider plan. This feedback and recommendations were presented for decisions and adoption of the final plan on 28 March 2024.

A majority of submissions were in support of progressing the proposed actions or even doing more in some areas, while some shared concerns about rising costs. As we receive external funding to support waste minimisation, multiple actions will use this funding to ensure they do not impact rates.

Our Decisions

Feedback from submitters has been incorporated into the final plan and we have made the following changes as a result. The final plan can be found [here](#).

Education

The proposed actions included continuing to support waste education programmes as well as exploring ways to collaborate with businesses to promote their waste reduction initiatives.

In response to feedback, we have expanded on some of these actions to provide a clear plan for what we want to focus on, while ensuring none of these actions impact rates. Every action in this section will use the external funding we received from the waste minimisation levy.

Infrastructure

We proposed to explore the establishment of Resource Recovery Centres and a transfer station for our District, considering potential locations, funding sources, and partnerships. We know product stewardship (producer responsibility) is a key step towards reaching a circular economy. We want to be in the best position to support these schemes as they take shape and included this in our plan.

We received multiple submissions in support of a new transfer station. We are working with neighbouring Councils to plan new infrastructure to address this need.

We heard concerns from many submitters about the issues caused by soft plastics. This is not an issue Council can solve alone. We have kept the proposed actions in the draft plan to address this issue. This includes working with other organisations towards solutions, education and advocating to Central Government.

Services

We originally proposed to investigate and trial different initiatives - including battery and e-waste drop off points, greenwaste collection and inorganic waste collection for large furniture items. After requests from submitters, we have expanded on these actions to also implement (if viable) to ensure we provide opportunity to continue with any trials that prove successful. This enables flexibility over the next six years to continue to grow our services where we know there is high community support and uptake.

We have also clarified the actions regarding the provision of battery and e-waste drop off points. We currently accept used batteries at any of our libraries and service centres, however some submissions suggested this was not widely known.

Some submitters asked us why Western Bay does not have public recycling bins

This decision has been made due to the inability to monitor these bins, with recycling becoming contaminated when the bins are incorrectly used. We do not have the infrastructure in place to collect and sort the contaminated recycling from these bins, which would be costly to implement. This means any contaminated recycling ends up in landfill.

This is why instead we focus on educational campaigns to support the idea of taking your recycling with you or changing what you buy. We also advocate to Central Government around producer responsibility and product stewardship to lessen the amount of waste created.

Leadership and Collaboration

These actions focussed on Council's role to advocate to Central Government, the creation of a contestable waste fund and planning for waste management during a civil defence emergency.

We kept this section the same as what was proposed in the draft plan. We received multiple submissions in support of the actions in this section, particularly around disaster waste management and the creation of a contestable fund to support community groups with waste minimisation initiatives. This work will be prioritised over the coming months.

Monitoring and Reporting

We proposed to continue to monitor and collect data related to our waste reduction progress.

We have made minor amendments to the wording of these actions to provide clarity on what we are monitoring and why.

Some submitters questioned the need for this section. We need to know how our services are performing and areas for improvement to ensure we meet targets set through the New Zealand Waste Strategy 2023. Our ability to demonstrate our performance against these targets may also impact the level of external funding we receive in the future, highlighting why this is an important section to include in our planning.

Regulation

A new action has been included to provide support to industry-led initiatives that address significant waste streams (including construction and demolition waste). This is to recognise Council's desire to address problematic waste streams, while recognising that this is not solely Council's role and will be a collaborative effort.

Wider Plan

The plan has been updated to update the timing of immediate actions, reflect the support Council currently provides to Matakana Island Recycling Centre and further acknowledge Council's role in partnering with other organisations to achieve work towards a zero waste, circular economy.



Next Steps

We're already underway rolling out some awesome initiatives for waste minimisation in the district.

These are our priority actions over the next few months:

Community resource recovery centres

We have partnered with Chrome Collective Charitable Trust to start a trial to convert Katikati Recycling Centre into a resource recovery centre that can take items such as furniture, appliances, e-waste and much more. This trial is planned for six months to learn and adapt to how this will best operate alongside the Katikati community. You can learn more about this project [here](#).

We are also working with Tapuika to launch a similar project at Te Puke Recycling Centre for our eastern residents. This work is currently progressing and we are aiming to have this resource recovery trial start this year.

Contestable fund

One of the actions in our WMMP is to establish and manage an annual contestable fund to provide grants for local waste minimisation initiatives. By establishing a community contestable waste fund, we aim to empower our community to actively participate in waste reduction efforts and the development of a circular economy.

We're underway starting work on deciding how this fund would work, including eligibility criteria and how applications to this fund will be assessed.

Infrastructure assessment

We are working with neighbouring councils to map out existing local facilities and waste flows to inform our planning. This will guide our next steps in deciding what facilities are required and how we will work in partnership with other organisations to bring these plans to life.

Education

Keep an eye out for the following education campaigns and workshops that we have coming up:

- Love Food Hate Waste – Eat me first campaign
- Home composting workshops – aiming to help people with onsite greenwaste and how to get the best use out of the kerbside food bins
- Safety around bins – how to stay safe on collection days
- Promoting product stewardship schemes – Including Tyrewise, soft plastics and battery drop-offs
- Sharing videos around safe battery disposal
- Improving the events waste space for our vendors and event organisers
- Continuing to provide our existing school education programmes.



Would you like to know more?

To view the final Waste Management and Minisation Plan, this is available [here](#).

For information on our kerbside collection service, visit <http://kerbsidecollective.co.nz>



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Te Kaunihera a rohe mai i
Ngā Kuri-a-Whārei ki

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