



# Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017

## *Decision Story*

*December 2017*



**Western Bay of Plenty  
District Council**



# The Plan

Western Bay of Plenty District Council adopted its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (Plan) on 5 December 2017.

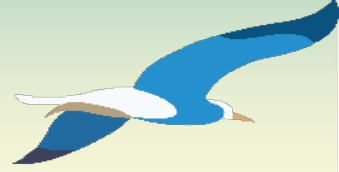
The Plan provides us with a framework for the effective and efficient management of the District's waste.

The Plan came into effect on 12 December 2017. You can read on to find out more about the background to the Plan's development, what the community told us through the consultation process and the decisions Council made on key issues as part of adopting the final plan.

This document explains the key decisions made by Council to those who gave feedback on the draft plan. It does not replace or supersede the Plan – please refer to the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017 on our website.



# Why develop the Plan?



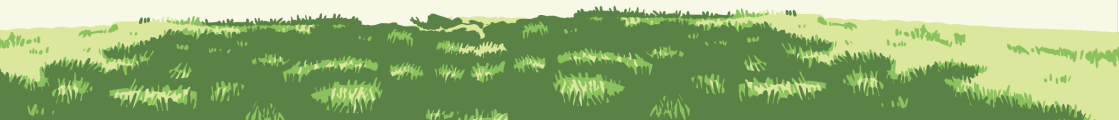
Council is required to produce the Plan under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA). The purpose of the WMA is to “encourage waste minimisation and a decrease in waste disposal in order to:

1. Protect the environment from harm; and
2. Provide environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits”.

Tauranga and Western Bay sent close to 90,000 tonnes of waste to landfill in 2014/15. This waste included a significant quantity of material that, if separated, could be recycled and put to beneficial use. Decisions to recycle or compost are made at an individual household level. Research undertaken as part of developing the plan indicates that around 72% of kerbside rubbish collected from households could be composted or recycled instead of being sent to landfill.

Tauranga and Western Bay are fairly average when it comes to the amount that gets recycled from our households. We know, however, that we could be doing much better.

Our projections indicate that by 2026, Tauranga and Western Bay will be sending in the order of 100,000 tonnes of waste to landfill every year. A further 60,000 tonnes will be sent to clean fill. Garden waste will grow to around 10,000 tonnes and food waste to 7,000 tonnes. Recyclables (including scrap metal will) total around 46,500 tonnes.



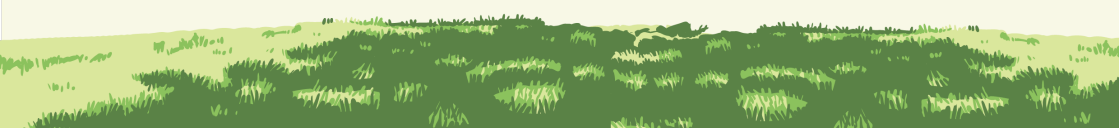
# Background

Prior to the introduction of the Waste Minimisation Act in 2008, Council decided to leave the provision of waste services (including recycling and composting) to the private sector. This decision was based on an opinion at the time that the private sector could provide waste collection and disposal services better (and more cost effectively) than Council.

The current commercial approach is resulting in a substantial amount of waste going to landfill that could be recycled or re-used. There is considerable duplication in service provision, as various operators provide similar services. However, some parts of the District have no kerbside pickup; therefore the services available vary across the District in nature and cost.

Since 2010 (when the first Plan was adopted) there has been very little progress made toward achieving the previous vision to “promote efficient waste management practices that minimise environmental harm towards minimal waste.”

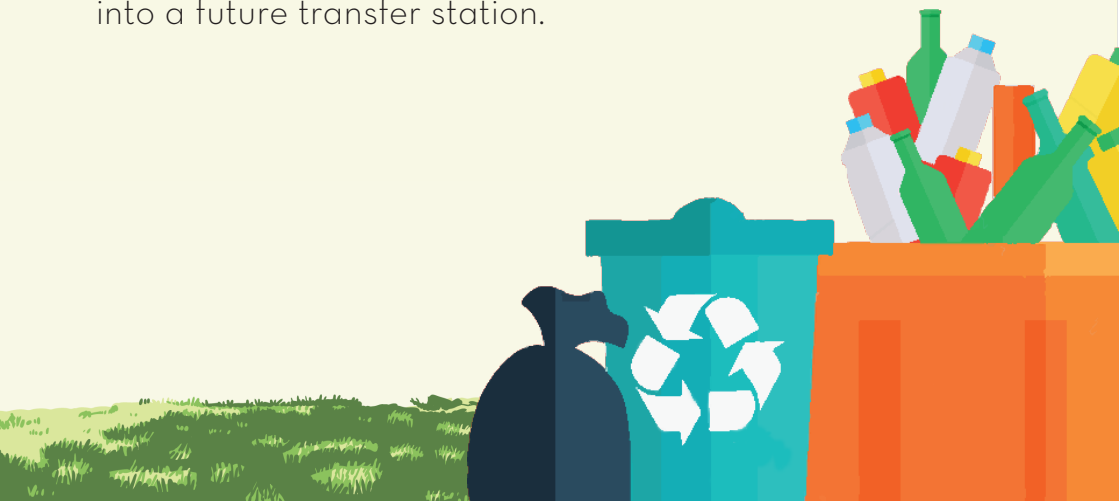
Council’s current involvement in waste services only extends to the provision of education initiatives (for example, worm composting workshops); community recycling and green waste facilities; public refuse bin collections (e.g. at Parks and Reserves); fly-tipping clean up; and abandoned vehicle collection.



The pre-engagement undertaken as part of the development of the Plan showed increasing community demand district-wide for recycling. Nearly a third of the District's residents do not have access to kerbside rubbish collection. A level of frustration with roadside dumping is evident, although it is not significant in terms of the number of reported incidents that Council responds to.

There is also strong support for an increased level of service at Omokoroa, with those that responded to questions on this matter showing a preference for a combined green waste and recycling centre. The existing green waste facility cannot remain on its current site, due to imminent housing development, but it will be re-established on an alternative site in Omokoroa.

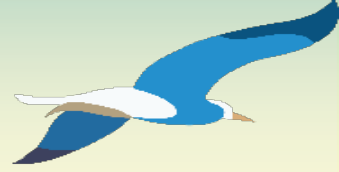
The Plan proposes a series of actions to investigate alternative recycling and rubbish collection models to achieve better oversight and management of solid waste and recycling throughout the District, and proposes that the relocated green waste facility at Omokoroa should also make provision for recycling facilities and an investigation into a future transfer station.



# Community involvement

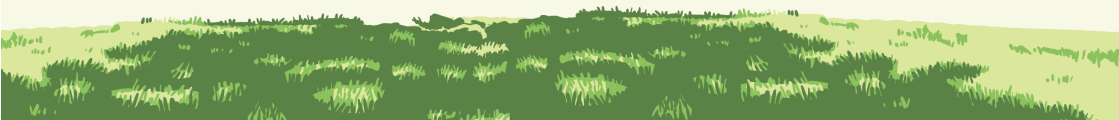


# What you told us



Generally, submitters on the draft Plan supported it and provided suggestions as to how the vision and goals might be achieved. The following were key themes of feedback:

- Investigation into kerbside recycling and rubbish collection, noting concerns on the potential cost of implementing these services
- Better options for plastic recycling (plastics 1-7) and reducing use of plastic shopping bags
- Support for a recycling centre in Omokoroa, but more information needed on the cost of this
- A range of views on the proposed investigation of a future transfer station
- Support for the education programmes operating in the district.



# Key decisions by Council on the final Plan

## 1. Adopting the vision and goals as consulted upon

Generally the feedback received supported the retention of the vision and goals. There was a range of submissions on how Council could achieve the vision and goals, much of this will be useful as we move into the implementation of the actions outlined in the Plan.

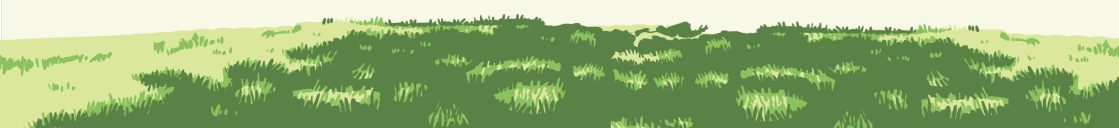
These suggestions included considering promoting kitchen waste disposal, minimising waste creation, better education and more plastics being recycled. There were no suggested amendments to the vision or goals, although one submitter suggested things should be left as they are and another proposed user pays.

Council decided to retain the vision and goals as set out in the draft plan. This means Council will have the same goals and vision as Tauranga City Council.

## 2. Investigation into the provision of kerbside recycling and rubbish collections

Kerbside collection is one of a number of potential solutions that could be implemented to minimise waste to landfill. Taking into consideration the feedback received from the community, Councillors decided to broaden the scope of investigations keeping in mind the objective of better oversight and management of solid waste and recycling.

Council decided to actively investigate alternative recycling and rubbish collection models to achieve better oversight and management of solid waste and recycling throughout the District. This will be undertaken in 2018/19.





### 3. Relocation of the green waste facility in Omokoroa and the inclusion of a recycling facility

Council agreed in principle to establish a recycling centre in Omokoroa, similar to the existing centres at Katikati and Te Puke. This is subject to the operational costs being agreed with the community, as part of the investigation and consultation in 2018/19. Council also decided to investigate options for more cost effective and efficient greenwaste management. The existing Omokoroa greenwaste facility will be relocated and the service continued.

### 4. Biggest priority for action

The biggest issue specifically mentioned as a priority for action was the investigation into kerbside recycling and rubbish collection.

Council decided to actively investigate alternative recycling and rubbish collection models to achieve better oversight and management of solid waste and recycling.



## Where to from here...

Now that the Plan has been adopted, Council will progress the actions outlined in the Plan over the next six years. We will continue to support education and advocate for improvement to waste management practices. Access to existing recycling and green waste facilities will continue. Council will continue to respond to illegally dumped waste.

The WMMP includes the following new actions:

- Council actively investigates alternative recycling and rubbish collection models to achieve better oversight and management of solid waste and recycling throughout the District
- Council establish a recycling centre at Omokoroa, similar to existing centres at Katikati and Te Puke, subject to agreement with the community on operational costs
- Investigation into a future transfer station be progressed
- Investigate options for more cost effective and efficient greenwaste management in the District.

