

Central Greenwaste and Firewood  
Monitoring Programme  
Biennial Report  
2016-2018

Technical Report 2018-29

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Taranaki Regional Council  
Private Bag 713  
STRATFORD  
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## Executive summary

Central Greenwaste & Firewood (the Company) operates a green waste collection and composting operation located at Victoria Road, Stratford, in the Patea catchment. Operations at the site were taken over from Central Greenwaste 2012 (formerly known as Greenwaste 2007 and Greenwaste 2008).

The Company collects green waste from domestic sources in the Stratford urban area and then composts it at its Victoria Road site. The principal components of green waste collected are lawn clippings and material from garden pruning.

This report for the period July 2016 to June 2018 describes the monitoring programme implemented by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to assess the Company's environmental and consent compliance performance during the period under review. The report also details the results of the monitoring undertaken and assesses the environmental effects of the Company's activities.

The Company holds consent 6876-1, which includes a total of 11 conditions setting out the requirements that the consent holder must satisfy. This consent covers the discharge of green waste, stormwater and leachate to land. The consent was originally held by the Central Taranaki Employment Trust. It was subsequently transferred to Greenwaste 2007, then to Greenwaste 2008 and again to Central Greenwaste 2012. On 21 September 2017, the consent was transferred to Central Greenwaste & Firewood.

### **During the monitoring period the Company demonstrated an overall high level of environmental performance.**

The Council's monitoring programme for the period under review included four inspections that focussed on assessing the materials being accepted for composting, general site operation, stormwater and leachate control, and odour.

As in previous years, the site inspections found that the site was well managed and it was considered that activities at the site would not have posed any threat of adverse environmental effects. There were no unauthorised incidents recording consent non-compliance during the period under review.

During the year, the Company demonstrated a high level of environmental and administrative performance with their resource consent.

For reference, in the 2016-2017 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 74% of the consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 21% of the consents, a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved. In the 2017-2018 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 76% of the consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 20% of the consents, a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved.

In terms of overall environmental and compliance performance by the consent holder over the last several years, this report shows that the consent holder's performance remains at a good or high level.

This report includes recommendations for the 2018-2020 years.



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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Compliance monitoring programme reports and the Resource Management Act 1991

### 1.1.1 Introduction

This report is for the period July 2016 to June 2018 by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) on the monitoring programme associated with resource consents held by Central Greenwaste & Firewood (the Company). The Company operates a green waste collection and composting facility located on Victoria Road at Stratford, in the Patea catchment.

This report covers the results and findings of the monitoring programme implemented by the Council in respect of the consent held by the Company that relates to discharges of green waste and water onto and into land in the Patea catchment. This is the sixth biennial report to be prepared by the Council to cover the Company's discharges and their effects.

### 1.1.2 Structure of this report

**Section 1** of this report is a background section. It sets out general information about:

- consent compliance monitoring under the RMA and the Council's obligations;
- the Council's approach to monitoring sites through annual programmes;
- the resource consents held by the Company;
- the nature of the monitoring programme in place for the period under review; and
- a description of the activities and operations conducted in the Company's site.

**Section 2** presents the results of monitoring during the period under review, including scientific and technical data.

**Section 3** discusses the results, their interpretations, and their significance for the environment.

**Section 4** presents recommendations to be implemented in the 2018-2020 monitoring years.

A glossary of common abbreviations and scientific terms, and a bibliography, are presented at the end of the report.

### 1.1.3 The Resource Management Act 1991 and monitoring

The RMA primarily addresses environmental 'effects' which are defined as positive or adverse, temporary or permanent, past, present or future, or cumulative. Effects may arise in relation to:

- a. the neighbourhood or the wider community around an activity, and may include cultural and social-economic effects;
- b. physical effects on the locality, including landscape, amenity and visual effects;
- c. ecosystems, including effects on plants, animals, or habitats, whether aquatic or terrestrial;
- d. natural and physical resources having special significance (for example recreational, cultural, or aesthetic); and
- e. risks to the neighbourhood or environment.

In drafting and reviewing conditions on discharge permits, and in implementing monitoring programmes, the Council is recognising the comprehensive meaning of 'effects' inasmuch as is appropriate for each activity. Monitoring programmes are not only based on existing permit conditions, but also on the

obligations of the RMA to assess the effects of the exercise of consents. In accordance with Section 35 of the RMA, the Council undertakes compliance monitoring for consents and rules in regional plans, and maintains an overview of the performance of resource users and consent holders. Compliance monitoring, including both activity and impact monitoring, enables the Council to continually re-evaluate its approach and that of consent holders to resource management and, ultimately, through the refinement of methods and considered responsible resource utilisation, to move closer to achieving sustainable development of the region's resources.

#### 1.1.4 Evaluation of environmental and administrative performance

Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by the Company, this report also assigns them a rating for their environmental and administrative performance during the period under review.

Environmental performance is concerned with actual or likely effects on the receiving environment from the activities during the monitoring year. Administrative performance is concerned with the Company's approach to demonstrating consent compliance in site operations and management including the timely provision of information to Council (such as contingency plans and water take data) in accordance with consent conditions.

Events that were beyond the control of the consent holder and unforeseeable (that is a defence under the provisions of the RMA can be established) may be excluded with regard to the performance rating applied. For example loss of data due to a flood destroying deployed field equipment.

The categories used by the Council for this monitoring period, and their interpretation, are as follows:

##### Environmental Performance

**High:** No or inconsequential (short-term duration, less than minor in severity) breaches of consent or regional plan parameters resulting from the activity; no adverse effects of significance noted or likely in the receiving environment. The Council did not record any verified unauthorised incidents involving significant environmental impacts and was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to such impacts.

**Good:** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were negligible or minor at most. There were some such issues noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports, but these items were not critical, and follow-up inspections showed they have been dealt with. These minor issues were resolved positively, co-operatively, and quickly. The Council was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to the minor non-compliant effects; however abatement notices may have been issued to mitigate an identified potential for an environmental effect to occur.

For example:

- High suspended solid values recorded in discharge samples, however the discharge was to land or to receiving waters that were in high flow at the time;
- Strong odour beyond boundary but no residential properties or other recipient nearby.

**Improvement required:** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were more than minor, but not substantial. There were some issues noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent minor non-compliant activity could elevate a minor issue to this level. Abatement notices and infringement notices may have been issued in respect of effects.



**Poor:** Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were significant. There were some items noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent moderate non-compliant activity could elevate an 'improvement required' issue to this level. Typically there were grounds for either a prosecution or an infringement notice in respect of effects.

#### Administrative performance

**High:** The administrative requirements of the resource consents were met, or any failure to do this had trivial consequences and were addressed promptly and co-operatively.

**Good:** Perhaps some administrative requirements of the resource consents were not met at a particular time, however this was addressed without repeated interventions from the Council staff. Alternatively adequate reason was provided for matters such as the no or late provision of information, interpretation of 'best practical option' for avoiding potential effects, etc.

**Improvement required:** Repeated interventions to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents were made by Council staff. These matters took some time to resolve, or remained unresolved at the end of the period under review. The Council may have issued an abatement notice to attain compliance.

**Poor:** Material failings to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents. Significant intervention by the Council was required. Typically there were grounds for an infringement notice.

For reference, in the 2016-2017 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 74% of the consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 21% of the consents, a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved. In the 2017-2018 year, consent holders were found to achieve a high level of environmental performance and compliance for 76% of the consents monitored through the Taranaki tailored monitoring programmes, while for another 20% of the consents, a good level of environmental performance and compliance was achieved.

## 1.2 Process description

The operation primarily consists of servicing green waste wheelie bins from domestic dwellings in Stratford. The green waste is collected, composted on site in two windrows, and then sold as soil conditioner.



Figure 1 Central Greenwaste 2012 site (in yellow), Victoria Rd, Stratford



Photo 1 Central Greenwaste 2012's composting operation

## 1.3 Resource consents

### 1.3.1 Discharges of wastes to land

Sections 15(1)(b) and (d) of the RMA stipulate that no person may discharge any contaminant onto land if it may then enter water, or from any industrial or trade premises onto land under any circumstances, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations.

The Company holds discharge permit **6876-1** to discharge green waste onto land for the purpose of composting and to discharge leachate and contaminated stormwater onto and into land from the composting. This permit was issued by the Council on 14 September 2006 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It is due to expire on 1 June 2022. This consent was transferred from Central Greenwaste 2012 to Central Greenwaste & Firewood on 21 September 2017.

Consent **6876-1** contains eleven special conditions

Condition 1 requires the consent holder to adopt the best practicable option.

Condition 2 requires that the consent be exercised in accordance with information supplied in support of the application.

Conditions 3, 4 and 5 relate to the provision and maintenance of a site contingency plan and management plan.

Condition 6 limits the amount of vegetative waste to be stored on site at any given time.

Condition 7 lists a range of effects on the water quality of the Patea River that are prohibited.

Condition 8 permits the composting of only vegetative matter.

Condition 9 prohibits the composting of food waste on the site, other than that permitted by condition 8.

Condition 10 is a lapse condition, and condition 11 provides opportunities for a review of the conditions on the consent.

The permit is attached to this report in Appendix I.

This summary of consent conditions may not reflect the full requirements of each condition. The consent conditions in full can be found in the resource consent which is appended to this report.

## 1.4 Monitoring programme

### 1.4.1 Introduction

Section 35 of the RMA sets obligations upon the Council to gather information, monitor and conduct research on the exercise of resource consents within the Taranaki region. The Council is also required to assess the effects arising from the exercising of these consents and report upon them.

The Council may therefore make and record measurements of physical and chemical parameters, take samples for analysis, carry out surveys and inspections, conduct investigations and seek information from consent holders.

The monitoring programme for the Company's site consisted of two primary components.

## 1.4.2 Programme liaison and management

There is generally a significant investment of time and resources by the Council in:

- ongoing liaison with resource consent holders over consent conditions and their interpretation and application;
- in discussion over monitoring requirements;
- preparation for any consent reviews, renewals or new consent applications;
- advice on the Council's environmental management strategies and content of regional plans; and
- consultation on associated matters.

## 1.4.3 Site inspections

The Company's site was visited four times during the period under review. The inspections focussed on assessing the types of materials being accepted, stormwater and leachate management and odours. The neighbourhood was surveyed for environmental effects.

## 2 Results

### 2.1 Water

#### 2.1.1 Inspections

15 November 2016

The gate was found to be shut at the time of the inspection. It was noted that there was a lot of product onsite, which consisted of branches, lawn mowing clippings and general green waste. There were no odours found and there was no leachate visible around the site.

21 June 2017

The gate was again found to be shut at the time of inspection. It was observed that there had not been much more material brought onto site since the previous inspection. The materials found on site consisted of branches, lawn clippings, and general green waste. There was no ponding and no odours found at the inspection.

1 September 2017

It was noted that only green waste had been brought onto the site. At the time of inspection there was no stormwater or leachate run off occurring and there were no unacceptable materials on the site. The site was considered to be satisfactory at the time of the inspection.

12 February 2018

It was noted that all the green waste was stored in plies at the site at the time of the inspection, with any run off generated being collected in the centre of the site. There were no observed discharges of contaminants or stormwater from the site and there were no unconsented materials on the site. The site was again being managed in a satisfactory manner.

### 2.2 Investigations, interventions, and incidents

The monitoring programme was based on what was considered to be an appropriate level of monitoring, review of data, and liaison with the Company. During the monitoring period matters may arise which require additional activity by the Council, for example provision of advice and information, or investigation of potential or actual causes of non-compliance or failure to maintain good practices. A pro-active approach that in the first instance avoids issues occurring is favoured.

The Council operates and maintains a register of all complaints or reported and discovered excursions from acceptable limits and practices, including non-compliance with consents, which may damage the environment. The incident register includes events where the Company concerned has itself notified the Council. The register contains details of any investigation and corrective action taken.

Complaints may be alleged to be associated with a particular site. If there is potentially an issue of legal liability, the Council must be able to prove by investigation that the identified company is indeed the source of the incident (or that the allegation cannot be proven).

In the 2016-2018 period, the Council was not required to undertake significant additional investigations and interventions, or record incidents, in association with the Company's conditions in resource consents or provisions in Regional Plans.

## 3 Discussion

### 3.1 Discussion of site performance

There were no issues noted at the inspections during the period under review. The site was found to be well managed and in compliance with consent conditions throughout the 2016-2018 monitoring periods.

### 3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

During the inspections, no evidence of adverse environmental effects was observed. There was no leachate, ponding or direct discharge to any waterways found and there were no issues in regard to dust or odour.

### 3.3 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of the consent holder's compliance record for the year under review is set out in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of performance for consent 6876-1

<b>Purpose: To discharge green waste onto land for the purpose of composting and to discharge leachate and contaminated stormwater from the composting process from that site onto and into land</b>		
<b>Condition requirement</b>	<b>Means of monitoring during period under review</b>	<b>Compliance achieved?</b>
1. Adopt best practical option	Site inspections	Yes
2. Exercise consent in accordance with information supplied with application	Site inspections	Yes
3. Contingency plan required	Programme management	Yes
4. Notification of change to contingency plan	No changes made	N/A
5. Notification of significant changes to operation	No changes made	N/A
6. No more than 300 m <sup>3</sup> of green waste on site at one time	Site inspections	Yes
7. Effects on Patea River	Site inspections	Yes
8. Only vegetative material to be composted	Site inspections	Yes
9. No food waste to be discharged or composted	Site inspections	Yes
10. Consent lapse period	Consent exercised	N/A
11. Optional review provision re environmental effects	Option for review June 2016	N/A
Overall assessment of consent compliance and environmental performance in respect of this consent		<b>High</b>
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		<b>High</b>

N/A = not applicable

Table 2 Evaluation of environmental performance over time

Year	Consent holder	High	Good	Improvement req	Poor
2012-2013	Central Greenwaste 2012	1			
2013-2014	Central Greenwaste 2012	1			
2014-2015	Central Greenwaste 2012	1			
2015-2016	Central Greenwaste 2012	1			
2016-2017	Central Greenwaste 2012	1			
2017-2018	Central Greenwaste 2012 Central Greenwaste & Firewood	1			
Totals		6	0	0	0

During the 2016-2018 years, the Company demonstrated a high level of environmental and a high level of administrative performance with the resource consents as defined in Section 1.1.4.

### 3.4 Recommendations from the 2014-2016 Annual Report

In the 2014-2016 Biennial Report, it was recommended:

1. THAT monitoring of consented activities at the Company's site in the 2016-2018 years continues at the same level as in 2014-2016.
2. THAT it be noted that the option for a review of resource consent 6876-1 in June 2016, as set out in condition 11 of the consent, was not exercised, on the grounds that the current conditions are adequate to prevent any adverse effects

These recommendations were implemented.

### 3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2018-2020

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air and water discharges in the region, the Council has taken into account:

- the extent of information already made available through monitoring or other means to date;
- its relevance under the RMA;
- the Council's obligations to monitor consented activities and their effects under the RMA;
- the record of administrative and environmental performances of the consent holder; and
- reporting to the regional community.

The Council also takes into account the scope of assessments required at the time of renewal of permits, and the need to maintain a sound understanding of industrial processes within Taranaki exercising resource consents.

It is proposed that for 2018-2020 the programme remains unchanged.

It should be noted that the proposed programme represents a reasonable and risk-based level of monitoring for the site(s) in question. The Council reserves the right to subsequently adjust the programme from that initially prepared, should the need arise if potential or actual non-compliance is determined at any time during the 2018-2020 years.

## 4 Recommendations

1. THAT in the first instance, monitoring of consented activities at the Company's site in the 2018-2020 years continues at the same level as in 2016-2018.
2. THAT should there be issues with environmental or administrative performance in 2018-2020, monitoring may be adjusted to reflect any additional investigation or intervention as found necessary.



## Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

The following abbreviations and terms may be used within this report:

Incident	An event that is alleged or is found to have occurred that may have actual or potential environmental consequences or may involve non-compliance with a consent or rule in a regional plan. Registration of an incident by the Council does not automatically mean such an outcome had actually occurred.
Intervention	Action/s taken by Council to instruct or direct actions be taken to avoid or reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.
Investigation	Action taken by Council to establish what were the circumstances/events surrounding an incident including any allegations of an incident.
Incident register	The incident register contains a list of events recorded by the Council on the basis that they may have the potential or actual environmental consequences that may represent a breach of a consent or provision in a Regional Plan.
Resource consent	Refer Section 87 of the RMA. Resource consents include land use consents (refer Sections 9 and 13 of the RMA), coastal permits (Sections 12, 14 and 15), water permits (Section 14) and discharge permits (Section 15).
RMA	<i>Resource Management Act 1991</i> and including all subsequent amendments.

## Bibliography and references

Taranaki Regional Council (2016): *Central Greenwaste 2012 Monitoring Programme Biennial Report 2014-2016*. Technical Report 2014-64.

Taranaki Regional Council (2015): *Central Greenwaste 2012 Monitoring Programme Biennial Report 2012-2014*. Technical Report 2014-83.

Taranaki Regional Council (2012): *Central Greenwaste 2012 Monitoring Programme Biennial Report 2010-2012*. Technical Report 2012-11.

Taranaki Regional Council (2010): *Greenwaste 2008 Monitoring Programme Biennial Report 2008-10*. Technical Report 2010-23.

Taranaki Regional Council (2009): *Greenwaste 2008 Monitoring Programme Biennial Report 2006-08*. Technical Report 2008-68.

Taranaki Regional Council (2004): *Regional Waste Strategy for Taranaki*.

# Appendix I

## Resource consent held by Central Greenwaste & Firewood

(For a copy of the signed resource consent  
please contact the TRC Consents department)



**Discharge Permit**  
**Pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991**  
**a resource consent is hereby granted by the**  
**Taranaki Regional Council**

Name of  
Consent Holder: Central Greenwaste & Firewood  
370 Broadway  
Stratford 4332

Decision Date: 14 September 2006

Commencement Date: 14 September 2006

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted: To discharge green waste onto land for the purpose of composting and to discharge leachate and contaminated stormwater from the composting process from that site onto and into land

Expiry Date: 1 June 2022

Site Location: Victoria Street, Stratford

Grid Reference (NZTM) 1712693E-5644276N

Catchment: Patea

*For General, Standard and Special conditions  
pertaining to this consent please see reverse side of this document*

### **General conditions**

- a) On receipt of a requirement from the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council the consent holder shall, within the time specified in the requirement, supply the information required relating to the exercise of this consent.
- b) Unless it is otherwise specified in the conditions of this consent, compliance with any monitoring requirement imposed by this consent must be at the consent holder's own expense.
- c) The consent holder shall pay to the Council all required administrative charges fixed by the Council pursuant to section 36 in relation to:
  - i) the administration, monitoring and supervision of this consent; and
  - ii) charges authorised by regulations.

### **Special conditions**

1. The consent holder shall at all times adopt the best practicable option, as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, to prevent or minimise any adverse effects on the environment from the exercise of this consent.
2. The exercise of this consent shall be undertaken generally in accordance with the documentation submitted in support of application 4193. In the case of any contradiction between the documentation submitted in support of application 4193 and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
3. Within three months of granting this consent the consent holder shall prepare and maintain a site contingency plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
4. Within three months of granting this consent the consent holder shall prepare and maintain a site management plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, and shall adhere to such a plan in so far as it concerns the exercise of this consent at all times.
5. The consent holder shall advise the Taranaki Regional Council one month prior to any changes being made to the site contingency plan or the site management plan. Should the Taranaki Regional Council wish to review the site contingency plan and/or the site management plan, one month's notice shall be given to the consent holder.
6. The maximum quantity of vegetative waste composted and stored on the site at any time shall be 300 cubic metres, as determined by at least one enforcement officer of the Taranaki Regional Council.

## Consent 6876-1

7. The discharge authorised by this consent, in conjunction with the exercise of any other consent associated with the composting activity on the property, shall not give rise to any of the following effects on the Patea River:
  - a) the production of conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials;
  - b) any conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity;
  - c) any emission of objectionable odour;
  - d) the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals;
  - e) any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.
8. Only vegetative material shall be composted at the site.
9. The consent holder shall not discharge or compost food waste, domestic or commercial waste at the site, other than that prescribed in special condition 8.
10. This consent shall lapse on the expiry of five years after the date of issue of this consent, unless the consent is given effect to before the end of that period or the Taranaki Regional Council fixes a longer period pursuant to section 125(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
11. In accordance with section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Taranaki Regional Council may serve notice of its intention to review, amend, delete or add to the conditions of this resource consent by giving notice of review during the month of June 2008 and/or June 2010 and/or June 2016, for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this resource consent, which were either not foreseen at the time the application was considered or which it was not appropriate to deal with at the time.

Transferred at Stratford on 21 September 2017

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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A D McLay  
**Director - Resource Management**