

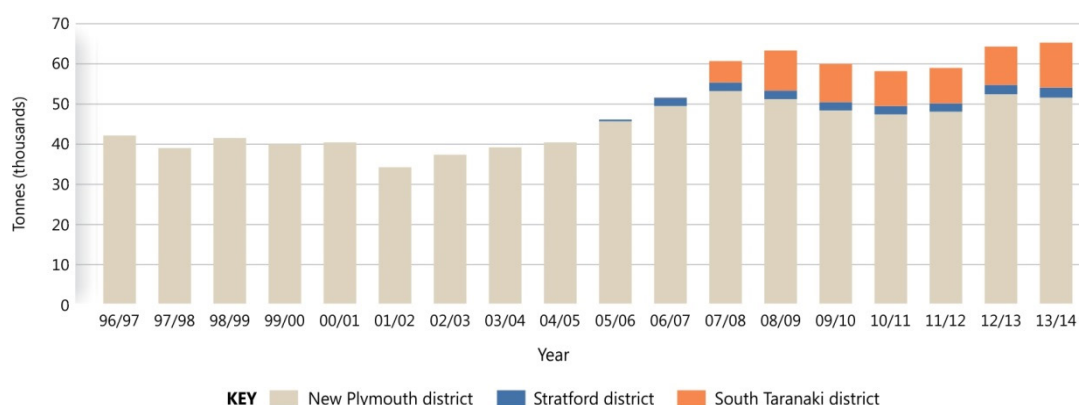
# Residual waste

Although recovery and recycling are effective waste minimisation principles, there is still waste in the region that requires disposal, and it is important to continue to minimise the amount of waste that does end up in landfill. It is also important to encourage people to use the appropriate services to dispose of residual waste, rather than perform illegal or unsafe practices.

## Waste to landfill

Research shows that waste generation is linked to economic activity—when the economy is flourishing, more waste tends to be generated. Tracking the quantity of waste going to landfill helps to give an indication of the impact of waste minimisation initiatives, such as kerbside recycling.

Waste from all three districts in the region is currently disposed of at the Colson Road landfill in New Plymouth. The amount of waste disposed of has been recorded since 1996. However, prior to 2008, only waste from New Plymouth was disposed of at Colson Road. Data has been provided by all three district councils—New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki.



Waste from all districts in the region has been disposed of at New Plymouth's Colson Road landfill since 2008, although records of waste disposal have been kept since 1996.

### What's the story?

In the first year that all municipal waste from the region went to Colson Road landfill (2008/2009), the total amount of waste going to landfill was 63,309 tonnes.

In the following three years the amount of waste to landfill decreased, before increasing again in the 2012/2013 year. In the 2013/2014 year the amount of waste that went to landfill was 65,257 tonnes—an increase of 3.1% compared with 2008/09.

The total amount of all waste to landfill (calculated per person) decreased every year between 2009 and 2011 and before increasing in 2012. In 2014, the amount of all waste to landfill calculated per person was about the same as in 2008/2009 (lineal population change is assumed between each census).

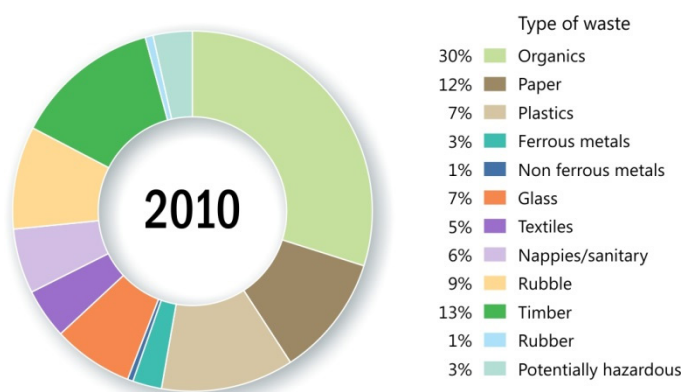


The total amount of all waste to landfill in the region (calculated per person) is about the same as in 2008/2009.

Landfill weighbridge data shows that the amount of residential waste going to landfill has remained fairly constant in the past six years, with commercial waste accounting for the variation shown in gross tonnages to landfill.

In 2010 a New Plymouth District Council survey of waste entering the Colson Road landfill showed waste from organic materials (primarily food and garden waste) made up nearly 30% of the total waste generated.

The survey determined that 55% of the waste could have either been recycled or composted rather than being sent to landfill.



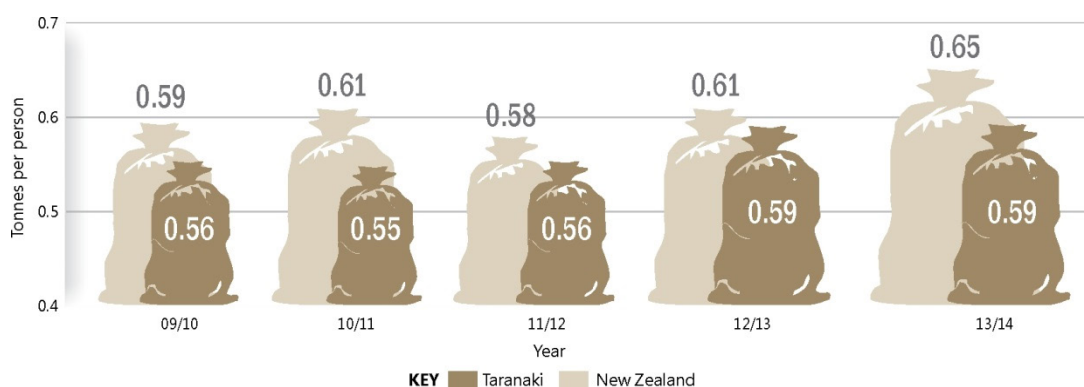
*Analysis of the composition of waste going to landfill in 2010 showed that over half of all waste ending up in the landfill in the region could have been recycled or composted.*

The Colson Road landfill is expected to close in June 2019, and therefore has a remaining life of less than five years. Once it is closed, waste from the Taranaki region will either go to a new pre-approved landfill under consideration in South Taranaki or it will be transported out of the region.

## National comparison

Waste disposal in Taranaki is not increasing as rapidly as it is nationally, despite Taranaki leading New Zealand in economic growth. In terms of waste to landfill per person, the quantity of waste disposed to landfill in Taranaki has remained below the national average (assuming lineal population change between each census). In the 2010/2011 year, there was an increase in national quantities of waste as a result of the Christchurch earthquakes.

*'Waste disposal in Taranaki is not increasing as rapidly as it is nationally, despite Taranaki leading New Zealand in economic growth.'*



*The amount of waste per person going to landfill is lower than the national average (national data has only been collected for the past five years).*

## Kerbside collection

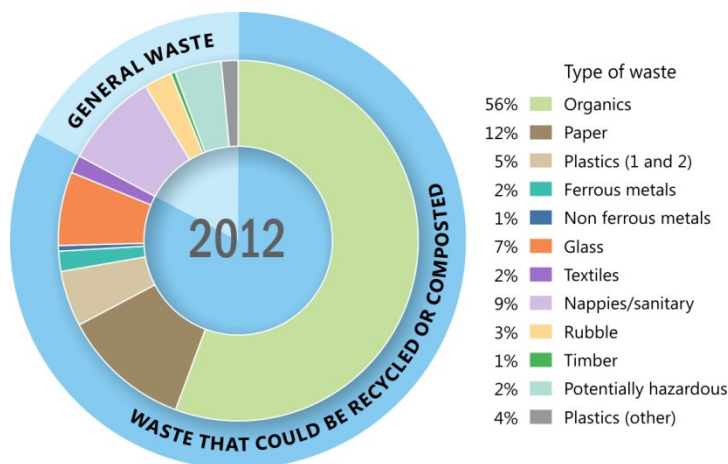
All three districts in the Taranaki region provide a kerbside municipal waste collection. Residents in New Plymouth can put out one 60-litre rubbish bag per week. For any additional bags an excess refuse sticker must be purchased. Alternatively, New Plymouth residents can choose to pay for a commercial refuse collection where wheelie bins are generally used. Stratford and South Taranaki district residents are supplied with 120-litre refuse wheelie bins, which are emptied weekly.

### What's the story?

In 2012, the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) conducted a survey of waste collected from the kerbside.

Analysis showed that waste from organic materials accounted for 56% of waste generated.

Analysis also showed that more than half of NPDC's kerbside refuse collection could be diverted from landfill by either recycling or composting.



*A 2012 survey showed that over half of the kerbside waste collected in the New Plymouth district could be recycled or composted.*

## Hazardous and special waste

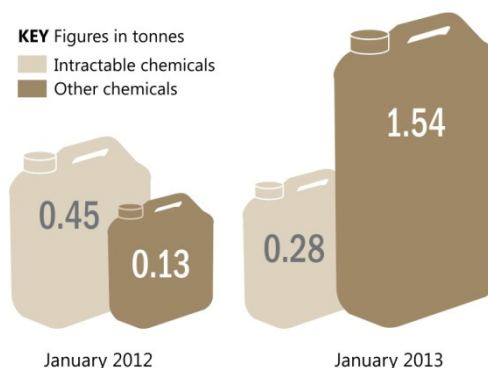
Agrecovery undertook agricultural chemicals collections in the Taranaki region in July 2012 and November 2013. The Taranaki Regional Council and the three district councils contributed to the cost of these collections along with brand owners and the Ministry for the Environment.

These collections follow on from Taranaki Regional Council collections held in 1991, 1995 to 1997, 2001, and 2004, where approximately 40 tonnes of chemicals were collected.

### What's the story?

In 2012, the total amount of chemicals collected by Agrecovery was 0.589 tonnes. The amount tripled in 2013 to a total of 1.832 tonnes. The largest proportion of chemicals collected were herbicides and insecticides, with 284 kilograms requiring treatment offsite and 36.4 kilograms classified as persistent organic pollutants.

Residents are able to dispose of their household chemicals at the New Plymouth and Hāwera transfer stations.



*The amount of agricultural chemicals collected by Agrecovery tripled between 2012 and 2013.*



Ray McGregor from the Haz-Tech agrichemical hazardous waste collection service (right) with Allan Nolly (left).

## Cleanfills

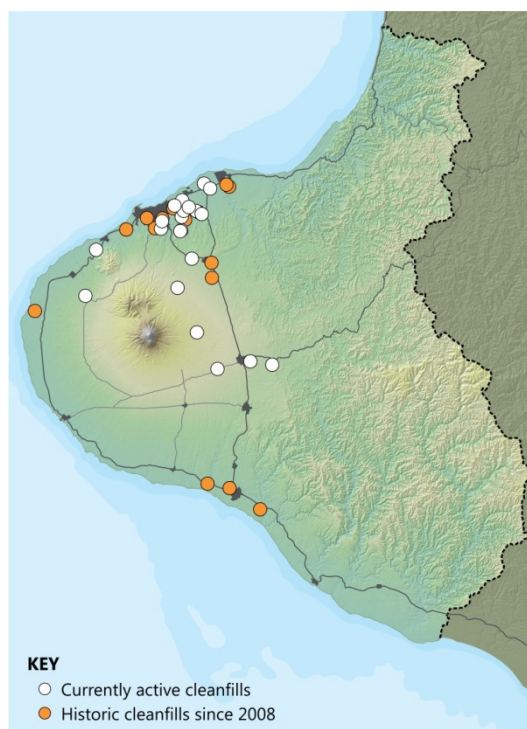
Cleanfills are managed disposal sites that can accept inert non-biodegradable materials that would otherwise be disposed of to landfill. The sites are managed via resource consent and compliance monitoring. This monitoring ensures that the sites only accept materials that will not produce leachate, which may contaminate groundwater or waterways.

*'No cleanfills were found to have an 'Improvement required' or 'Poor' environmental performance.'*

### What's the story?

Forty-one resource consents to discharge cleanfill were active at some time during the past five-year monitoring period, with an average of 23 being active at any one time. Currently, there are 21 active cleanfills in Taranaki.

In the 2013/2014 year, the Council noted nine cleanfills as demonstrating a 'high' level of environmental performance, and three cleanfills as 'good'. No cleanfills were found to have an 'Improvement required' or 'Poor' environmental performance.



*The location of both current and historic cleanfills in the Taranaki region.*



## Illegal dumping

In October 2012, a regional report was prepared to document the current levels of illegal dumping. Staff from the Department of Conservation, New Zealand Transport Agency, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council provided information. The report indicated that in some areas scarce information made it difficult to get an overall indication of the extent of illegal dumping in the region. To get a clearer picture, additional information was collected over the 2013 calendar year. Regional promotion, including press releases and print advertising, was undertaken at this time to increase public awareness and encourage reporting of illegal dumping as soon as it is seen.

### What's the story?

In 2013, the total number of illegal dumping events recorded for Taranaki was 249, or an average of 21 events per month. The total volume of illegally dumped waste collected by all five agencies was 967 m<sup>3</sup>, or 81 m<sup>3</sup> per month.

In September 2014, the agencies involved launched a regional campaign of education and enforcement to reduce illegal dumping to coincide with Keep New Zealand Beautiful week and with the Councils' *Waste Minimisation Education Strategy* annual awareness campaign, which focused on illegal dumping for the 2014 year.

Agency	Number of events		Volume
	2011/2012	2012/2013	
NPDC	133	100	73
SDC	6	17	7
STDC	16	29	31
TRC	5	19	857
NZTA	ND	84	ND
DOC	ND	ND	ND
Total	160	249	967

*The number and volume of illegal dumping events between June 2011 and June 2013 recorded by each agency (ND= No data).*



*District and regional council staff collect illegally dumped rubbish during 'Keep New Zealand Beautiful' week.*