



AGENDA

Taranaki Solid Waste

Thursday 25 February 2021, 10.30am

Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

25 February 2021 10:30 AM

Agenda Topic	Page
Apologies	
Notification of Late Items	
1. Confirmation of Minutes	4
2. Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Activity Report	8
3. Update on Actions to Manage Recycling Contamination	23
4. Bring It Reusable Coffee Cup Campaign	31



Membership of Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

Neil Walker	Taranaki Regional Council
Alan Jamieson	Stratford District Council
Bryan Roach	South Taranaki District Council
Richard Handley	New Plymouth District Council

Health and Safety Message

Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, please exit through the emergency door in the committee room by the kitchen.

If you require assistance to exit please see a staff member.

Once you reach the bottom of the stairs make your way to the assembly point at the birdcage. Staff will guide you to an alternative route if necessary.

Earthquake

If there is an earthquake - drop, cover and hold where possible.

Please remain where you are until further instruction is given.



Date 25 February 2021

Subject: Confirmation of Minutes - 19 November 2020

Approved by: G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality
SJ Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2674808

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers on Thursday 19 November 2020 at 10.30am
- b) notes that the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee held at the Taranaki Regional Council , 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Thursday 19 November 2020 at 10.30am have been circulated to the New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and the South Taranaki District Council for the receipt and information.

Matters arising

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2643059: Minutes Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee Meeting - 19 November 2020



Date: 19 November 2020, 10.30am
Venue: Taranaki Regional Council, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford
Document: 2643059

Present	Councillors	N W Walker B Roach A Jamieson	Taranaki Regional Council (Chairman) South Taranaki District Council Stratford District Council
Attending	Councillor	D McIntyre Mr G Bedford Mrs H Gerrard Miss L Davidson Ms L Jones Ms J Dearden Mr M Oien Mr H Denton Ms R Martin	Taranaki Regional Council Taranaki Regional Council Taranaki Regional Council Taranaki Regional Council Taranaki Regional Council New Plymouth District Council Stratford District Council South Taranaki District Council South Taranaki District Council

Apologies Apologies were received from Victoria Araba (SDC), Louise Campbell (SDC), David Langford (NPDC) and Kimberley Hope (NPDC).
Jamieson/Roach

Notification of Late Items There were no late items.

1. Confirmation of Minutes - 20 August 2020

Resolved

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Joint Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held at the Taranaki Regional Council, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Thursday 20 August at 10.30am
- b) notes that the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee held at the Taranaki Regional Council on Thursday 20 August 2020 at 10.30am, have been circulated to the New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and the South Taranaki District Council for their receipt and information.

Jamieson/Walker

Matters arising

Plastics in road surfacing trial – No update to provide. Ms J Dearden will request an update from Ms K Hope.

2. Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Activity Report

- 2.1 Ms J Dearden, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum informing Committee members of significant activities undertaken by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer, in collaboration with the district council officers of New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council.
- 2.2 Ag-Recovery workshops have been scheduled for May 2021. Fonterra have indicated that they could assist with advertising via a letter drop from their tankers or advertising in their newsletter.
- 2.3 It was noted that farmers won't all book so the programme needs to have a contingency plan in place for people who will just turn up and don't turn them away.
- 2.3 There has been a reduction in recycling this year. This is due to the smaller range of plastics being accepted by the plant. The response to publicity over the change has been positive and the Zero Waste Taranaki website has been getting a lot more traffic as Councils have been pushing it out through advertising.
- 2.4 Menstrual workshops have been well received. Jess attended the New Plymouth workshops and noted the number of parents, teachers and students that took an interest. Everyone was appreciative of the education and product knowledge they received. Jess wants to look at expanding on this to work with charities to be able to provide products.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Committee:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.

Roach/Walker

3. Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Regional Annual KPI Summary

- 3.1 Ms J Dearden, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum providing a summary of NPDC, SDC and STDC's progress towards the five-year targets outlined in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plans. The district council officers spoke to their own sections of the KPI Summary.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the progress towards meeting selected KPIs for the councils' Waste Management and Minimisation Plans.

Roach/Jamieson

4. Submission on Reducing the Impact of Plastic on our environment

- 4.1 Ms J Dearden, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum presenting for Members information, a draft submission on The Ministry for the Environment's (MfE's) proposal to reduce the impact of plastic on our environment. The submission has been compiled by the RWMO in line with WasteMINZ Territorial Authority Officers Forum views and panel discussions.
- 4.2 If Committee members had any specifics they would like changed in the submission, they were invited to get in touch with Jessica Dearden and she would be able to go over changes. A final submission will be emailed out to the Committee.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Joint Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum entitled Ministry for the Environment consultation (MfE) – submission on reducing the impact of plastic on our environment.
- b) receives the draft submission entitled *Submission on reducing the impact of plastic on our environment*
- c) approves the draft submission.

Walker/Jamieson

5. General Business

- 5.1 It was noted that there has been a lack of attendance from NPDC for the last two meetings. If the representative is unable to attend then their alternate should be sent.

There being no further business, Committee Chairperson, Councillor N W Walker declared the meeting of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee closed at 11.32am.

Confirmed

Chairperson _____

N W Walker

25 February 2021



Date 25 February 2021

Subject: **Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Activity Report**

Approved by: G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2712599

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Committee members of significant activities undertaken by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer, in collaboration with the district council officers of New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council. The memorandum is for information only.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.

Discussion

2. The Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's activity report is attached

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

3. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

4. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

5. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Community considerations

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2712600: Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Activity Report



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
**New Plymouth
District Council**

NPDC reference: ECM 8469357

Agenda Memorandum

Date: 25th February 2021

**Memorandum to Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee**

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER'S ACTIVITY REPORT
3RD QUARTER**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to report on significant activities undertaken by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer (RWMO), in collaboration with the district council officers of NPDC, STDC and SDC.

This report provides information on activities in the wider community, and matters of potential interest to the Committee from December 2020 and February 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

1. Receives the memorandum and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer and districts.

DISCUSSION

AGrecovery – 'One stop shop events' confirmed* *NPDC* *STDC* *SDC

1. Purpose

The event allows farmers and growers to safely and responsibly dispose of various farm wastes in one go. These events are an extension of the Rural Waste Minimisation Project, designed to tackle some of the barriers to recycling that New Zealand's rural communities face and raise awareness of recycling options for farmers and growers. The programme is part funded by the Ministry for Environment's Waste Minimisation Fund. Over 37,000 kilograms of waste were dropped off by 280 farmers at six events held last year in New Zealand. The four Councils are partially funding these events in Taranaki to support and enable the rural community to be proactive with their waste disposal.

Registering online is vital because of the type of waste collected, farm chemicals, some of which can be dangerous to handle and transport. To manage what is dropped off, all waste needs to be booked online in advance.

The One Stop Shop events will involve the collection of the following by chemical waste:

- Agrichemical containers and drums
- Used motor oil
- Unwanted agrichemicals
- Seed and feed bags

It has been confirmed that the three district councils as well as the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) intend to run three 'AGrecovery ONE STOP SHOP EVENTS' in the region in May 2021. After feedback from AGrecovery in December alternative locations for New Plymouth and Hawera AGrecovery events are being investigated. The RWMO is working closely with AGrecovery to confirm this.

	Venue	Date (TBC)	Contact Waste officer
NPDC	The Junction (TBC)	10-14 th May 2021	Jessica Dearden
STDC	A & P show grounds - Hawera (TBC)	10-14 th May 2021	Brittany Rymer
SDC	A & P Show grounds - Stratford (TBC)	10-14 th May 2021	Louise Campbell

2. Promotion

AGrecovery have comprehensive networks of communications in place which will be used while promoting this regional AGrecovery event. The RWMO will plan communications around the event in collaboration from District Council officers.

Regionally it would be a great opportunity for councillors who represent the three district councils to get on board and promote to farmers registering and participating in the event.

Sample of AGrecovery communications:

Here are the items we accept for recycling or safe disposal:

- Agrichemical containers and drums
- Used motor oil
- Unwanted agrichemicals
- Seed, feed, and fertiliser bags

For advice on how to prepare each waste stream for drop off, see our website.

Steps to register:

- 1 Register your interest at www.agrecovery.co.nz
- 2 Log in to the member portal - it takes 2 minutes to sign up if you're not already a member and is free.
- 3 Click 'register for one-stop-shop event'.
- 4 Indicate the types of waste you wish to bring.
- 5 Select a time slot.
- 6 Save your booking! - you will receive a confirmation email shortly after.

GET INVOLVED!

Visit agrecovery.co.nz or call us on 0800 247 326

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3. Planning

The RWMO has spoken with Waipa's Waste Minimisation Officer who has recently held a similar event. This has been very helpful for planning. Below are some examples of the site set up and equipment used for the event. On the day Council staff will get some feedback from farmers on the value of the event(s) and whether this would be worthwhile on a more regular basis.



AGrecovery vehicle setup:



Love a list (LFHW) November - December *NPDC* *STDC* *SDC*

In November and December 2020 the region promoted the WasteMINZ national Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) 'Love a List' campaign which encouraged people to make a list and plan their meals to in turn reduce food waste and save money. New research from the Love Food Hate Waste campaign reveals 74% of people claim to use a shopping list, but only 55% of us actually stick to it.

All three districts advertised and promoted the campaign through social media. Suggestions were given on which tools work best whether you love writing a list the old fashioned way on the back of a reused envelope or downloading the latest App to your smart phone. The RWMO wrote a [series of blogs on the Zero Waste Taranaki website](#) about how go about planning meals by writing a list before doing a food shop.

Social media posts and blogs:

- 3x Blogs 'Love a List'
- NPDC - 2 Facebook Posts
- STDC - 3 Facebook Posts
- SDC - 3 Facebook Posts

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Waste Free with Kate – Food Masterclass and Parenting Workshops *NPDC*

The popular Kate Meads waste free workshops have been confirmed for 1 and 4 March 2021. They will be held at the NPDC Civic Centre Council Chambers, facilitated by Rochelle Searle. Tickets are \$19 and participants will receive \$120 of promotional products. These workshops are about promoting waste reduction at home.



FOOD LOVERS MASTERCLASS

WASTE FREE with Kate

WHEN: MONDAY 1ST MARCH, 6:30PM – 8:30PM
WHERE: NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 84 LIARDET STREET, NEW PLYMOUTH

- During this 2 hour masterclass presented by Rochelle Searle from Waste Free with Kate you will get lots of exciting and inspirational education around ways you can reduce your food waste (especially at home with the kids) from meal planning to smart shopping to smart storage.
- Amongst other tips and tricks, you will learn about the first in first out approach, what the difference between 'use-by' and 'best before' is, and when all else fails the last resort options.
- Did you know that Kiwi's throw away over 157,000 tonnes of food that could be eaten each year? We need to work together to reduce this number!

Bookings essential! For more details go to www.katemeads.co.nz, tickets from eventfinda

THE BEST NEWS / ... you get to take home **\$120 WORTH OF GOODIES** from your local council



WASTE FREE PARENTING WORKSHOP

NEW PLYMOUTH
Thursday 4 March
 10:00am - 12:00pm

Humorous, informative and inspirational...

New Plymouth District Council Chambers, 84 Liarde Street.

This **Waste Free With Kate** workshop will teach you exciting and inspirational ways to minimise waste, while introducing you to modern sustainable products for use in the home. Rochelle from our team of skilled educators will be presenting this workshop.

At the workshop Rochelle will:

- » Show you lots of ways you can reduce waste at home
- » Introduce you to sustainable household products
- » Show the environmental impact of the choices you make
- » Dispel the myth about what happens to your waste

\$120 Gift Bag with every ticket sold!

Tickets: \$19 individual / \$19 per couple

BOOK NOW AT:
www.katemeads.co.nz
 Kate 027 22 11 242

NPDC
 Booking fees may apply. eventfinda

Food lovers masterclass - Monday 1 March at New Plymouth District Council Chambers, 6:30pm-8:30pm

- Eventfinda: <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2021/food-lovers-masterclass/new-plymouth>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/886900708745012>

Waste free parenting - Thursday 4 March, New Plymouth District Council Chambers, 10am-12pm

- Eventfinda: <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2021/waste-free-parenting-workshop/new-plymouth>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/440814817079622>

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Zero Waste Events

All three district councils have been working on minimising waste at events. Below is a summary of activities within each district.

1. Toitapu Toiora *NPDC*

Interest and support for zero waste events has increased. The New Zealand government's crisis management of Covid-19 for New Zealand has meant the community has been able to attend concerts and public gatherings over the summer season. Waste minimisation has become more of a requirement for event organisers since the introduction of the new Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (2019). New Plymouth District Council supports applications for waste minimisation and may cover collection and processing costs of compostables, recycling and glass at events if a sufficient waste minimisation plan is submitted and approved. The goal is to achieve over 50% diversion from landfill at each event.

Currently the following support for events can be provided to event organisers:

- Consideration for funding the collection and processing of recycling, compostable and glass at local events,
- Providing waste station bin wraps and lids,
- Advice i.e. site planning, health and safety,
- Providing support on how to minimise waste and sort waste streams at events,
- Facilitating how to sort waste stations and recruiting zero waste volunteers.

More information can be found at <https://www.zerowastetaranaki.org.nz/how-to-reduce-waste-at-your-event/>

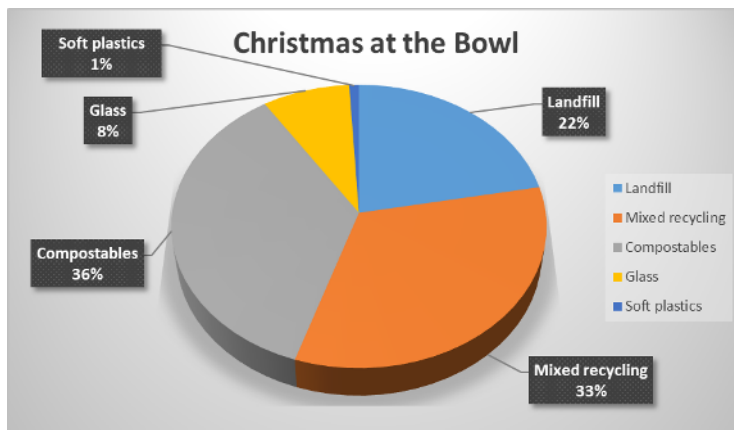
Bowl of Brooklands events 2020-2021

The diversion rates at the bowl events continue to meet our waste minimisation requirements and often go above and beyond successfully diverting high amounts of waste from landfill.

The main challenge with zero events is the ability to attract volunteers or community groups to assist at waste stations during the event to ensure contamination within each bin is kept to a minimum. The volunteers are key to achieving high levels of diversion from landfill.

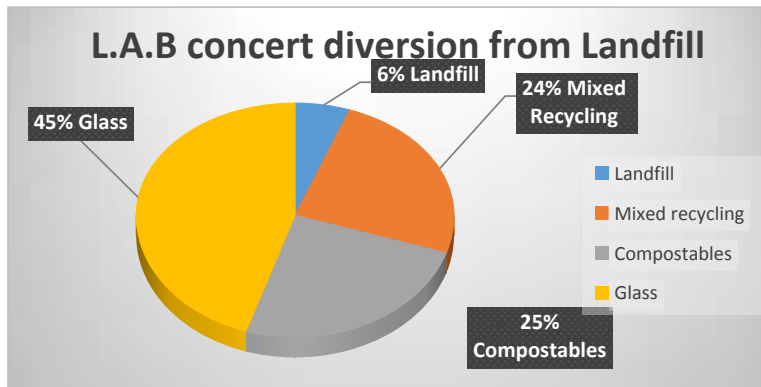
a) Christmas at the bowl - 20 December 2020 (11,000 people)

- Christmas at the Bowl implemented waste stations for the first time this year and achieved 78% diversion of waste from landfill (note: estimates based on volume not weight).
- Soft plastics were collected for the first time and recycled at Countdown supermarket as part of the national recycling scheme.



b) L.A.B Concert - 9 January 2021 (12,000 people)

- The L.A.B Concert achieved 94% diversion from landfill.
- Zero Waste volunteers for this event were from Pukekura Tennis Club.



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2. Whangamomona *SDC*

SDC agreed to support the Whangamomona community by providing waste stations and removing the waste that was created from that day.

Twenty large bags were taken to the Stratford Transfer Station and the contractors sorted through the bags and recycled what they could. There was no data obtained for diversion of waste to landfill, however being the first event where SDC provided the waste stations, there are improvements that can be made and learnings passed on to future event organisers. We have learned that event organisers need to:

- Weigh and label the bags as they are removed from the bins.
- Have better monitoring of the bins to prevent contamination in the recycling and glass bins during the event.

New event application forms are being created which will put the responsibility on the event organisers to manage waste minimisation and provide data on the waste diverted and what was sent to landfill.



3. Event Waste Minimisation *STDC*

South Taranaki District Council is working to minimise the amount of waste that events in the district send to landfill. Under the STDC Solid Waste Bylaw 2013, having a Waste Minimisation Plan is currently required for all events in South Taranaki with 100+ attendees. However, event organisers face many challenges to meet this requirement. Challenges include: a shortage for event waste station supplies, few local recycling contractors who are able to service events, and a lack of volunteers who can help run waste minimisation activities during events.

To help enable event waste minimisation in South Taranaki, STDC is increasing its stock of waste minimisation stations available for free public use. For the past year STDC has had materials for only one waste minimisation station. STDC has now ordered materials to allow for three stations. This will allow STDC to supply waste minimisation stations for larger events of 500+ attendees. The STDC Environment and Sustainability Officer has reached out to EnviroWaste Services Ltd, Waste Management Ltd, Ingrams Contracting Limited, and Egmont Refuse and Recycling to compile price comparisons for servicing events with bin drop off and collection.

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As a key part of this effort, STDC is working to “walk the talk” and ensure that STDC-run events employ waste minimisation efforts. One major barrier for this is the availability of volunteers who can help run waste minimisation activities during events. To address this, the STDC Environment and Sustainability team is forming relationships with local student groups that are looking for fundraising opportunities. Student groups can serve as “Waste Minimisation Ambassadors” at events. This includes standing beside waste minimisation stations to help attendees know which bin to use. STDC will be trialling the use of waste minimisation stations and student “Waste Minimisation Ambassadors” on 14 February for Concerts in the Park.



*Review of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 *STDC**

The STDC Environment and Sustainability Team is currently conducting a mid-term review of the STDC Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018. There have been significant changes to the national and regional waste management system since this plan was published. The mid-term review puts these changes into context and analyses progress to date on the 16 targets and 41 actions written into the WMMP 2018. Findings will be presented to both the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee and STDC's Policy & Strategy Committee before the end of June 2021.

*'It's a wrap' REUSE December *STDC**

Brittany Rymer, STDC's new Environment and Sustainability Officer, and university interns promoted a free zero waste wrapping pop up at the Bizlink Offices over the festive season. The public could bring in their recently purchased presents to be gift wrapped for free. Some of the wrapping they used was brown paper and fabric promoting recycling and reuse.

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*'Back to school' campaign - February/March - *NPDC* *STDC* *SDC**

As a region the three districts have revived the 'Back to school Campaign' for February and March. The focus will be on avoiding waste and reuse moving up the waste hierarchy particularly in relation to reducing food waste. This campaign is aimed at young people in primary and secondary school and will be communicated through various social media including the [Zero Waste Taranaki Website](#).

The region will be promoting zero waste lunches and sustainable stationary. New Plymouth District Council have created a Facebook competition that engages carers and students to make their lunch in a sustainable way, photograph it and then upload it to show the action they have taken to avoid waste or use reusable rather than single use containers. The best responses will be eligible for prizes of stationary kits and cooler bags. All Facebook posts will link to the Zero Waste Taranaki Blog with the aim of increasing traffic on the website and allowing us to engage better around avoiding waste and reuse. Weekly blogs will be added and videos linked.

Key messages:

- Food is wasted at all stages of the supply chain, from what is produced on farms and in factories to the excess that supermarkets throw out. However, the largest proportion of food wasted in New Zealand comes from households (LFHW).
- Eighty six percent of Kiwis believe wasting food is wrong. It is easy to make small but effective changes to reduce the amount of food that you waste (LFHW).
- It is simple and easy to choose reusable containers for preparation for school lunches to reduce waste.
- Plan your lunches! Think about portions! Break and lunchtime. It is fun, simple and easy to pack a homemade lunch using a variety of our ideas and some simple planning tools.
- If students are happier eating different and more varied foods, they could be less inclined to leave lunches unfinished.

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- It is sustainable and budget friendly to pack your lunch from home
- **Enter our 'Zero waste lunch competition'** – have a chance to win a Zero waste cooler bag and sustainable stationary pack. Take a photo of your sustainable lunch, post-it, comment and win.
- Last year's stationary can be repacked and reused
- Avoid plastic book backing
- Choose recycled stationary products like pencils and pens that are either recyclable or have a reuse life.
- Keep food cool to increase its life and avoid waste.
- If you need to dispose of food – use you household food bin, compost or worm farms as options.



• Zero waste lunches are simple and easy so opt for reusable containers for your school lunches and reduce food waste. Wash them, use them and refrigerate them.

• Zero waste lunches are about reducing packaging at point of purchase and in the packing of your lunch.

• It is sustainable and budget friendly to pack your lunch from home.

• Proceeds from all stages of the workshop have been donated to local farms and is featured in the zero-waste supper's menu this week. However, the biggest percentage of food served in New Zealand comes from local producers.

'BACK TO SCHOOL' Enter our Facebook competition and win a 'Zero waste Lunch cooler bag or stationary kit' by sending in a picture of your zero-waste lunch. Enter on our 'Zero waste lunches Facebook Post'



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*Kerbside recycling contamination, letters and enforcement, *STDC**

High contamination rates for kerbside recycling bins is a challenge across the Taranaki region. The Bin Auditor employed by EnviroWaste is one tool to address this issue. Each week the Bin Auditor spot-checks kerbside recycling bins across the district. Bins are given either a green sticker (very little or no contamination), amber sticker (minor contamination), or red sticker (high contamination).



STDC is currently working to develop an automated system to generate warning letters from the Bin Auditor's weekly reports for all households who receive a red sticker. This system is expected to be up and running in February 2021. Once the system is live, households who receive four red stickers within six months will have their kerbside recycling collection suspended. In order to have the service reinstated, the household will have to speak with STDC staff about how to recycle correctly.

To spread the word to residents about recycling properly, STDC has developed the "Sort it, South Taranaki" campaign. This campaign uses infographics and targeted media posts to spread the word about common sources of recycling contamination. Posts will be made throughout February and include: Sort it, South Taranaki introduction, Top 5 sources of recycling contamination, Tips to be a superstar recycler, and Are you a wishcycler?



*Future Living Skills facilitator training *STDC**

On 13 March 2021, STDC will be hosting a facilitator training session for the Future Living Skills Programme. This is an opportunity for residents to become a trained [Sustainable Living Skills Facilitator](#). This free half-day training will cover sustainable living curriculums that include waste minimisation, gardening, food, community resilience, travel, building/renovation, energy, and water use. Participants will also learn group facilitation and teaching techniques. The training session will be led by Rhys Taylor, National Coordinator for the Sustainable Living Trust.

After completing the training, facilitators will be able to host sustainable living skills workshops for other adults in their own community. The STDC Environment and Sustainability team can help support the costs associated with these workshops.

South Taranaki District Council is looking to train about eight facilitators. Ideal candidates for the facilitator training session will be passionate about sustainable living, respected in their local community, have a talent



ECM8469357

for sharing with others, and have time to deliver local workshops. If you know of someone who is a good fit for this training opportunity, please contact Environment and Sustainability Officer Brittany Rymer (brittany.rymer@stdc.govt.nz).

Education Plan *NPDC* *STDC* *SDC*

The three district councils are working together to promote consistent themes across the region using the Regional Behaviour Change Strategy (RBCS). A behaviour change action plan is being written for each selected theme coordinated by the RWMO with waste officers from the districts. Each campaign/project is based on the upper level of the waste hierarchy where possible. Planned themes for the next six months are outlined below.

Third Quarter: February – March – April 2021		
AVOID/REUSE <i>Back To School – 'Zero Waste Lunches' & Sustainable Stationary</i>	RECYCLE <i>Regional battery collection sites</i>	REUSE/AVOID <i>Waste free Living with Kate Meads workshops. (Food, parenting and menstrual cups in schools)</i> (NPDC ONLY)
Fourth Quarter: May- June - July 2021		
RECYCLE <i>AGrecovery regional event May 2021</i>	AVOID <i>Non-flushables (use reusable wipes and sanitary products)</i>	AVOID/REUSE/RECYCLE <i>Plastic Free July 2021 regional Campaign</i>

Contributions from

Louise Campbell, ASSET MANAGER COORDINATOR *SDC*

Brittany Rymer, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER *STDC*

Prepared by

Miss Jessica Dearden

REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER

ECM8469357



Date 25 February 2021

Subject: **Update on Actions to Manage Recycling Contamination**

Approved by: G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2712610

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the status of recycling contamination in the Taranaki region and progress against actions to improve contamination rates.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the report's findings.

Discussion

2. The report, Update on Actions to Manage Recycling Contamination, is attached.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

3. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

4. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

5. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Community considerations

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2712606: Update on actions to manage recycling contamination

Document 2712608: Appendix I: Residential Kerbside Recycling Bin Audit Summary



When replying please quote: ECM 8473890

Date: 15 February 2021
 To: Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee
 SUBJECT: Update on actions to manage recycling contamination

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the status of recycling contamination in the Taranaki region and progress against actions to improve contamination rates.

Background

Over the last year, kerbside recycling in Taranaki has contained an average of 27% contamination (non-recyclables), based on data from the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Recycling contamination has varied considerably throughout 2020 and contamination levels following COVID-19 lockdown in April 2020, was at an all-time high (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The graph below depicts the recycling contamination for Taranaki region, including recycling from kerbside collections, transfer stations and commercial collections.

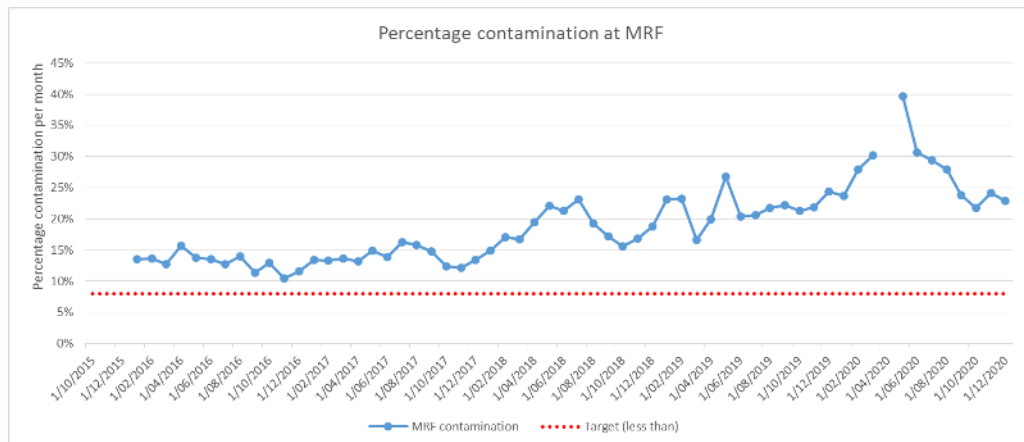


Figure 1: Recycling contamination at the MRF between January 2016 and December 2020

The level of contamination not only increases the risk of incidents from a health and safety point of view, it also impacts on the efficiency of processing recyclables, and increases the cost of disposal and therefore economic sustainability of recycling.

To better understand the contamination, NPDC, SDC and STDC have been working on the following actions:

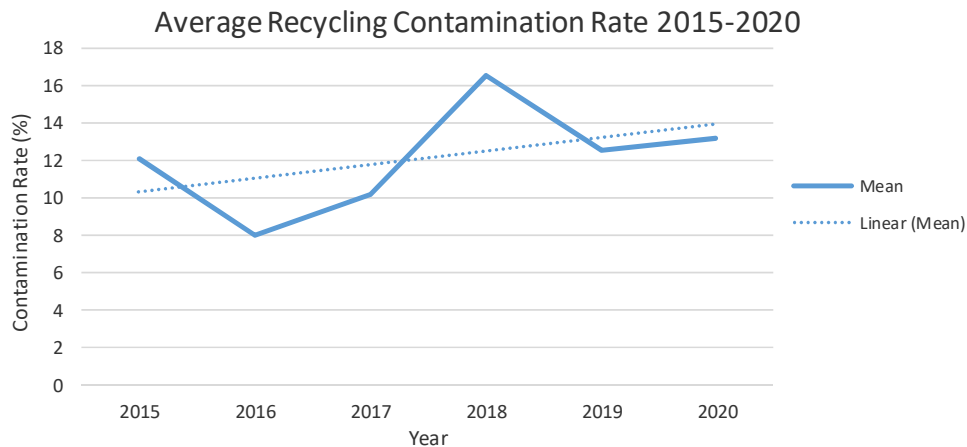
- Conduct a statistically significant recycling bin audit for residential kerbside recycling collections in New Plymouth (NPDC only),
- Update the recycling contamination strategy to create further consistency in the approach and communications across the region.

Residential recycling bin audit

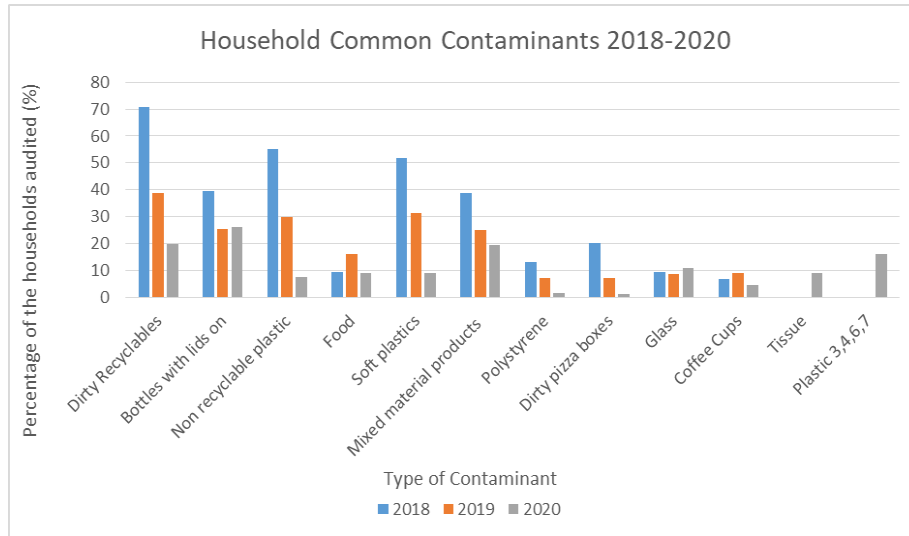
A survey of residential recycling was conducted in the New Plymouth district in December 2020 and January 2021. Similar audits have been conducted annually from 2015 to 2019.

The aim of this survey was to identify any significant changes in household recycling compared to the previous years. A total of 283 recycling bins were audited in the 2020 survey. The sample size of 283 ensured an accurate representation of the population with a 95% level of confidence and 6% margin of error. The recycling bins were randomly selected from suburbs across New Plymouth district, with sample size relative to size of the suburb. The recycling bin contents were emptied into a bag at the roadside and tagged with the address they came from, sorted into various categories and weighed.

The results showed that recycling contamination is steadily increasing and an average of 13.2% contamination was identified in the recycling bins surveyed this year.



The top contaminants identified were bottles containing lids, unclean recycling products and mixed material product (e.g. long-life juice or soy containers). There was also a notable number of bins with plastic 3, 4, 6 & 7 and a new contaminant identified - used tissues (perhaps due to the pandemic).



A summary of the residential recycling audit results can be found in Appendix 1.

This information collected will be used to determine further education and community engagement opportunities to focus on over the coming year i.e. tips on how to prepare recycling (clean and no lids), and why we cannot recycle mixed material products like long life cartons, as well as more direct approaches to particular suburbs.

Recycling contamination strategy

In January 2021, the three councils and EnviroWaste Services Ltd. (the regional waste services contractor) agreed on an updated approach for assessing and communicating issues with recycling contamination. The councils also agreed on enforcement guidelines if recycling contamination is repeatedly reported from a property. This approach will be fully implemented by the end of February 2021.

To improve the collection of contamination information, EnviroWaste are updating contamination reporting software to simplify the process at the kerbside but continue to report on contamination events and actively check repeat offenders before collection.

Taranaki councils will monitor contamination levels and focus enforcement on properties identified as having recycling bins containing gross contamination and/or repeated contamination. Clear assessment criteria has been outlined for the bin auditor and collection vehicle drivers to assist with identifying recycling contamination. Follow up inspections from the bin auditor will focus on areas where contamination is high. Any contamination warnings will stay active against the property for six months, unless there is a change in tenancy.

In addition to the bin being stickered or tagged by the contractor, all three Councils will send letters to residents on the first, second and third incidents of recycling contamination. The templates for the recycling contamination letters were reviewed in late 2020 to ensure consistency in the messaging to the residents across the region.

The three Councils will suspend kerbside recycling collections for three months from any properties that has received three warnings.

Appendix 1 Residential Kerbside Recycling Bin Audit Summary

An annual summer recycling bin survey was carried out for the residential kerbside recycling bins across New Plymouth district.

Purpose: identify changes in household recycling and levels of contamination.

What is contamination? Contamination is anything in your bin that is considered non-recyclable

The most common non-recyclable items identified:



Mixed material products
(e.g. soy milk cartons, potato chip canisters or toy packaging)
Why: The different layers of materials in the packaging make it hard to separate.



Bottles with lids
(e.g. milk bottle, soft drink)
Why: Lids hold liquids in bottles and small lids jam sorting machinery.



Plastic 3, 4, 6 & 7
(e.g. squeezeable sauces, dips or pasta packaging)
Why: These are low value plastics harder to recycle into new products.



Dirty recycling
(e.g. uncleaned containers, tins or bottles)
Why: Recycling companies require material to be clean.



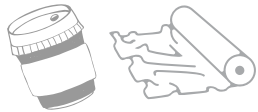
A total of 283 recycling bins were audited in the survey.



The sample size of 283 ensured an accurate representation of the population with a 95% level of confidence and 6% margin of error.

What's improved?

There has been a decrease in the amount of soft plastic and takeaway coffee cups found in the kerbside recycling bins.



% of households with soft plastics

51.9%
2018
⋮
31.4%
2019
⋮
9.2%
2020

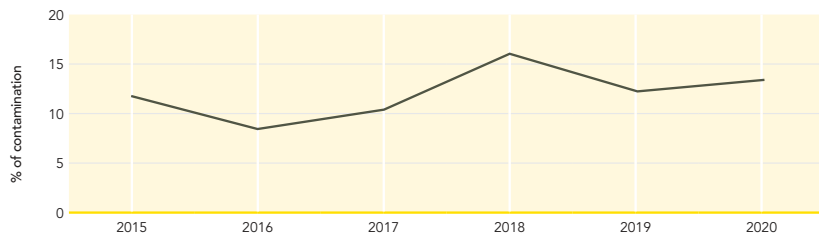


Residents are doing the right thing by either avoiding these items or placing them in the red landfill bin

% of households with coffee cups

6.9%
2018
⋮
9.2%
2019
⋮
4.6%
2020

Average Contamination Rate 2015-2020



Surveyed kerbside recycling bins comprised of:

- 33% Cardboard
- 27% Paper
- 18% Plastic 1, 2 & 5
- 6% Tin
- 3% Aluminium
- 13% Non-recyclables

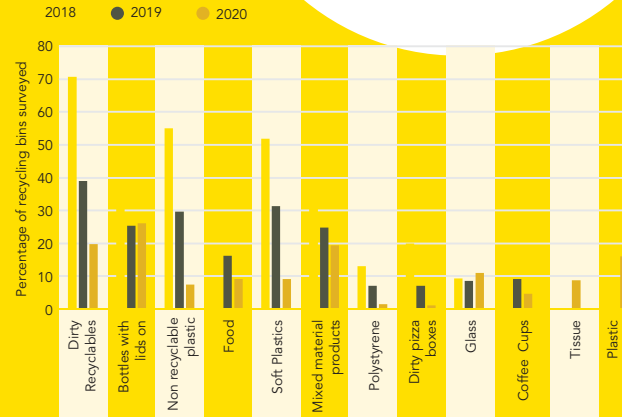


The amount of non-recyclables found in the recycling bin was higher compared to previous years and indicates an increasing trend.

Removing non-recyclables is costly and takes time to remove. Contaminated recycling is sent to the landfill.



Common contaminants 2018-2020



Oakura and Lepperton had the lowest rate of non-recyclables in their recycling bins while Marfell and Fitzroy has the highest.

Five suburbs with the best recycling	Five suburbs with the worst recycling
1. Oakura	1. Marfell
2. Lepperton	2. Fitzroy
3. Highlands Park	3. Bell Block East
4. Merrilands	4. Strandon
5. Whalers Gate	5. Hurdon



Date 25 February 2021

Subject: **Bring It Reusable Coffee Cup Campaign**

Approved by: G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality
SJ Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2712602

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Committee on engagement New Plymouth District Council are carrying out with the hospitality sector and the public to reduce single use coffee cups.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the proposed activities of New Plymouth District Council.

Discussion

2. The Bring It Reusable Coffee Cup Campaign report is attached.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

3. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

4. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

5. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making

processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Community considerations

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2712601: Bring It Reusable Coffee Cup Campaign



When replying please quote: ECM8474007

Date: 15 February 2020

To: **Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee**

SUBJECT: **BRING IT REUSABLE COFFEE CUP CAMPAIGN**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on engagement New Plymouth District Council are carrying out with the hospitality sector and the public to reduce single use coffee cups.

Background

Single use coffee cups are an ongoing waste problem for our region, with an estimated 3 million single use throw away cups used each year in Taranaki, and 300 million nationally.

Disposable coffee cups have a plastic lining, so cannot be recycled. However coffee cups are one of the most common non-recyclable items ending up in kerbside and commercial recycling bins, taking time and money to sort at our Material Recovery Facility, and to then send to landfill. Compostable cups are being used by more cafes, despite the higher cost. However these cups need to go to a commercial composting facility to break down, so the majority end up in landfill or contaminating recycling bins.

Widespread use of clean reusable cups is the ideal outcome for the coffee drinking public. So in 2019 – 20 NPDC investigated available options for supporting the uptake of reusable cups. With the Waste Levy Fund we also funded research and a trial of a reusable cup scheme run by a member of the public, the Taranaki Cup Library.

This research showed that the barriers coffee drinkers face to consistently bring their own cup are unlikely to be overcome by the small number of existing initiatives in cafes, such as the sale of reusable cups for \$10-20 per cup.

While some members of the public want to 'do the right thing', there are a series of barriers to consistently using a reusable cup every time members of the public order coffee. These include forgetting to take their reusable cup with them; having to wash and repack a reusable cup; buying coffee on impulse; high costs of buying a new reusable cup; the perception customers are being a 'nuisance' to cafes if they bring their own cup; and not feeling socially normal in bringing their own cup. Covid has also unfortunately set back reusable cup habits, as many cafes stopped accepting reusable cups for a period due to hygiene concerns.

Due to the barriers the public face to reusable cup use, NPDC have decided to support the introduction to the district of the [Again Again](#) cup lending scheme, to make it easier for customers who struggle to carry their own cup with them.

Again Again cup lending scheme

Overview

- Again Again supplies member cafes with stainless steel cups (two standard sizes with pour lines), silicone lids and a heat-proof reusable/recyclable/compostable paper sleeve.
- Customers borrow the cup for a one-off bond of \$3.
- Next time, they can swap their cup for a fresh cup for free, or return the cup and get a refund of \$3.
- Again Again cups are available at ~200 cafes around New Zealand, including at Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch airports.



Support for cafes to join Again Again

New Plymouth District Council is paying the joining fee for the first cafes who come on board with the Again Again system between December 2020 and March 2021. With emails and targeted follow up, so far six cafes in the New Plymouth District have joined Again Again with NPDC's support.

New Plymouth District Council promoted the first local cafés to join Again Again [here](#), with Stuff also running a [news article](#) on 8 January 2021.

Bring It! campaign

From late February, NPDC will be promoting the Again Again system to the public to encourage them to switch to this easy-to-use reusable cup scheme, overcoming the barriers to having to remember your own cup.

However we're aware that some coffee drinkers will not make use of the Again Again scheme, and that it will take time for more cafes to come on board with Again Again so it is widely available.

So we are also working with cafes to encourage them to offer a discount to their customers when they bring their own reusable cup. So far 30 cafes have opted to provide a discount of between 20 cents and \$1.

In late February we will launch the 'Bring It!' campaign, with posters up in participating cafes.

Draft posters for the Bring It! Campaign



Posters will be supported by pop up events, a commitment postcard, social and print media promotion, videos, and a possible promotion event. Participating cafes will be listed at newplymouthnz.com/BringIt.

Posters and campaign content can be borrowed by South Taranaki and Stratford District Councils if they have resource to engage cafes and coffee drinkers within their districts in future.

Kati Freeman
COMMERCIAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER