




Kerbside recycling and food waste

Delivering on our community outcomes	
COMMUNITY 	<p><i>Working in partnership – shaping a district that celebrates and champions its cultural and social diversity as well as its community spirit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provision of kerbside waste minimisation services for the community to divert waste from landfill and value the resource.</i> • <i>Support our community through the transition of council taking a more active role in waste services.</i> • <i>Giving residents the opportunity to contribute to community good through participation in enhanced kerbside services.</i>
ENVIRONMENT 	<p><i>A district that safeguards its natural resources and provides an environment with a sense of place, identity and vitality</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Moving towards a circular economy where waste is viewed as a resource to be valued.</i> • <i>Limiting the amount of organic waste entering landfills to prevent methane discharges that contribute to climate change.</i> • <i>Consider the environmental impact and public health implications of all kerbside services to ensure nett environmental benefit.</i>
ECONOMY 	<p><i>An easy-living place of choice of all – flourishing with employment and development opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provision of kerbside collection services which assists residents to limit their residual waste disposal costs.</i> • <i>Developing local kerbside service processes, where practicable, that contributes to local employment and development opportunities.</i>

What we do

Council is planning to introduce two new kerbside waste collection services i.e.

1. A kerbside recycling service from July 2023, and
2. A kerbside food waste service from July 2024.

Council will provide these kerbside services to all residential households in the Whanganui urban area and Fordell, Marybank and Mowhanau villages. Council will also offer the residential scale service to commercial businesses in the serviced areas on a user pays opt in basis. It's assumed Council will let a contract for these services.

Kerbside Recycling

The kerbside recycling service would collect:

- plastic containers numbered 1, 2 and 5
- glass bottles and jars
- aluminium cans
- steel cans and tins
- paper and card.

Participating households would have glass and other recyclables collected on alternating fortnights.

Kerbside Food Waste

Participating households would receive a small closed container for the collection of all types of food waste including cooked food, dairy, meat, fish and some compostable packaging. The container would be placed out at the kerb weekly for collection. Collected food waste would be processed into a beneficial compost product.

Why we do it

Most of the things we do, buy and consume generate some form of waste. This costs money when we throw things away and if we don't manage the waste properly it can damage the environment and people's health.

We know that in 2020 Whanganui sent 23,000 tonnes of waste – an estimated 500kg per person – to landfill. This quantity is rising due to a buoyant economy and the resulting local construction and deconstruction boom. Surveys we've undertaken of our waste placed at kerbside tells us around half of what we are sending to landfill could be recycled, reused or composted. Approximately 35% of Whanganui residents use 240L wheelie bins for rubbish. Research shows these households tend to fill up their bins with material that could be diverted from landfill, such as recyclables, food waste and green (garden) waste, compared to households that use smaller bins.

When food waste and green waste is sent to landfill it creates methane as it breaks down, which contributes to climate change.

In accordance with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, Council has developed its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021 (Waste Plan) which is intended to align with the New Zealand Waste Strategy, the government's general direction on waste management and industry advancements.

Council's Waste Plan signals a need to take more responsibility for the waste we produce, and take more control of how that waste is managed. Specifically the Waste Plan is proposing that the council introduces two new waste minimisation services at the kerbside i.e. recycling and food waste.

Recycling

Currently the Whanganui district sends a lot of recyclable material – such as glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans – to landfill. Providing a kerbside recycling service across most of the district will make recycling much easier and more convenient for people, increasing the amount of recycling diverted from landfill. We expect that an extra 800 tonnes per year will be diverted from landfill by introducing a kerbside recycling service to householders.

Food Waste

Whanganui district sends a significant amount of organic waste to landfill. This can be broken down into two types – food waste, and garden or green waste. Organic waste is very harmful in landfills, as the lack of oxygen in landfills means it breaks down to create leachate and methane (a greenhouse gas at least 25 times more powerful than CO₂), only part of which is captured. Much of the food waste going to landfill comes from households. Surveys show that every household puts out at least some food waste each week, even if they have a compost or worm farm at home.

All households that receive the new service will be able to divert their food waste from landfill. Even those that currently compost or have a worm farm would be able to divert more food waste than they currently are because all types of food waste would be collected. The amount of food waste the district sends to

landfill would drop significantly. The council expects around 1,700 tonnes per year could be diverted from landfill by introducing a kerbside recycling service to householders.

Goals and principal objectives

Goal

Working towards a low-waste future.

Principal objectives

- To have district-wide access to services and facilities such as kerbside services that enable the community to divert more material from landfill.
- To implement new services that increase the amount of waste reduced, reused or recycled.
- To introduce new kerbside recycling and food waste services in an efficient and effective manner to maximise community use.
- To focus on processing and managing waste locally wherever feasible and cost-effective.

Assumptions

- Levels of service in this plan are based on the current Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021.
- Budgets/service costs are based on similar territorial authority services and advice from industry consultants with final costs being determined through a competitive tender contract.
- Methodology of services is based on best practice but may be subject to change through the contract procurement stage.
- Costs do not take into account any potential Government funding assistance with these new services.
- Costs include additional in-house resource costs to both introduce and manage the new services.

Key issues and potential significant negative effects of providing this activity

Key issues	Strategies to address the issue
To develop the optimal service methodology for the two new kerbside services to achieve the desired outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate a project team to finalise service methodology, procurement and introduction.
To gain high levels of usage and compliance with the services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a service roll out education programme including extra resources. • Monitor compliance, usage rates and product tonnages
To provide the new services within budget and on time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage waste consultancy group to provide industry advice on new service costs, timeframes and procurement. Stand up project team to ensure new services are delivered to expectations.
Potential significant negative effects	Tactics to mitigate these effects
<p>Potential negative effects with this activity are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination of product which puts rest of product and service viability at risk • Government introducing container deposit scheme which limits product capture • Risk of recycling market failure or decline in prices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop methodology for new kerbside services to give best chance of success. • Early education, monitoring and compliance programme. • Watching brief on Government's container deposit scheme, with suitable mitigation measures included in service contracts. • Watching brief on industry developments with attempt to share risks with contractor.

Capital expenditure

It's anticipated capital expenditure for this new activity will be contained within the contract price and would cover things like processing equipment/buildings, collection vehicles and bins. Should it be advantageous for Council to purchase these capital items itself, the service contracts will be written to reflect this.

Service levels, performance measures and targets

The Council will continue to monitor and report on actual performance against the following measures:

Community Outcomes	Customer levels of service	Customer value	Customer service performance measures						Performance level procedure	Initiatives to improve levels of service
			Performance measure	Baseline ¹	Year 1 Target (2021-2022)	Year 2 Target (2022-2023)	Year 3 Target (2023-2024)	Years 4-10 Target (2024-2031)		
Environment	Kerbside recycling and food waste collection services are accessible and effective	Quality	User satisfaction of the kerbside recycling service	N/A	N/A	N/A	75%	75%	Survey of users	Adopt a service roll out education programme including extra resources for problem solving responses. Monitor user compliance, usage rates and contractor performance.
			User satisfaction of the kerbside food waste service	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	75%		
		Effectiveness	The amount of recycling product collected kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,800T	2,800T	Contractor records	Adopt a service roll out education programme including extra resources for problem solving responses. Monitor user compliance, usage rates and contractor performance. Media/communications programme to introduce service.
			The amount of food waste product collected kerbside	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,700T		
		Quality	Kerbside recycling contamination rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	≤5%	≤5%	Contractor records	As above.
			Kerbside food waste contamination rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	≤2%		

Asset management

For detailed asset management information including risks, maintenance, operating issues and future demand please see our Asset Management Plans. These are available on our website (www.whanganui.govt.nz) or by contacting Council on 349 0001.

How will we pay for it?

Please see the Funding Impact Statement in Volume 1 of the LTP 2021-2031.