



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

Whanganui District Council Draft Waste Plan 2021

Consultation document

Working towards a low-waste future

Introduction

Whanganui District Council is in the process of reviewing how we can make waste management and minimisation more convenient for our community and better for the environment.

Having the council more involved with providing waste services and facilities would lead to better waste management and minimisation outcomes for the community, but would lead to rates rises.

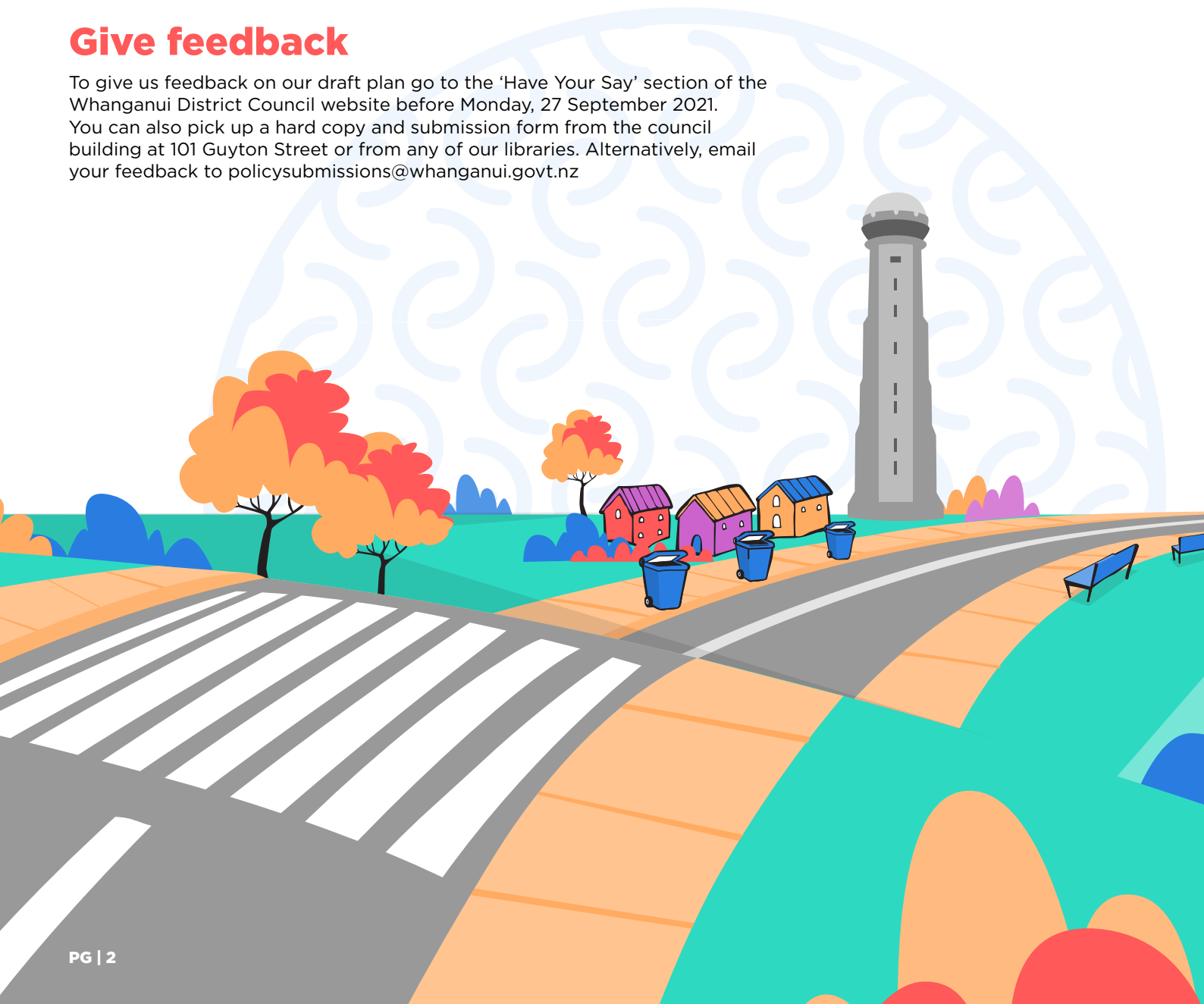
We've taken into account what you told us in the 2018 Household Waste Survey and come up with a draft waste plan.

This draft plan sets out our current situation and proposed action plan. The finalised plan will be implemented over six years, from 2021-2027.

For now we'd like you to look over our draft plan and let us know whether you think we're on the right track. There will be an opportunity to give us feedback on the finer detail, such as types of service and funding, during our Long-Term Plan amendment consultation in March 2022.

Give feedback

To give us feedback on our draft plan go to the 'Have Your Say' section of the Whanganui District Council website before Monday, 27 September 2021. You can also pick up a hard copy and submission form from the council building at 101 Guyton Street or from any of our libraries. Alternatively, email your feedback to policy submissions@whanganui.govt.nz



Contents

Part A

The current situation

What is waste and why is it a problem?	4
Whanganui's current waste services	4
How well is Whanganui doing?	5
What's in our kerbside rubbish	6
Our last Waste Management and Minimisation Plan	7
Rural waste services	7
Why do we need a plan?	7
The national level	7
The waste hierarchy	8-9

Part B

Our strategy for the future

Our vision	10
Tangata whenua view of waste management	12
Goals and objectives	12
Target	14
Key issues to address	15

Part C

Action plan: What are we proposing?

The council's intended role	18
Summary of our proposed actions	19
Action areas 1 - 4	20
General supporting actions	24
Action plan timeline	26
Funding the plan	28
Monitoring, evaluating and reporting progress	29
Supporting information	30



Part A:

The current situation

What is waste and why is it a problem?

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.

This plan covers all waste in our district whether it is managed by the council or not. As well as rubbish and recycling and other diverted waste, it covers hazardous chemicals and wastewater treatment plant output.

This does not necessarily mean that the council will have direct involvement in managing all waste. However, there is a responsibility for the council to consider all of the waste in our district and look at what the council should do as well as suggesting areas where other groups, such as businesses and residents, could take action themselves.

Whanganui's current waste services

Right now most waste management services and facilities in the district are run by the private sector (with the exception of recycling services at the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre (WRRC) and council waste collections in areas where the market fails).

- WRRC
- The council's rubbish bag collection services (inner-rural) and drop off points (outer-rural)
- Private kerbside wheelie bin and bagged rubbish collection and composting services
- Two privately-owned transfer stations – one which accommodates public waste disposal and the other which aggregates commercial waste streams before disposal to landfill
- Private organic waste collection service and composter
- Household hazardous waste collection drop-off days
- Zero waste event recycling services
- Collection and support of the Paper4trees recycling programme throughout schools in Whanganui
- Monthly kerbside recycling collection service for the infirm or carless who are unable to get to the WRRC.

How well is Whanganui doing?

We know that in 2020 Whanganui sent 22,849 tonnes of waste – an estimated 490kg per person – to landfill. This quantity is rising due to a buoyant economy and the resulting local construction and deconstruction boom. Kerbside rubbish accounts for about 20% of the district's waste, with construction, demolition, industrial and commercial waste accounting for the rest.

Because of the high level of private sector involvement in rubbish collection we lack accurate information about the type of rubbish households are sending to landfill. However, surveys from similar districts to Whanganui tell us it's likely that over half of what we are sending to landfill could be recycled, reused or composted.

Approximately 38% of Whanganui residents use 240L wheelie bins for rubbish. Research shows these households tend to fill up space in their bins with

material that could be diverted to 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 works against our efforts to address climate change.

The council partners with the community in the successful Resource Recovery Centre, which has acted as a flagship for the community's recycling and waste diversion activities. The total amount of recyclables captured in the Whanganui district in 2020 was 5,000 tonnes. Because we don't have kerbside recycling, the amount we are recycling is quite low compared to other districts.



Over half of what we are sending to landfill could be recycled, reused or composted



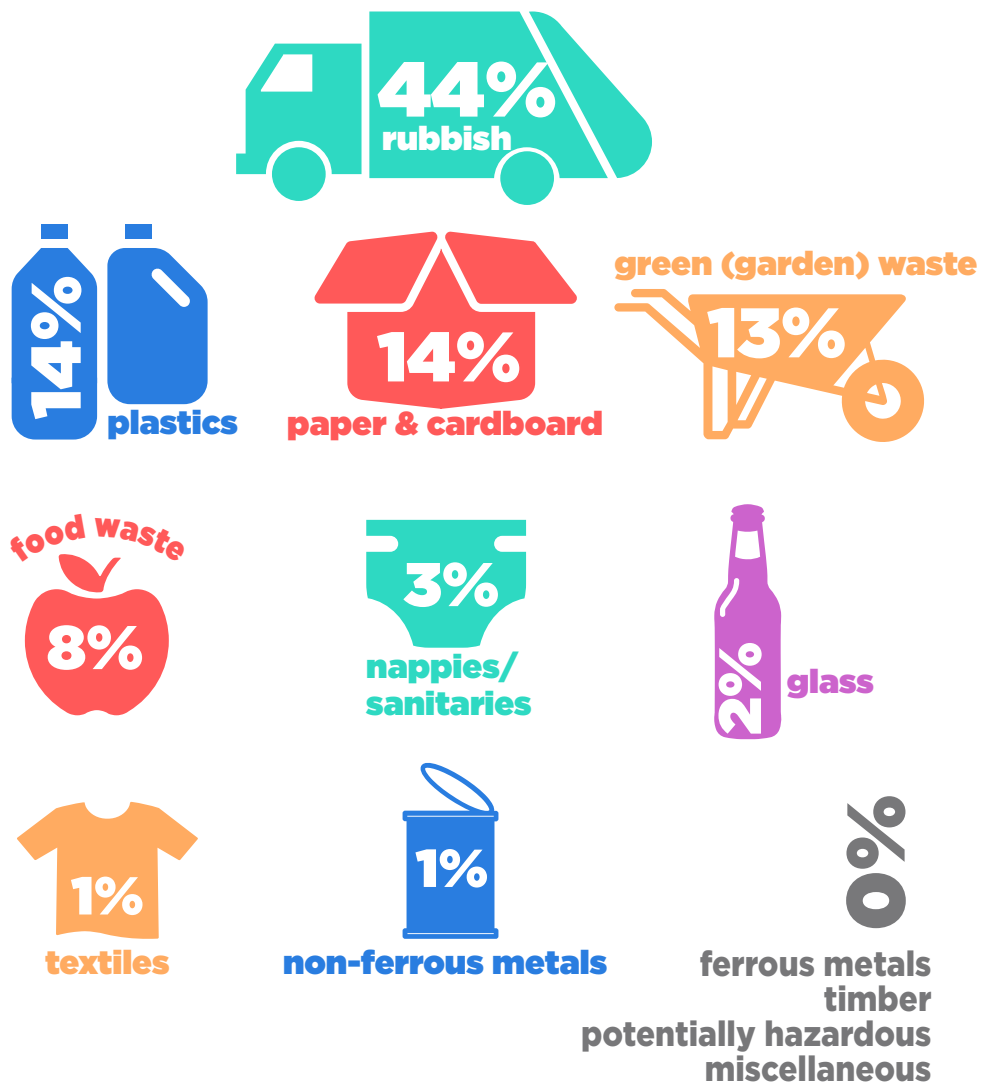
When food waste and green waste is sent to landfill it creates methane as it breaks down, which works against our efforts to address climate change



The amount we are recycling is quite low compared to other districts



What's in our kerbside rubbish



Our last Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

Our last Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) set out 19 separate actions. Fourteen of these have been completed and the remaining five have either been partially completed or proved to be impractical.

Our evaluation of our last WMMP has helped us to formulate this draft plan.

Rural waste services

The council reviewed rural waste services early in 2021 due to expiring contracts, with the view waste collection services needed to continue in rural areas where the private market fails to provide. Resolutions from that review have informed this plan and can be found under the General supporting actions section of this document on page 24.

Why do we need a plan?

We're legally required to have a waste management and minimisation plan under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (the WMA). We also have obligations under the Health Act, which requires the council to ensure that our waste management 'protects public health'.

Our plan has been written to align with the New Zealand Waste Strategy, the government's general direction, the waste hierarchy and the council's long-term and annual plans.

It considers the outcomes of the local waste assessment and ensures waste does not become a nuisance in our community.

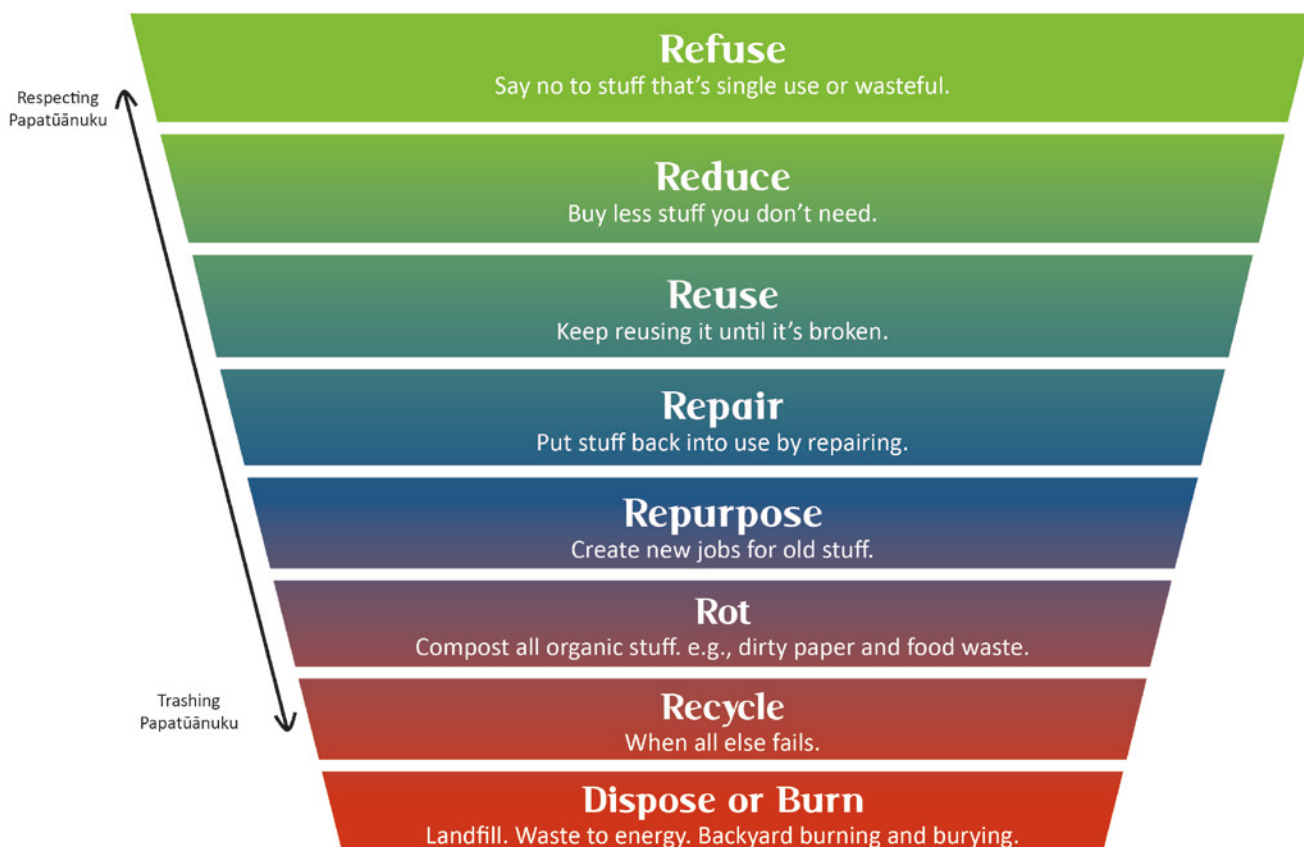
The national level

There is a lot happening nationally in the waste management and minimisation industry, with a renewed focus on this from central government since 2017. A number of new policies and projects have been introduced and still more are in progress, including product stewardship schemes, infrastructure investment strategies and reviews of the New Zealand Waste Strategy and the Waste Management and Minimisation Act. One very significant change is the increase and expansion of the landfill levy from July 2021, which means it will become more expensive to throw things away as waste.

While much of our recycling can still be exported for reprocessing, these markets are becoming increasingly restrictive. As a result, the range of items that are usually considered recyclable in New Zealand has reduced and more of this material is being reprocessed nationally.

The waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy is commonly used as a way to think about waste. Essentially it says that reducing, reusing and recycling is preferable to disposal.



**Riro taonga mai,
hoki taonga atu.**

Te Pūnaha Whakarōpū Para



Riro taonga mai,
hoki taonga atu.

Part B:

Our strategy for the future

Our vision

“Working towards a low-waste future”

As a district we need to take more responsibility for the waste we produce, and take more control of how that waste is managed. The council has set this vision to reflect that we want to make as much effort as we can to transition to being a low-waste district which views waste as a resource to be managed sustainably.





Tangata whenua view of waste management

This vision aligns with tangata whenua principles such as kaitiakitanga, taking an integrated view of the environment and aiming to protect land, air and water from the possible negative impacts of inappropriate management of waste.

Traditionally, tangata whenua societies produced only organic waste which could be managed by returning it to the land. In modern times, this is no longer possible due to the increase in waste volumes and a shift to non-organic and potentially hazardous waste types.

Kaitiakitanga, mauri and the waste hierarchy are seen as an aligned set of principles that support our vision of minimising the amount of waste we send to landfill.

Goals and objectives

To make this vision a reality, we need to set goals.

Goal 1:

To be a community that takes responsibility for its waste and is actively involved in managing it



Objectives

- | | |
|----|---|
| 01 | Understand what is happening to our waste at the moment and how it could be managed better. |
| 02 | Have district-wide access to services and facilities that enable the community to divert more from landfill. |
| 03 | As a council, take a more active role in providing services and regulating the private waste services sector. |
| 04 | As a council, use charging approaches that promote waste minimising behaviour, such as recycling and recovery. |
| 05 | Work together as a community to make sure we manage our waste better and reduce the community's reliance on landfill, by viewing waste as a resource. |
| 06 | Support our community through the transition to the council taking a more active role in waste services. |
| 07 | Remove or reduce barriers that prevent the community from making best use of existing waste diversion services, and any potential new services. |

Goal 2:

To be a community that welcomes new initiatives and ways to assist with reducing, reusing and recycling waste



Objectives

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 08 | As a district, understand the reasons why better waste management and minimisation is important. |
| 09 | Focus on processing and managing waste locally wherever feasible and cost-effective. |
| 10 | Investigate and implement new services, facilities or other initiatives that will increase the amount of waste reduced, reused or recycled. |

Goal 3:

To minimise environmental harm and protect public health



Objectives

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 11 | Consider the environmental impact and public health implications of all waste management options and choose those which are cost-effective to the community, while also protecting environmental and public health. |
|-----------|---|

Target

The council has set one simple target for this Waste Plan, which is to increase the proportion of waste our district diverts from landfill:

Divert an additional 15,000 tonnes of material from landfill over the course of the plan.

We plan to achieve this target through specific actions, timeframes and estimated tonnages (as set out in Part B), summarised below:

Specific action	Extra diversion per annum - tonnes	Year 2021-22	Year 2022-23	Year 2023-24	Year 2024-25	Year 2025-26	Year 2026-27	Total diversion over six years of Waste Plan
Action 1: Kerbside recycling collection	800	-	400	800	800	800	800	3,600
Action 2: Kerbside food waste collection	1,700	-	-	800	1,700	1,700	1,700	5,900
Action 3: Create waste bylaw to control size of wheelie bins allowed including contents	600	-	-	200	200	600	600	1,600
Action 4: Construction and demolition waste facility	700	-	300	700	700	700	700	3,100
General supporting actions	200	-	-	200	200	200	200	800
Annual total	4,000	0	700	2,700	3,600	4,000	4,000	15,000
Total impact		0	700	3,400	7,000	11,000	15,000	

Key issues to address

In reviewing our waste plan, we have identified a list of the key issues. Our proposed action plan (in Part C) will address the issues below.

1. Private sector domination

Waste services and facilities in Whanganui are dominated by the private sector, meaning the council has little information on how we are performing and little control over how waste is managed and minimised.

2. User pays benefits

Waste services are currently largely user pays with a high level of customer choice, and it may be possible to preserve aspects of this approach while also improving services and performance.

3. Large wheelie bins

It is likely that there is a significantly higher proportion of material that should not be going to landfill in rubbish from households with 240L private wheelie bin collections, including recyclables and green waste.

4. Organic waste

A significant proportion of waste going to landfill is organic waste, with food waste likely to be present across all waste collection systems.

5. Construction and demolition waste

There is a lack of facilities to recycle or otherwise divert construction and demolition waste, meaning it is likely that we are currently sending most of this to landfill.

6. No waste bylaw

The council does not have a waste bylaw. A bylaw could be a way to collect data and influence private sector service provision.

7. Farm waste

There is little information available on waste from farms, which is a particular concern with hazardous waste, and there are few service options.

8. Industrial and commercial waste

Industrial and commercial waste generally presents scope for increased diversion as it is the largest waste stream by volume.

Part C:

Action plan: What are we proposing?

The action plan aims to set out clear, practical initiatives that we believe the Whanganui community needs to implement – either through the council or through other agencies or community groups – to address the key issues our district is experiencing.

The action plan will be updated regularly in response to changes in the local situation - such as with costs, contracts and feasibility - as well as in response to changes brought about by new central government initiatives.



The council's intended role

The council intends to oversee, facilitate and manage a range of programmes and interventions to achieve effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within the district.

In this plan we are proposing that the council gets more involved with waste services where there are significant waste minimisation opportunities.

The council would do this by introducing new waste minimisation services at the kerbside, bringing in a new bylaw and data collection and continuing education and assisted partnerships to encourage infrastructure and services.



A number of supporting actions are also proposed which won't make a significant difference to the amount of waste going to landfill individually, but will provide general support to the big wins that the council has proposed.

Rubbish collection services

We are proposing that the private sector continues to provide kerbside rubbish collection services, rather than the council. This is because right now we think the rates increase would be too high if the council got involved - it would be (about \$160 per household per year on top of the \$110 total per household per year already proposed in our plan (\$70 for recycling and \$40 for food waste)).

Also, private companies can offer ‘pay as you throw’ technology, saving households money and encouraging them to send less to landfill.

We will keep a watching brief over rubbish collection services and industry developments.

Summary of our proposed actions

Action area	Key actions	What it will do
Collections	The council plans to introduce two new kerbside collections: firstly a kerbside recycling collection (recycling will still be able to be dropped at the Resource Recovery Centre as well) and secondly, a kerbside food waste collection.	Divert more waste from landfill - recycling and household food waste are the two areas where we can make the biggest difference with diverting waste from landfill.
Regulation	Implement a solid waste management and minimisation bylaw, and consider introducing rules to regulate the use of smaller rubbish bins.	License rubbish collection companies and regulate what is collected to support waste minimisation.
Data	Collect data externally through licencing (enabled by the bylaw) and regular surveys. Improve recording and analysis of internal data to enable performance monitoring over time.	Consistent, high-quality data will help us track our progress and inform future waste plans.
Infrastructure	The council will work with the Resource Recovery Centre to expand the range of services provided, such as construction and demolition waste recovery.	Builds on the community-led facility and focuses on another large waste stream that currently mostly goes to landfill.
Education, engagement, communication	Maintain existing levels, and carry out one-off campaigns where necessary, such as when a new service or significant service change is implemented.	Ensure the community is engaged and understands service decisions, and is able to make the most of existing and any new or altered services.
Leadership and management	Lobby central government and work more closely with the community.	Various issues, such as producer responsibility, cannot be addressed at a council level; however, the council can lobby central government and get ready to take up central government's proposed product stewardship schemes. Closer working partnerships will ensure understanding and support of the council's plans.



We are proposing that the council introduces a rates-funded kerbside recycling service. This service is likely to cost around \$70 per household per year.

Action area 1 – Recyclables

What is the problem?

Whanganui district sends a lot of recyclable material – such as glass, paper, cardboard, tins and cans – to landfill. This material comes from both households and commercial sources. Compared to other districts, the amount we are recycling is quite low. The reason for this is that we don't have a kerbside collection which makes recycling convenient. Most of the recyclables going to landfill from households get there through private collection companies that provide their customers with wheelie bins, particularly large bins. Other recyclables come from commercial rubbish collections and the transfer station.

What is the suggested solution?

We are proposing that the council introduces a rates-funded kerbside recycling service. The details of this service will be worked out when a contractor is procured to deliver the service. At this stage we envisage that there would be a two-weekly collection from a 40L crate for glass bottles and jars and from two other crates for recyclables (such as plastic containers, paper/cardboard, tins and cans). These would be collected on alternate weeks so one week glass would be collected and the next week other recyclables would be collected. This service is likely to cost around \$70 per household per year (note that this doesn't take into account possible savings for households through reducing their need for rubbish bags or bins). The council plans to find a contractor for this service in 2022, alongside our proposed food waste service, and introduce the service in 2023. Funding from central government may be available through the Waste Minimisation Fund to subsidise the cost. Providing a recycling service to businesses on a user-pays basis could divert another 500 to 1,500 tonnes per year, depending on exactly what services were provided.

How will this address the issue?

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. The way the council is proposing to collect recycling is considered best practice for household kerbside recycling collections – it will minimise incorrect items collected and maximise the quality of the recycling that is collected. The council will canvass business owners to assess their need for services, and decide whether it makes sense for the council to meet this need.

What is the likely impact?

We expect that an extra 800 tonnes per year could be diverted from landfill by introducing a kerbside recycling service to householders. Note that this assumes kerbside rubbish collections will stay the same. The Resource Recovery Centre will continue to function 24/7 - albeit at a reduced scale - when the kerbside recycling collection service is introduced. The Resource Recovery Centre would cater for rural households without a kerbside recycling collection service and would also receive recycling products unable to be collected at the kerbside.

Action area 2 – Organic waste

What is the problem?

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. Some of the food waste comes from businesses and large organisations like educational institutions, hospitals and accommodation buildings.

Most of the green waste going to landfill comes from households that have wheelie bins supplied by private companies for their rubbish collection, particularly large bins, and various other sources such as through transfer stations.

What is the suggested solution?

The council is proposing to introduce a weekly rates-funded kerbside food waste collection to households in the urban parts of the district, and to extend this service to businesses on a user-pays basis. A tailored service could be offered to those that have larger quantities such as restaurants, hostels and cafeterias. The council would appoint a contractor at the same time as it appoints a contractor for the proposed kerbside recycling collection, which would reduce costs. However, the introduction of the food waste service would be delayed for a year until residents were familiar with the kerbside recycling service. The food waste collection would be from a small closed container, and all types of food waste would be collected including things like cooked food, dairy, meat and fish – items that most people can't put into a compost bin or worm farm. The food waste would be processed into a beneficial compost product. The estimated cost of this service is \$40 per year for each household – note that this doesn't take into account possible savings for households through reducing their need for rubbish bags or bins. The council would try to get support from central government through the Waste Minimisation Fund to subsidise the cost.

Green waste

Green waste would not be collected as part of this service. However, green waste disposal would still be available at the Resource Recovery Centre and the council would encourage private green waste collection services as well as encouraging households to home compost.

How will this address the issue?

All households that receive the service would 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.

What is the likely impact?

The council expects around 1,750 tonnes per year could be diverted from landfill by introducing a kerbside recycling service to householders (note that this assumes kerbside rubbish collections will stay the same), with another possible 500 tonnes from businesses.



The council is proposing to introduce a weekly rates-funded kerbside food waste collection to households in the urban part of the district, and to extend this service to businesses on a user-pays basis. The estimated cost of this service is \$40 per year for each household.

All types of food waste would be collected - including items that most people can't put into a compost or worm farm.



Action area 3 – Regulation

What is the problem?

Right now the council does not currently have a solid waste bylaw. Other councils use a bylaw to address event and construction waste, containers for different waste collections and licensing of private waste operators. Introducing a solid waste bylaw would mean we could regulate what rubbish companies are collecting, to support our waste minimisation goal. A particular problem in Whanganui is that a number of households in the city (around two-thirds) use wheelie bins provided by private companies for their rubbish collection, and research shows that around half of these are large (240L) wheelie bins. This creates issues as households with large wheelie bins tend to top up their bins to fill up the space. This means they send more recyclables, food waste and green waste to landfill than households that use smaller bins. For example, in other areas households using bags leave around 4kg of recyclable glass bottles and jars in their landfill rubbish each week, compared to over 26kg for a household using a large wheelie bin. Large wheelie bins can contain an average of 386kg of green waste per household each year, compared to virtually none from households using a bag service. If we had a solid waste bylaw we could regulate bin sizes and what type of rubbish can be collected, supporting our goal of waste minimisation.

If the council does introduce a kerbside recycling and food waste collection for households, it is likely that households will tend to need smaller bags and bins for rubbish.

What is the suggested solution?

The council intends to adopt a waste management and minimisation bylaw that will cover a number of issues, including introducing rules for private companies that collect rubbish from households. Rules could also require recycling at large events and monitoring of waste and recycling on construction projects.

How will this address the issue?

These rules could include things like requiring waste management companies to provide education and information on the council's proposed new kerbside collection services and other options, and preventing these companies from emptying rubbish bins that contain a lot of recyclable materials or food waste that could have been diverted using these new services. A new bylaw could require 240L rubbish bins to be phased out at the kerbside.

What is the likely impact?

Encouraging more use of bags and small bins for rubbish collections will make kerbside collection services more effective – potentially increasing the diversion rate by 10% or more. Householders would be more aware of waste management issues and could make more informed choices about the way they manage their waste.

Households with large wheelie bins tend to top up their bins to fill up the space. This means they send more recyclables, food waste and green waste to landfill than households that use smaller bins.

A new bylaw could require 240L rubbish bins to be phased out at the kerbside.

Action area 4 – Construction and demolition waste

What is the problem?

Construction and demolition waste is a large proportion of the waste going to landfill from the Whanganui district. Much of the increased waste to landfill over the past few years could be attributed to a buoyant local economy, especially in the building sector. There have been very limited options to divert waste materials from construction and demolition projects in Whanganui to date.

What is the suggested solution?

The council could work with the Whanganui Resource Recovery Trust or a similar entity to establish a service to collect, sort and divert as much of this waste as feasible, on a full or partial cost-recovery basis.

How will this address the issue?

Similar operations elsewhere have shown that it is possible to divert at least one-third of waste from most construction projects, if not more. This is dependent on the operation being integrated with the wider waste management system and, in particular, cleanfill and landfill disposal options being available for the waste that can't be diverted.

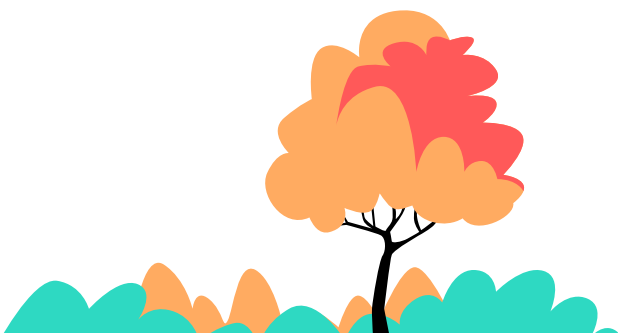
What is the likely impact?

Up to 700 tonnes per year could be diverted from landfill eventually.



Construction and demolition waste is a large proportion of the waste going to landfill from the Whanganui district.

Similar operations elsewhere have shown that it is possible to divert at least one-third of waste from most construction projects.



General supporting actions

These supporting actions would make sure waste is managed as effectively and efficiently as possible in the district.

Proposal	Expected impact
Maintain current education and engagement campaigns and continue to work with existing community-based zero waste action groups.	Maintain current performance
Continue the current illegal dumping campaign which includes enforcement.	Maintain current performance
Allow the current contract for rubbish bag collection from the inner rural area to lapse, as the private sector is currently meeting this need – but review before June 2022 to ensure this is working for residents.	Maintain current performance
<p>The council will let a contract for the provision of waste skip bins in outer rural areas, at the council's designated sites, on a three plus two-year basis.</p> <p>In addition, the council signals –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will investigate a targeted rate for this service as part of a funding review • It will trial recycling stations in one or two rural settlements • It will continue to work with communities over types of bins, sites and frequency of collections. 	Maintain current performance with enhancements and additional services where beneficial
Continue to liaise with and support the local organics processing industry.	Maintain current performance and integrate where possible with other actions








































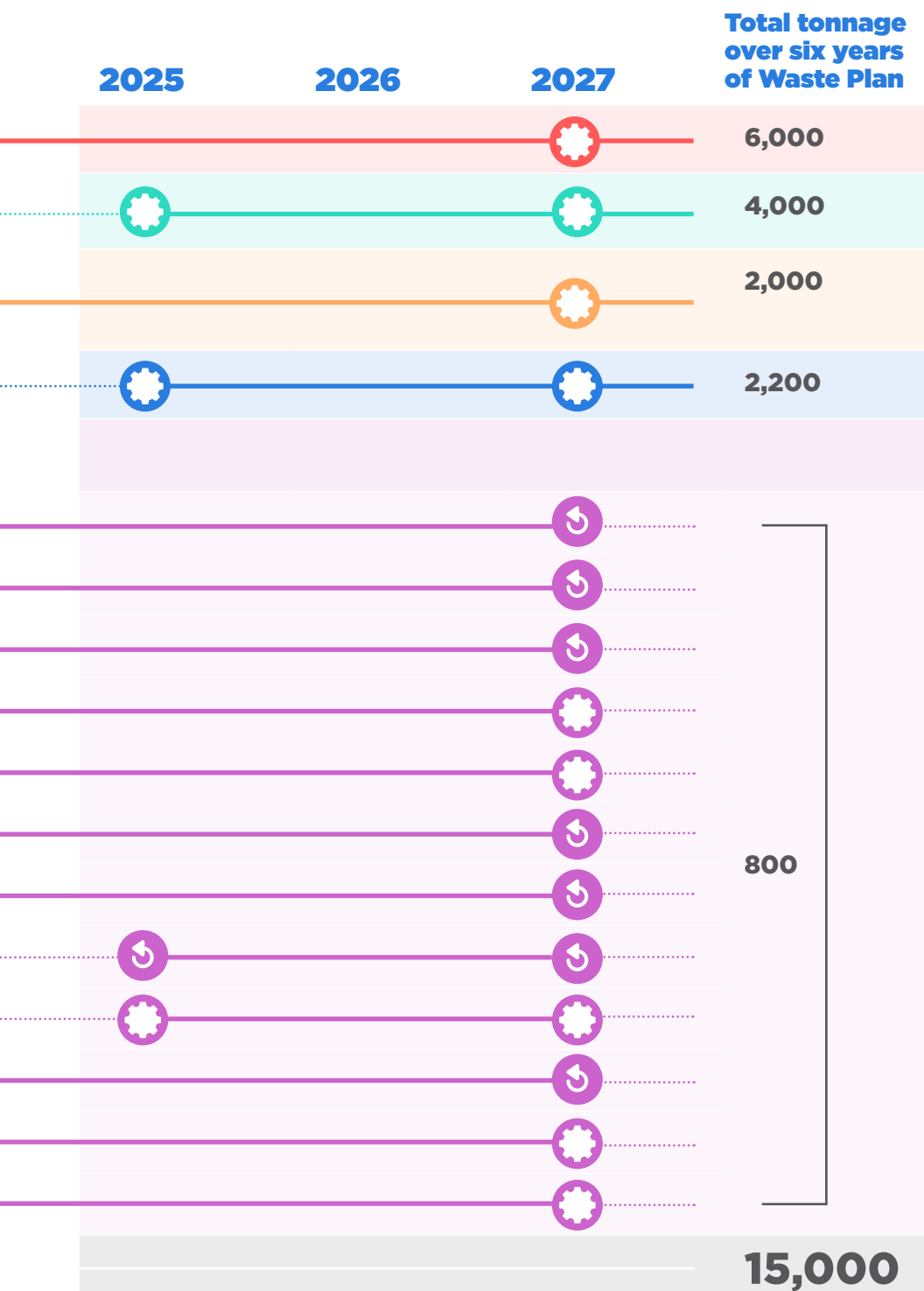
Proposal	Expected impact
Review available information and national initiatives relating to rural and farm waste and implement where appropriate.	Improve management of rural and farm waste where possible
Carry out specific communication and education campaigns to support the introduction of new kerbside recycling and new food waste collection services, and if regulatory changes are made (e.g. 240L bin ban).	Supports the impact of the new services. Diversion rates can be maximised if supported with excellent information campaigns (potentially 20% higher success than with basic campaigns)
Work closely with mana whenua to ensure culturally appropriate waste management methods where possible.	Support other actions and deliver on bicultural responsibilities
Encourage households to make use of diversion options for green waste such as home composting, delivery to the WRRC or transfer station or a private collection.	Maintain existing performance
Lobby central government to encourage and support action in areas such as extended producer responsibility.	Supports other actions
Keep abreast of and develop readiness for government's/industry's product stewardship scheme roll-outs.	Community opportunity for diversion of new waste products
Work closely with community groups and the private sector to progress opportunities for increased waste diversion.	Supports other actions









Action plan

Timeline

ACTION	2022	2023	2024
Action 1: Recycling kerbside collection			
Action 2: Food waste kerbside collection			
Action 3: Create a waste bylaw to control size of wheelie bins allowed including contents			
Action 4: Construction and demolition waste facility			
Action 5: Supporting actions -			
• Education and engagement campaigns			
• Illegal dumping campaign			
• Rural waste collection services			
• Organics processing			
• Solid waste bylaw			
• Rural/farm waste initiatives			
• Education campaign for new services			
• Culturally appropriate methods			
• Household green waste encouragement			
• Central government lobbying			
• Readiness for Product Stewardship Schemes			
• Work with community groups			
Total impact			



Key:

-  Investigation
-  Implementation
-  Operational
-  Ongoing
-  Trial
-  As required

Funding the plan

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (s43) (WMA) requires that we include information about how the implementation of this plan will be funded, as well as information about any grants made and expenditure of waste levy funds.

Funding local actions

There are a range of options available to local councils to fund the activities set out in this plan. These include:

- User charges – includes charges for user-pays collections as well as WRRRC gate fees¹.
- Targeted rates – a charge applied to those properties receiving a particular council service.
- Waste levy funding – the government redistributes funds from the (currently) \$10 per tonne waste levy to local authorities on a per capita basis. Under current law 50% of the money collected through the levy must be returned to councils. This money must be applied to waste minimisation activities.
- Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) – most of the remaining 50% of the levy money collected is currently redistributed to specific projects approved by the Ministry for the Environment. Anyone can apply to the WMF for funding for projects.
- Sale of recovered materials – the sale of recovered materials can be used to help offset the cost of some initiatives.
- Private sector funding – the private sector may undertake to fund/supply certain waste minimisation activities; for example, to generate income from the sale of recovered materials, etc. The council may look to work with private sector service providers where this will assist in achieving the Waste Plan goals.

Funding considerations take into account a number of factors including:

- Prioritising harmful waste
- Waste minimisation and reduction of residual waste to landfill
- Full-cost pricing – polluter pays
- Public good vs private good component of a particular service
- The environmental effects of production, distribution, consumption and disposal of goods and services should be consistently costed, and charged as closely as possible to the point they occur to ensure that price incentives cover all costs
- Protection of public health
- Affordability
- Cost-effectiveness.

The potential sources of funding for each of the actions are noted where appropriate in the tables in Part B of the Waste Plan. The council intends to make use of rates-funded services to encourage desired behaviours like recycling, and user-pays approaches to discourage unwanted behaviour.

It is noted that the actions noted in the tables are to be implemented or worked through over the period of this six-year plan as indicatively time-framed in the table.

Budgets to deliver the activities set out in this plan will be carefully developed through the council's annual plan and long-term plan processes. The approach taken will be to implement as many of the activities as possible while controlling costs and, where possible, taking advantage of cost savings and efficiencies. It is anticipated that by setting appropriate user charges, reducing costs through avoided disposal, more efficient service delivery from joint working and targeted application of waste levy money, the increased levels of waste minimisation as set out in this Waste Plan will be achieved without overall additional increases to the average household cost.

¹ Most councils in the region own transfer stations and or landfills and are able to set the fees at these facilities and can derive income from these activities. In accordance with s46 (2) of the Act, councils can charge fees for a facility that are higher or lower than required to recover the costs to provide the service, providing the incentives or disincentives will promote waste minimisation.

Territorial Authority (TA) waste levy funding

Councils receive a share of national waste levy funds, derived from landfill waste levies, from the Ministry for the Environment. The levy amount is based on population. The current rate of \$10 per tonne sees Whanganui District Council receiving \$160k per annum as its pro rata share of the fund. The current government is increasing the landfill levy from \$10 per tonne currently to \$60 per tonne over the next five years, which will increase the council's share significantly.

The WMA requires that all waste levy funding received by councils must be spent on 'matters to promote waste minimisation and in accordance with their WMMP'.

Waste levy funds can be spent on ongoing waste minimisation services, new services or an expansion of existing services. The funding can be used on education and communication, services, policy research and reporting, grants, contract costs or as infrastructure capital.

Whanganui District Council intends to use its waste levy funds for a range of waste minimisation activities and services as set out in the action plan.

In addition, the council may make an application for contestable waste levy funds from the Waste Minimisation Fund, either separately, with other councils or with another party. The Waste Minimisation Fund provides additional waste levy funds for waste minimisation activities.

Monitoring evaluating and reporting progress

Monitoring and reporting

This Waste Plan contains a number of actions with timeframes (refer to Part B), as well as a set of waste minimisation targets.

Each of these actions and targets will be reported against in terms of progress to the council.

Supporting Information

Waste Assessment

The 2021 Waste Assessment can be found on the council's website.







WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui