



Whanganui Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

2027 - 2033



To recycle right:

- ✓ **Check** it's recyclable
- ✓ **Remove** lids

- ✓ **Rinse** off any food
- ✓ **Sort** into groups



To report issues & keep
updated on recycling,
download Antenno.



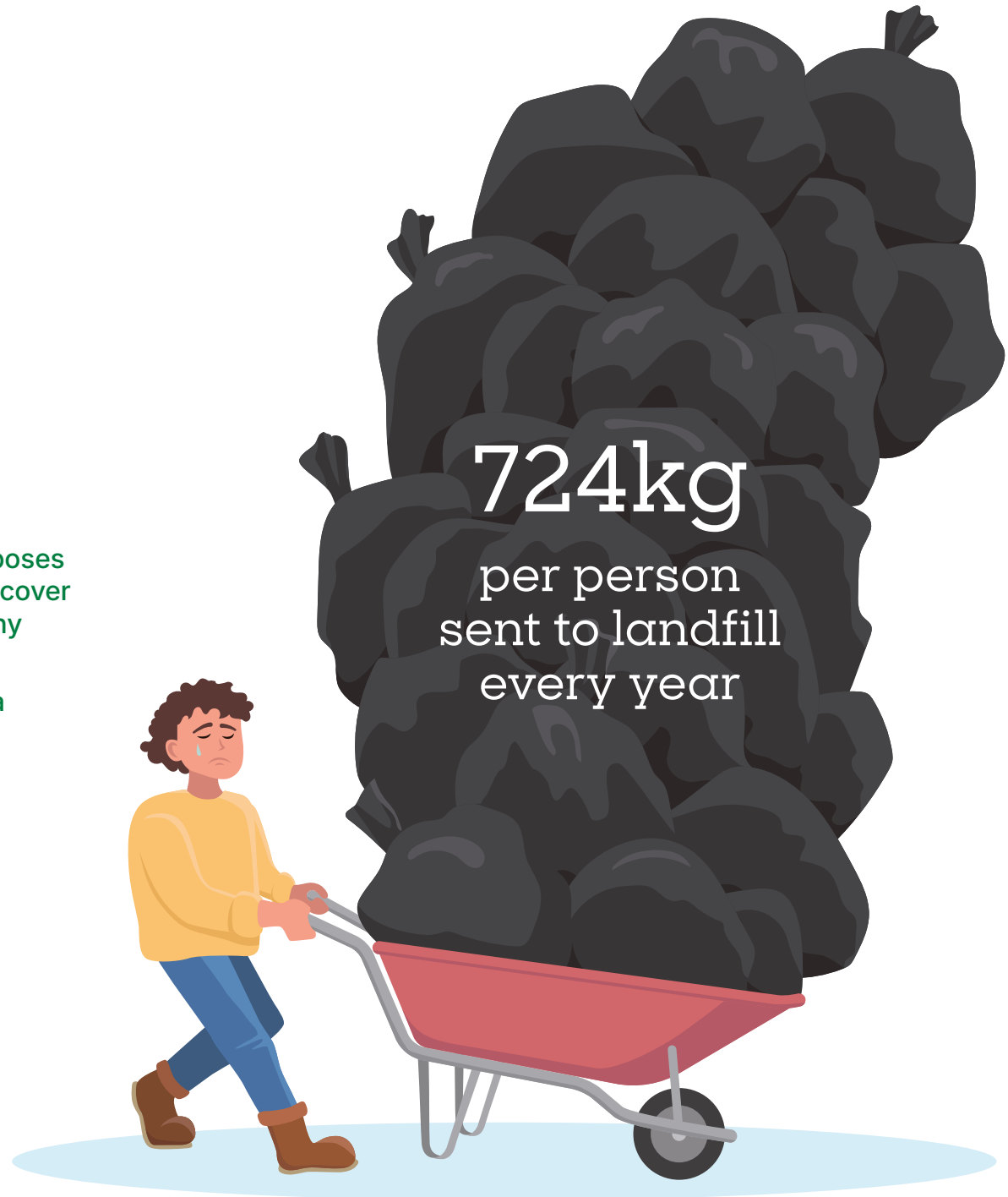
Contents

Waste plan at a glance	4	2. Where are we now?	16	3. Where do we want to be?	28
1. Introduction	6	Understanding our local waste management systems	17	What the community has told us.....	29
Why do we need a waste plan?.....	7	Our current waste system performance	18	Strategic framework – Our plan for 2026 – 2032.....	30
Strategy for Whanganui	8	Where our waste comes from	19	Targets	31
Working with Mana Whenua	10	What our waste is made of.....	20	4. Funding the plan	32
Te Awa Tupua	11	What happens to our waste?.....	21	How much does managing our waste cost?	33
Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika	13	What is working well?	22	5. How are we going to get there?	34
Circular systems	14	What needs improving?	23	Action plan	35
		Emissions from waste	24	Funding the plan	39
		What does this all mean for our community?	24	6. Monitoring, evaluating and reporting progress.....	48
		Challenges and opportunities.....	25	Evaluation and review of this plan	49
		What is the council's role?	26	Monitoring and reporting	49
		What does this waste plan mean for you? ...	27	Measuring progress	49

Waste Plan at a glance

Whanganui's draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan sets out what the council proposes to do over the next six years to reduce waste, recover more useful material and responsibly manage any waste that's unavoidable.

Our vision is for waste minimisation to become a natural part of everyday life in Whanganui



Where we are now

46,300

tonnes of waste is generated each year in our district

23%

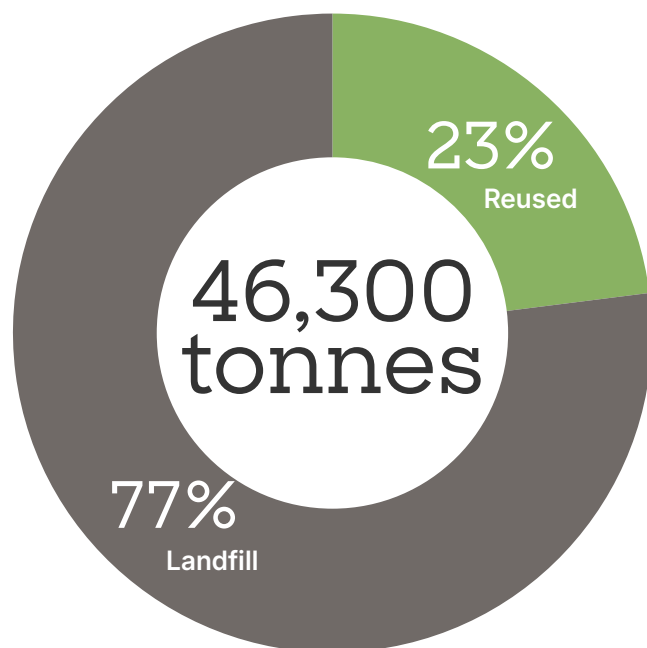
is reused, repurposed, recycled or composted

77%

of it goes to landfill

724kg

is sent to landfill each year per person (37% higher than national average)



We're proposing four key actions

1. Kerbside rubbish and food/garden waste collections

Providing households with a rates-funded kerbside rubbish collection, rather than relying on private operators, could reduce waste costs for many households while giving the council greater ability to manage the district's waste system and understand how effective our plan is.

Introducing a food/garden waste collection is our biggest opportunity to reduce household waste to landfill, while also reducing the methane emissions created when organic waste breaks down in landfill.

2. Resource Recovery Centre improvements

Developing a fit-for-purpose and future-proofed Resource Recovery Centre, with a key focus on construction and demolition waste, could provide more options for recovering and reusing materials that currently go to landfill.

Construction and demolition materials make up a significant proportion of Whanganui's landfill waste, even though materials such as timber and plasterboard can often be recycled or reused. An expanded centre could also bring more recycling, reuse and waste services together in one place.

3. Rural waste services review

Reviewing rural waste services could identify practical ways to improve access to recycling and responsible waste disposal for rural communities.

Providing better rural access to waste services could also help reduce inappropriate disposal practices, including dumping and burning waste.

4. Help businesses and events reduce waste

Providing businesses and event organisers with more practical support could help reduce waste and improve reuse and recycling.

This could include clearer information and guidance, targeted support for different sectors, and better waste planning support for events, as well as work to encourage innovation and new businesses in Whanganui.



1. Introduction

A good waste system makes it easier for households, businesses and organisations to reuse, repair, recycle, and recover materials – while ensuring unavoidable waste is managed responsibly.

To help achieve this, councils across New Zealand are required to have a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan – and review it every six years.

Since Whanganui's last Waste Plan was adopted in 2021, we've made solid progress. The council has introduced kerbside recycling, taken on operation of the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre and established a Solid Waste Bylaw.

Even so, Whanganui still sends significantly more waste to landfill per person than the national average.

Organic material (like food and garden waste) makes up almost half of our household rubbish – and following the 2025 decision to cancel plans for a kerbside food scraps service, finding an affordable and practical alternative remains a key challenge.

This Plan sets out the direction for Whanganui's waste services and investment from 2027 to 2032.

Its four key actions are:

- Assessing and, if feasible, introducing council-provided kerbside rubbish and organics collections.
- Planning improvements to the Resource Recovery Centre, focusing on construction and demolition waste.
- Reviewing rural waste services and recycling access.
- Helping businesses and event organisers reduce waste.

Together, these actions aim to give people practical ways to reduce what they throw away and make waste minimisation a natural part of everyday life in Whanganui.

Figure 1.1:

Factors influencing waste management planning for Whanganui

Why do we need a waste plan?

We need a waste plan because effective waste management does not happen by chance. It requires clear direction, long-term planning, investment, and collective action.

The Plan guides the council's decision-making over the next six years by identifying the priorities, actions and partnerships needed to improve waste outcomes for Whanganui. It also looks beyond 2033 so that the systems, relationships and services established now can support a more resilient, affordable and circular approach to waste in the future.

Councils are required to develop their Waste Plan in accordance with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. Without such a plan, the council would be unable to receive its allocation of waste disposal levy revenue (landfill fees) from central government.

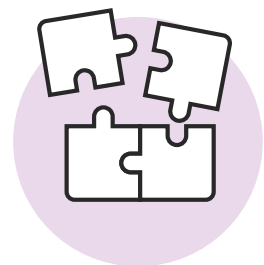
The Plan also sets out how the council intends to fund activities (including our use of waste disposal levy revenue) – and helps inform the council's Long-Term Plans and Annual Plans.

Strategic context

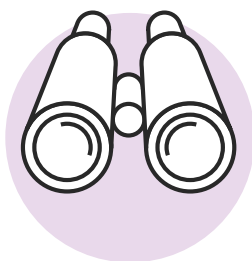
Whanganui's approach to waste is shaped by national policy and local priorities. At a national level, waste policy settings are changing – creating some uncertainty for local planning.

The government's Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy sets national priorities for reducing waste, increasing reuse and recycling, limiting environmental harm and addressing contaminated sites. Legislative changes may also affect the council's waste responsibilities and funding.

These changes will impact the council's approach to organic waste, regional infrastructure and partnership with mana whenua, as well as how waste levy funding can be used.



Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy



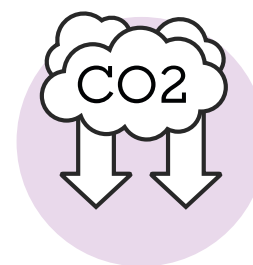
Council's Long Term Plan Visions



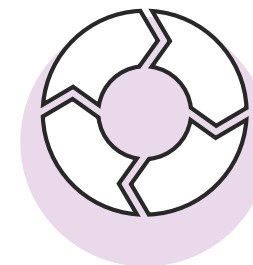
Strategy for Whanganui – Rautaki mō Whanganui



Te Ao Māori



Emissions reduction



Circular systems



Strategy for Whanganui

Designed with the voices and aspirations of Whanganui people, the Strategy for Whanganui – Rautaki mō Whanganui sets five enduring goals: Grow (Whakatupu), Build (Waihanga), Protect (Whakamānawa), Activate (Whakakorikori), and Celebrate (Whakanuia) Whanganui (Figure 1.2). This waste plan supports all five goals by improving how resources are used, recovered and managed across the district.

Grow / Whakatupu: The Plan supports local economic growth by encouraging waste minimisation, reuse, repair, recovery and recycling activity, and by working with businesses, community organisations and the recovery sector to identify new opportunities and attract new businesses and innovators to Whanganui.

Build / Waihanga: The Plan supports fit-for-purpose, affordable, safe and accessible waste infrastructure and services. This includes improving access to recycling and recovery services, planning for future infrastructure needs, and ensuring waste systems are resilient enough to support a growing and changing district.

Protect / Whakamānawa: The Plan directly supports the protection of Whanganui's environment, whenua (land), waterways and climate by increasing diversion from landfill, reducing waste-related emissions, addressing illegal dumping and unsafe disposal practices, and improving the recovery of priority materials such as organics and construction and demolition waste.

Activate / Whakakorikori: The Plan supports an active and connected community by making waste services easier to access and understand, strengthening education and behaviour change programmes, and enabling households, mana whenua, businesses, rural communities, marae, schools and community groups to take practical action.

Celebrate / Whakanuia: The Plan supports pride in Whanganui by recognising local leadership, partnerships and community initiatives that reduce waste and protect the places people value. It helps celebrate a district where people work together to care for resources, the environment and future generations.

Whakatipu Grow

Grow Whanganui by investing in our district and people, providing local economic opportunities and raising our quality of life

Whakamānawa Protect

Protect and treasure Te Awa Tupua o Whanganui and our unique Environment

Whakanuia Celebrate

Celebrate our cultures, histories, arts and heritage

Waihanga Build

Build and invest in core infrastructure and housing options for the community

Whakakorikori Activate

Activate the town centre, neighbourhoods and public places, so that they are lively, accessible, safe and well used.

Figure 1.2:
Strategy for Whanganui's five goals

Working with Mana Whenua

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the foundation of Whanganui District Council's relationships and responsibilities with iwi and hapū in relation to waste management and minimisation. In keeping with its responsibilities as Te Tiriti partners, the council will work with iwi and hapū to ensure that Te Ao Māori, mātauranga Māori, tikanga and mana whenua aspirations inform the planning, design and implementation of waste management and minimisation activities.

This Plan has at its heart a responsibility to te taiao, the natural environment, that surrounds and sustains us. It recognises the interconnectedness of whenua (land), wai (water), and the health and wellbeing of all living things, and the need to protect and strengthen these relationships through how waste is prevented, reduced, reused, recovered and managed.





Te Awa Tupua

The Plan gives effect to the Te Awa Tupua framework of Te Pā Auroa by recognising the Whanganui River as a living and indivisible whole from the Kāhui Maunga to the moana, and recognising the importance of protecting and restoring the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua through effective waste management and minimisation.

This Plan recognises Tupua Te Kawa, the four intrinsic values set out in the Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017, which provide a foundation for Te Heke Ngahuru ki Te Awa Tupua, the whole-of-catchment strategy developed through Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua. This Plan uses Tupua te Kawa as a framework for shaping how waste management and minimisation is understood, planned and undertaken across the Whanganui catchment:

- **Ko te Awa te mātāpuna o te ora (the river is the source of spiritual and physical sustenance).**
This guides our commitment to prevent waste and contaminants from entering the whenua (land) and waterways, recognising that waste management decisions can affect the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua and the communities and ecosystems that depend on it. This includes reducing waste at source, preventing illegal dumping and inappropriate disposal, managing contaminated land, and supporting systems and behaviours that protect the health and wellbeing of the catchment.

- **E rere kau mai te Awa nui mai, te Kahui Maunga ki Tangaroa (the great river flows from the mountains to the sea).**

This guides a whole of catchment approach, recognising that waste and its impacts do not stop at administrative boundaries. It requires coordinated action across the catchment, including with iwi, hapū, neighbouring councils, communities, businesses and other organisations whose activating influence the health of Te Awa Tupua.

- **Ko au te Awa, ko Awa ko au (I am the river and the river is me).**

This reinforces the reciprocal relationship between people and Te Awa Tupua, recognising that the health of the river and the health and wellbeing of people are interconnected. It therefore supports approaches that enable people, communities, businesses and organisations to take responsibility for the waste they create and the effects of their actions on the wider catchment.

- **Ngā manga iti, ngā manga nui e honohono kau ana, ka tupu hei Awa Tupua (the small and large streams that flow into one another form one river).**

This reinforces that the health of Te Awa Tupua is dependent on the cumulative contribution of many places, communities and actions throughout the catchment. It supports a collective approach in which iwi, hapū, councils, communities, businesses and other organisations each contribute to preventing and reducing waste and protecting the health and wellbeing of the catchment.

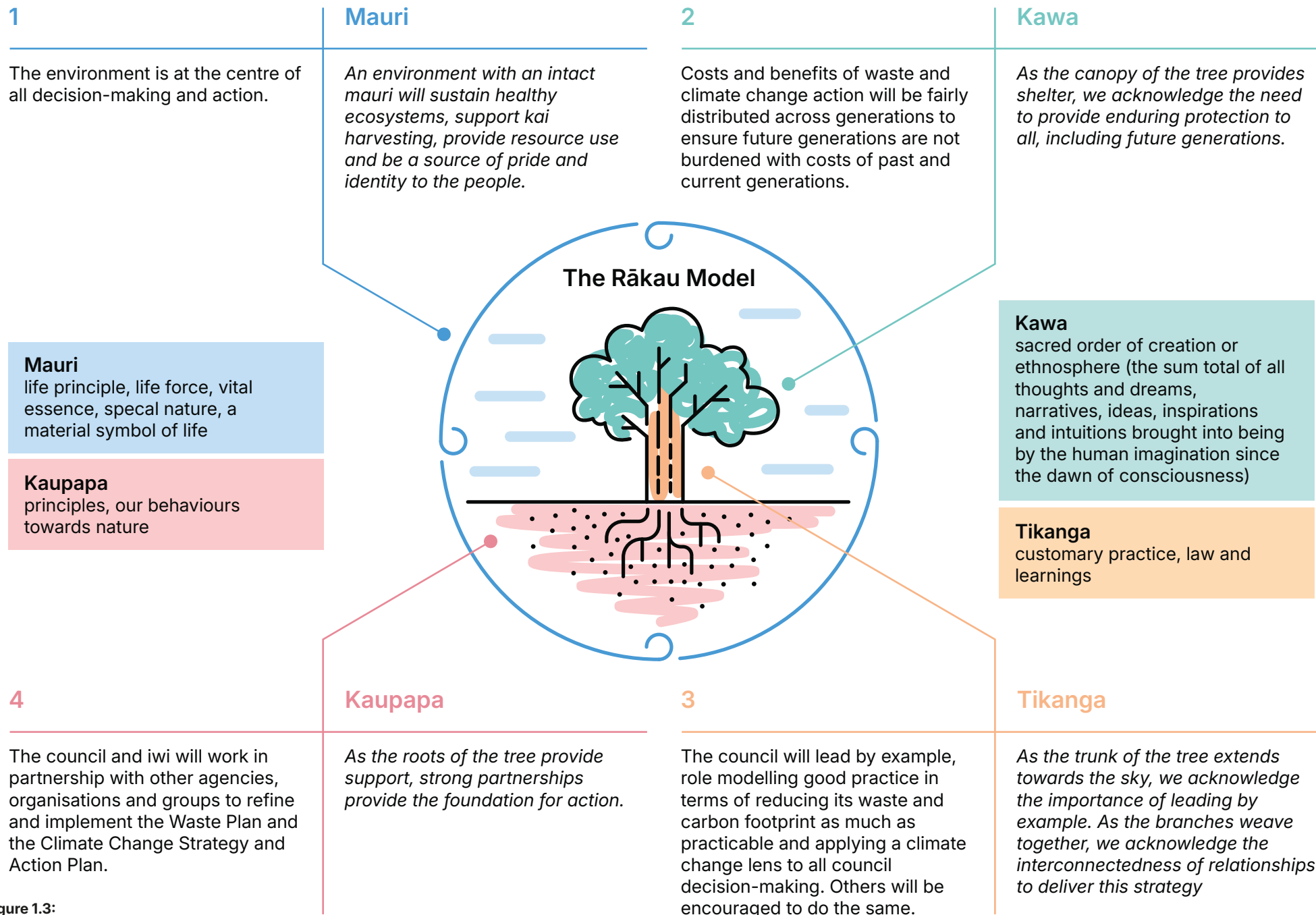


Figure 1.3:
The Rakau Model

Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika

This Plan also recognises Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika – the Whangaehu River and its catchment, as a living and indivisible whole under the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019 – reflecting the mana whenua interests of Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa in the lower Whangaehu catchment, which encompasses the Whanganui district's rural and coastal margins. This Plan has regard to the Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika principles as follows:

- **Ko te Kāhui Maunga te mātāpuna (the sacred mountain clan, the source of Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika, the source of life).**

This guides our rural and farm waste actions and how we support communities with waste minimisation, and preventing harm to the whenua and waterways.

- **He wai-ariki-rangi, he wai-ariki-nuku, tuku iho, tuku iho (An interconnected whole; a river revered and valued from generation down to generation).**

We work with our partners throughout the region to ensure a future proofed and innovative waste management and minimisation system for Whanganui, recognising that the Whangaehu catchment crosses district boundaries.

- **Ko ngā wai tiehu ki ngā wai, riki, tuku iho tai hei waiū, hei wai tōtā e (Living, nurturing waters, providing potency to the land and its people from source to tributary to ocean).**

Ensuring we protect catchments and coastal areas from litter and illegal dumping and reduce waste to landfill.

- **Kia hui mai ngā kōrero o ngā wai, kia hua mai te wai ora e (The latent potential of Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika, the latent potential of its hapū and iwi).**

This guides the council's continued partnership with Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa alongside mana whenua more broadly.

To reflect these values, the 2021 Plan introduced the Rākau Model (Figure 1.3), a framework unique to Whanganui that brings together te ao Māori and Western perspectives on waste management and climate action. The model still holds relevance and places the environment at the centre of decision-making and is grounded in four interconnected concepts:

Together, these concepts provide a holistic framework for managing waste, supporting environmental stewardship, and strengthening connections between people, place, and future generations.



Circular systems

A key focus of this Plan is shifting from a linear 'take-make-waste' model (Figure 1.4) to a circular approach (Figure 1.5). In a linear system, resources are extracted, made into products, used, and then disposed of. A circular system seeks to keep products and materials in use for as long as possible through better design, reuse, repair, repurposing and recycling. This reduces waste and avoids the loss of valuable resources to disposal.

The waste hierarchy (Figure 1.6) shows the preferred order of actions:

- **Reduce, rethink and redesign:** Use fewer resources, avoid unnecessary products and packaging, and design products to last longer and create less waste.
- **Reuse, repair and repurpose:** Use products again, fix them when they break, or find a new use for them. This keeps products and materials in use for longer.
- **Recycle and compost:** Process materials into new products, or turn organic waste such as food and garden waste into compost or soil products.
- **Recover value:** Get useful energy or other benefits from waste that cannot be reused or recycled. This is different from recycling, which uses the material to make new products.
- **Dispose:** Safely manage waste that cannot be dealt with in any other way.

The hierarchy recognises that recycling, composting, and value recovery (i.e. generating energy from waste) remain important parts of the waste system. However, preventing waste and keeping products in use should be the priority. Safely treating or disposing of materials should be a last resort, when there is no other option available.



Figure 1.4:
Take, make and waste, linear system

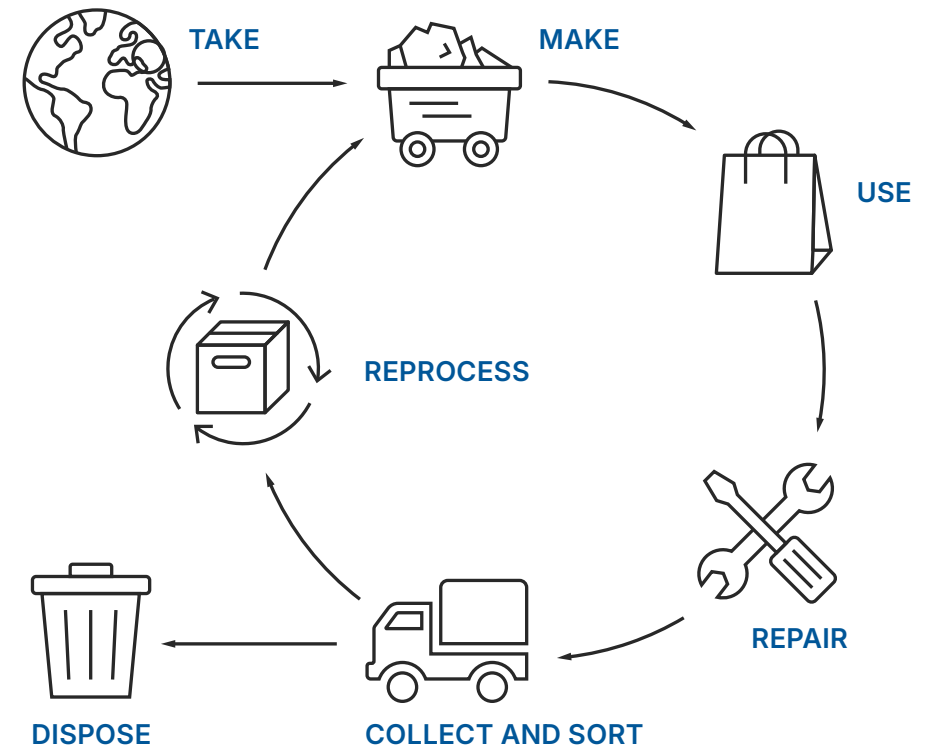


Figure 1.5:
Circular system

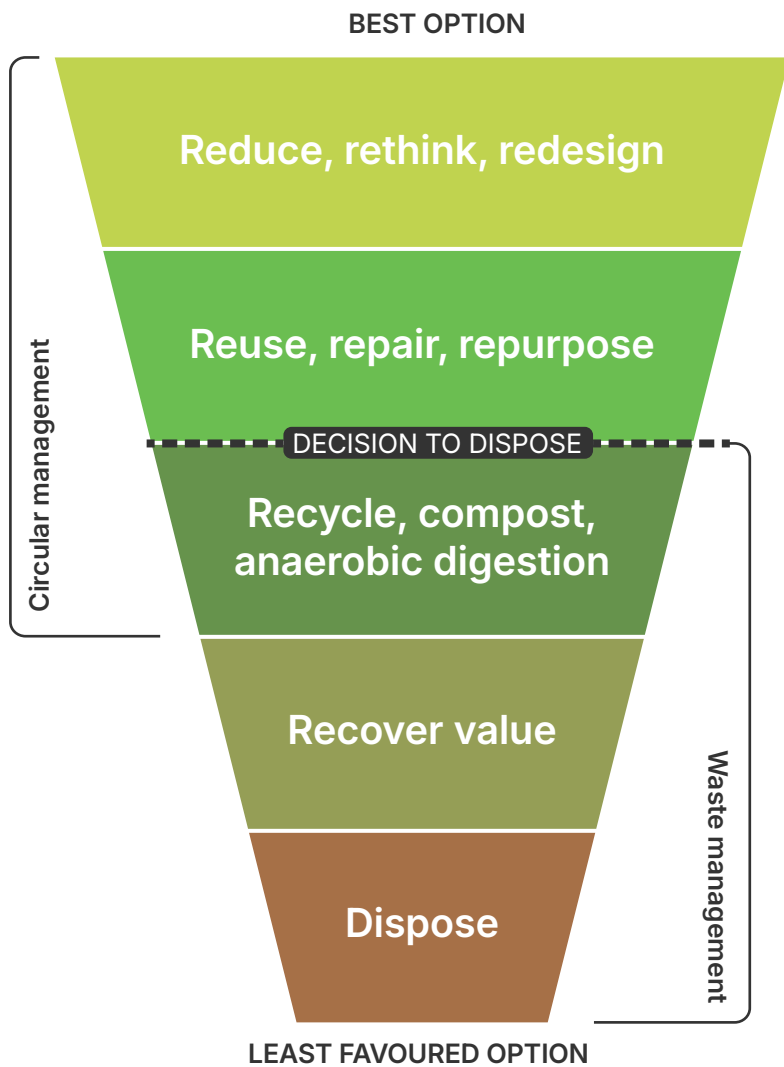


Figure 1.6:
Waste hierarchy (Adapted from Ministry for the Environment, 2023)

2. Where are we now?



Understanding our local waste management systems

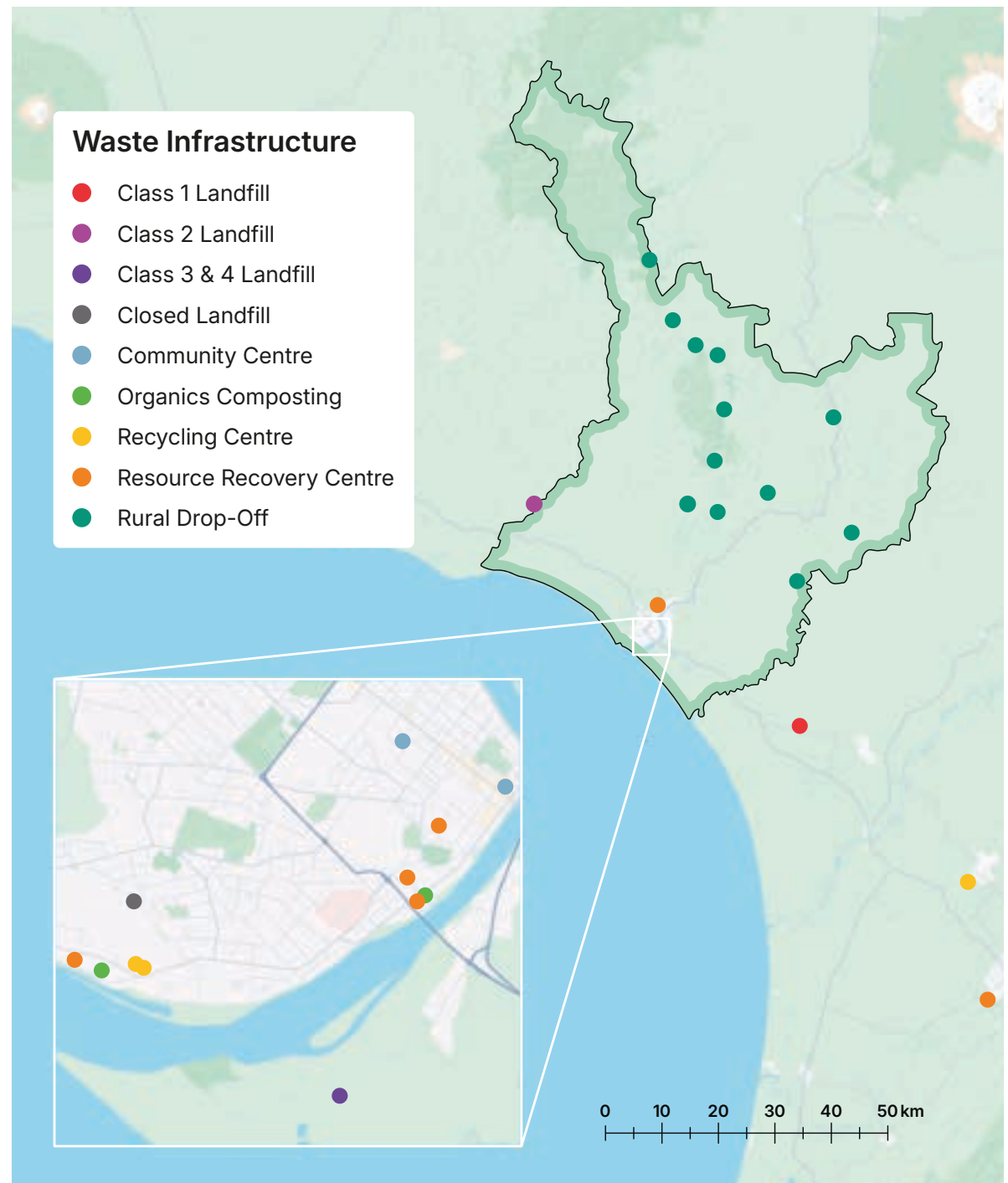
This section provides a snapshot of where Whanganui's waste comes from, what it contains and how it is managed. More detailed information is available in the Waste Assessment.

Waste services are provided by the council, private companies and not-for-profit organisations. Together, these include kerbside rubbish and recycling collections, transfer stations, rural rubbish drop-off sites, the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre and specialist recovery services. Whanganui also has a strong reuse and second-hand goods sector.

The council provides household kerbside recycling, rural rubbish drop-off points, the Resource Recovery Centre and waste minimisation education.

Figure 2.1 shows the waste facilities and services available within Whanganui and neighbouring districts. Because we have limited processing infrastructure locally, some materials – including common household recyclables – must be sent further afield.

Figure 2.1: Waste services and infrastructure available in Whanganui and neighbouring districts



Our current waste system performance

In 2024/25, Whanganui generated approximately 46,300 tonnes of waste.

Around 23% of this (10,600 tonnes) was recovered through reuse, recycling or composting – while approximately 77% of this (35,700 tonnes) was sent to landfill.

This is equivalent to 985 kilograms of waste for every resident annually, of which 724 kilograms is sent to landfill (around 33 wheelie bins full of waste per person per year).

When we compare this to New Zealand's national average (530 kilograms per person of landfill waste), our district produces significantly more waste (Figure 2.2).

Population and economic growth will place further pressure on our waste services unless we reduce waste and recover more of materials we use.

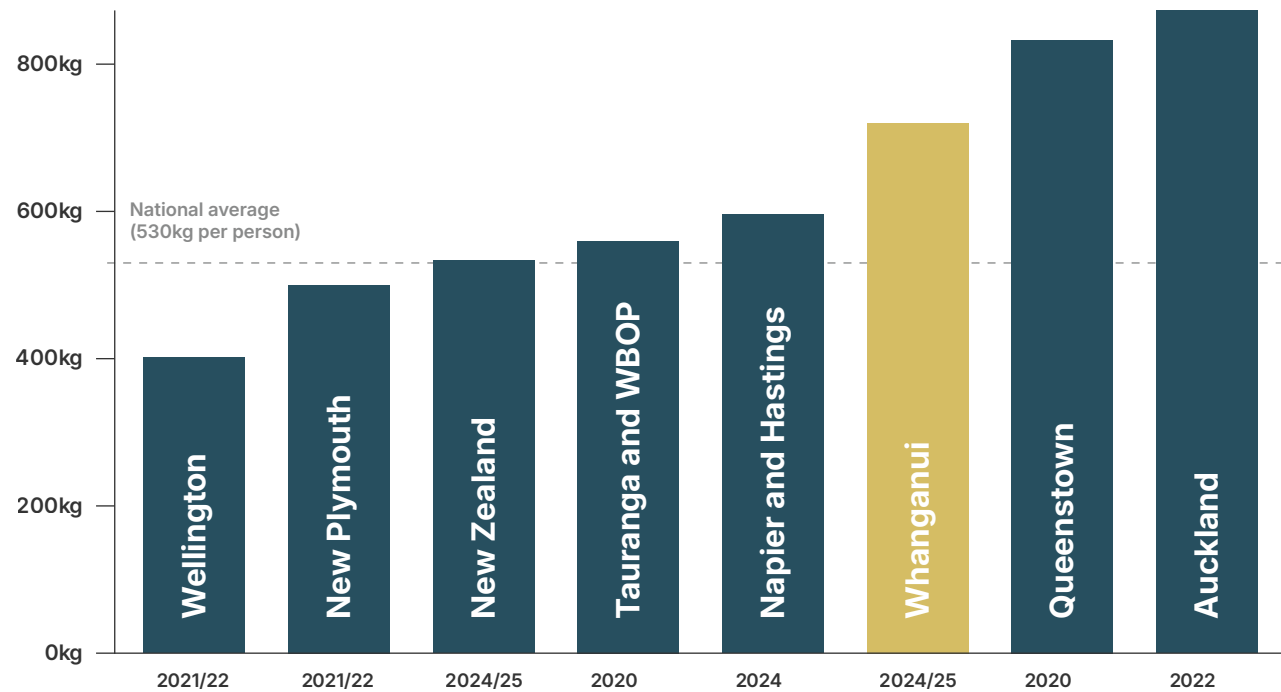


Figure 2.2: Annual landfill waste per person to landfill for selected councils



Where our waste comes from

Waste is generated from our homes, local businesses and larger industrial activities (Figure 2.3). Each source produces different materials and requires different approaches to prevention, reuse, recycling and safe disposal.

Residential – Waste from households throughout urban and rural Whanganui. It includes everyday rubbish and recycling, food scraps, garden waste, packaging, sanitary products, furniture, appliances and household hazardous waste. Residents use kerbside collections, rural drop-off points and local resource recovery facilities.

Businesses – Waste from shops, cafés, restaurants, offices, accommodation providers and other small-to-medium workplaces. Common materials include cardboard, paper, food scraps, glass, plastics, packaging and general rubbish. Businesses generally arrange private collections or take materials directly to transfer stations and resource recovery centres.

Industrial – Waste from larger-scale activities such as construction and demolition, manufacturing, infrastructure projects and commercial primary-sector operations is considered industrial waste. It can include timber, concrete and rubble, plasterboard, metals, soil, packaging, process residues and hazardous or specialised materials. These activities can generate large volumes of waste but also provide significant opportunities to separate materials for reuse and recycling.

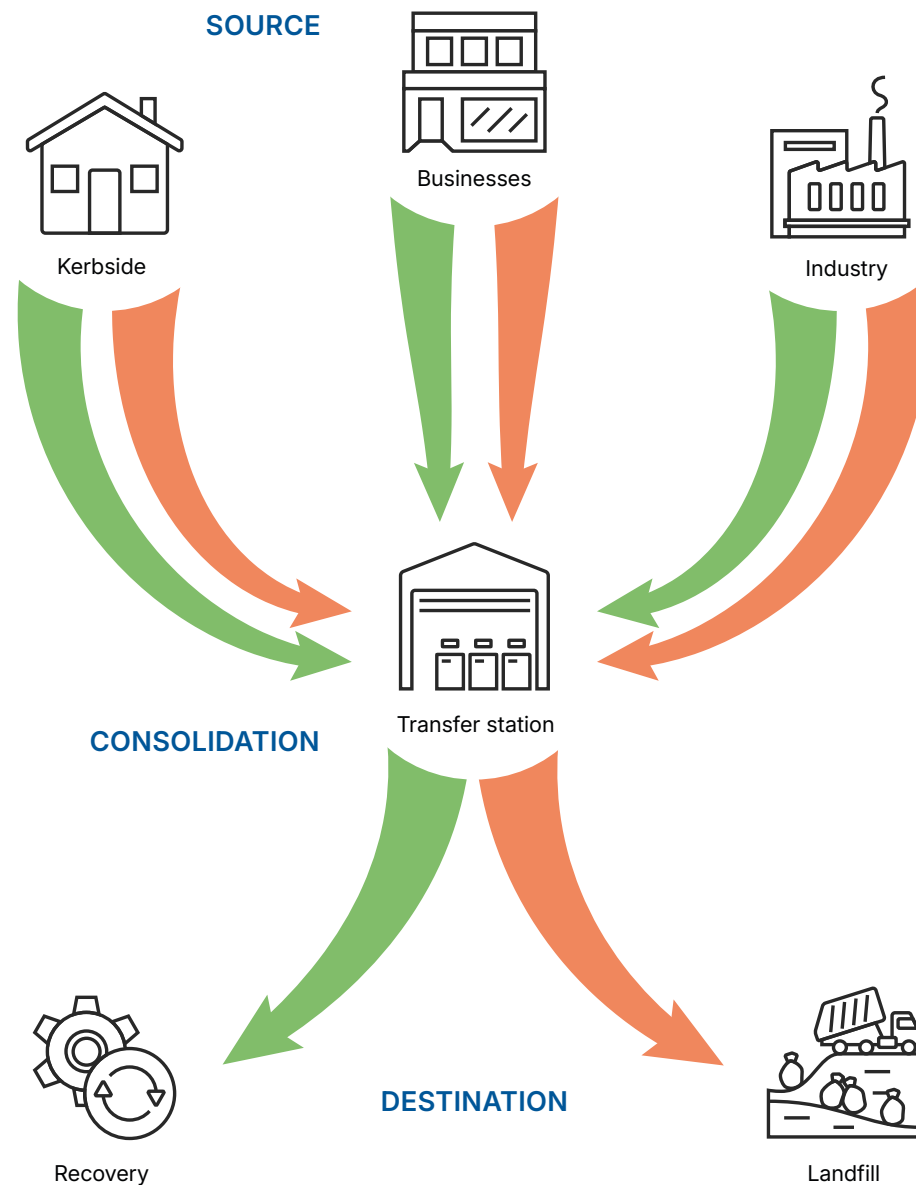


Figure 2.3: Whanganui waste material flows from source to destination

ORGANICS/RECYCLABLES
GENERAL WASTE

What our waste is made of

Waste audits show that much of Whanganui's rubbish still contains materials that could be composted, reused or recycled. The composition differs between household kerbside bins and rubbish delivered to transfer stations.

Organic material is the largest component of household rubbish bins, accounting for 48% of the total. This includes food scraps, garden waste and other compostable material (Figure 2.4).

Based on this, diverting organic waste offers the greatest opportunity to reduce the amount of household rubbish sent to landfill. Current estimates suggest that only 7% of organic material is captured through our resource recovery services.

By comparison, approximately 80% of glass and 50% of mixed recyclable material are captured through our current services. Expanding food scraps and garden waste services, alongside continued education about correct recycling, could therefore substantially reduce kerbside rubbish.

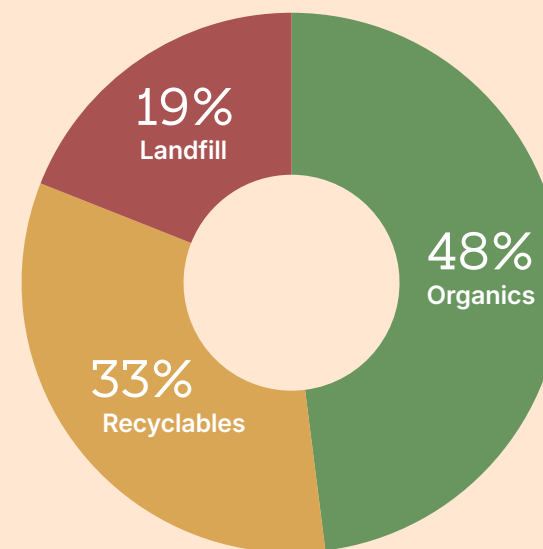
Rubbish disposed of at Whanganui's transfer stations has a different composition (Figure 2.4). Organic waste and recyclable material make up most of the landfill waste (85%). Recyclable materials currently going to landfill include timber, paper, cardboard and metals.

Much of the rubbish entering Whanganui's transfer stations could be recycled or repurposed. However, current estimates suggest only 43% of glass, 33% of paper and cardboard, 33% of garden waste, 15% of cans and steel, 12% of plastics are being diverted from landfill.

Overall, the composition of our waste sent to landfill highlights two priorities:

- Keeping organic material out of landfill and making it easier to separate reusable or recyclable timber, paper, metals, glass and plastics at transfer stations.
- Improved sorting facilities, clearer information and convenient recovery services could reduce disposal volumes, lower emissions and retain more material value within the district.

Kerbside rubbish bin composition



Transfer station composition

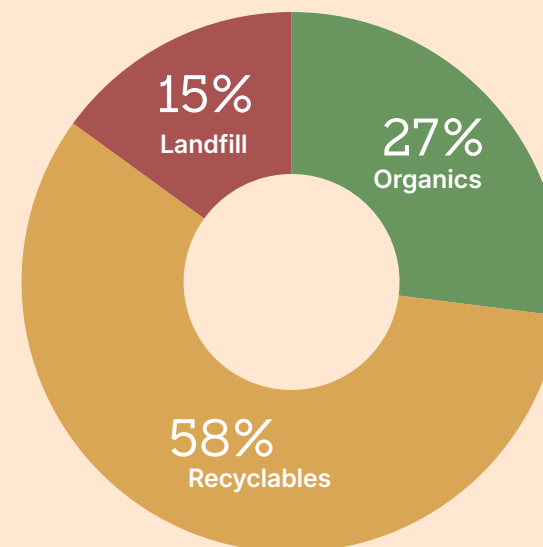


Figure 2.4: The composition of kerbside rubbish bins and transfer station rubbish

What happens to our waste?

Once waste is collected, what happens next depends on whether it has been separated for reuse, recovery or recycling.

Most of the waste generated in Whanganui is sent out of district to be managed.

Materials separated correctly for recycling are sorted and consolidated locally, before being sold to recycling end markets in New Zealand or overseas.

Glass is sent to Auckland, where it is recycled into new bottles and jars.

Paper and cardboard is baled locally and sent to the best available market (currently overseas

following the closure of New Zealand’s paper-recycling mills).

Plastics numbered 1, 2 and 5, along with tins and cans, are sent to a materials recovery facility in Wellington for further sorting before being sold to recycling markets in New Zealand or overseas.

Organic material, when separated, can be composted locally. However, most of Whanganui’s food and garden waste is currently sent to landfill.

Material that cannot be reused, recovered or recycled is disposed to landfill as general rubbish. Whanganui does not have an active landfill, so

most general rubbish is transported approximately 30 kilometres to Bonny Glen Landfill at Turakina, near Marton.

The amount of Whanganui’s waste sent to landfill has increased since the previous Plan but has remained relatively stable since 2022. In 2024/25, approximately 35,700 tonnes were landfilled (Figure 2.5). Approximately half of this material passed through local transfer stations, highlighting the important role these facilities can play in improving sorting and recovering more resources before disposal.

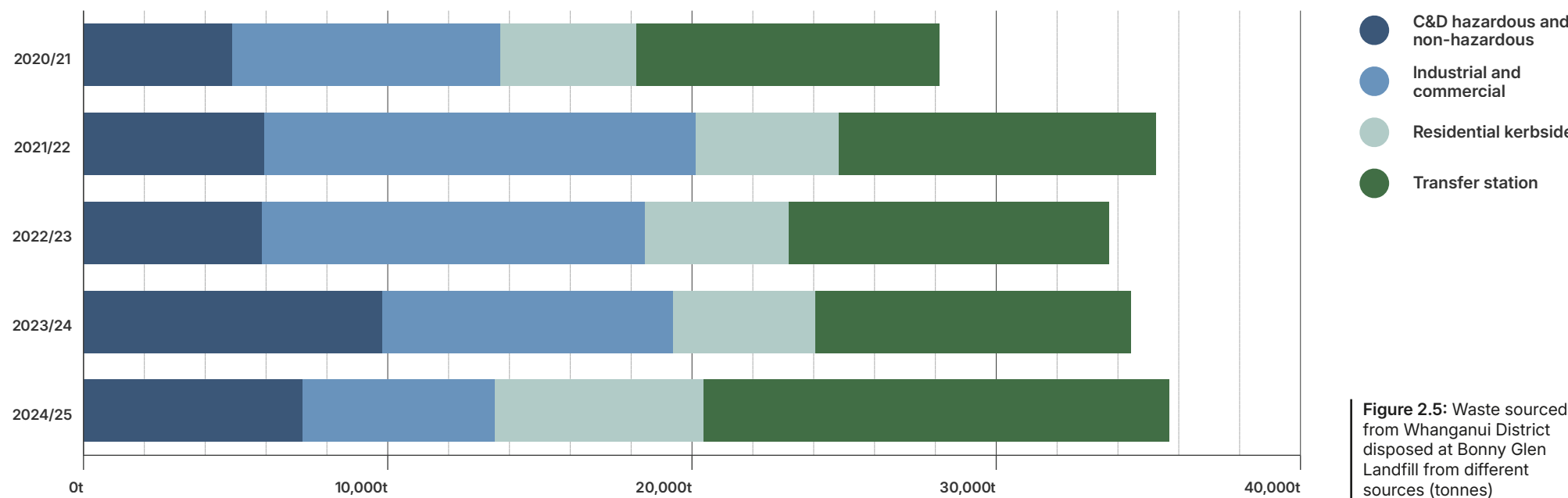


Figure 2.5: Waste sourced from Whanganui District disposed at Bonny Glen Landfill from different sources (tonnes)



What is working well?

Whanganui has a good foundation to build on. The introduction of the council kerbside recycling service has made recycling more accessible and increased the amount of material recovered. There is a high recycling rate for glass particularly through kerbside services.

Commercial recycling also makes a substantial contribution. When household and commercial recycling are considered together, Whanganui's recovery per person compares favourably with several similar districts (although there are in differences in how districts collect data).

The Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre provides residents with a central location for recycling and and recovery of specialist materials, supported by knowledgeable staff. And private waste companies provide a broad range of rubbish, recycling, organic and specialist collection services.

Local businesses and community groups also support circular systems through:

- Second-hand sales and donations
- Repair cafés and repair services
- Food rescue and redistribution
- Composting and green-waste processing
- Electronic waste, tyre, battery, soft-plastic and paint take-back services.

Community feedback indicates that people value the services available and want to reduce waste. There is strong support for improved recycling, more reuse and repair, practical education and action to address illegal dumping.

What needs improving?

Despite this progress, more than three-quarters of Whanganui's waste is still sent to landfill. Here's a rundown of some key opportunities to reduce what is disposed to landfill:

Organic waste is our largest household opportunity.

Almost half of the average kerbside rubbish bin consists of food scraps, garden waste and other organic material. Expanding affordable and practical options for home composting, community composting, garden waste and separate organic collections could substantially reduce landfill waste and methane emissions.

More construction material needs to be recovered.

Construction and demolition activity produces a large volume of waste, particularly timber. Better separation, deconstruction, reuse and recovery services could keep valuable building materials out of landfill.

Transfer stations need to capture more resources.

Whanganui's transfer stations are the largest source of waste that is sent to landfill (Figure 2.5), including some material that could be recycled, particularly organic waste, timber, metals and paper or cardboard.

Rural access to waste services.

Waste services include many rural rubbish drop-off points, but there is limited access to local recycling options for rural communities.

Illegal dumping is causing environmental and community harm.

Community feedback identified illegal dumping as the highest-priority waste issue. Better access to appropriate recovery and disposal options accompanied by education, reporting, monitoring and enforcement could reduce illegal dumping.

Some items remain difficult or expensive to manage.

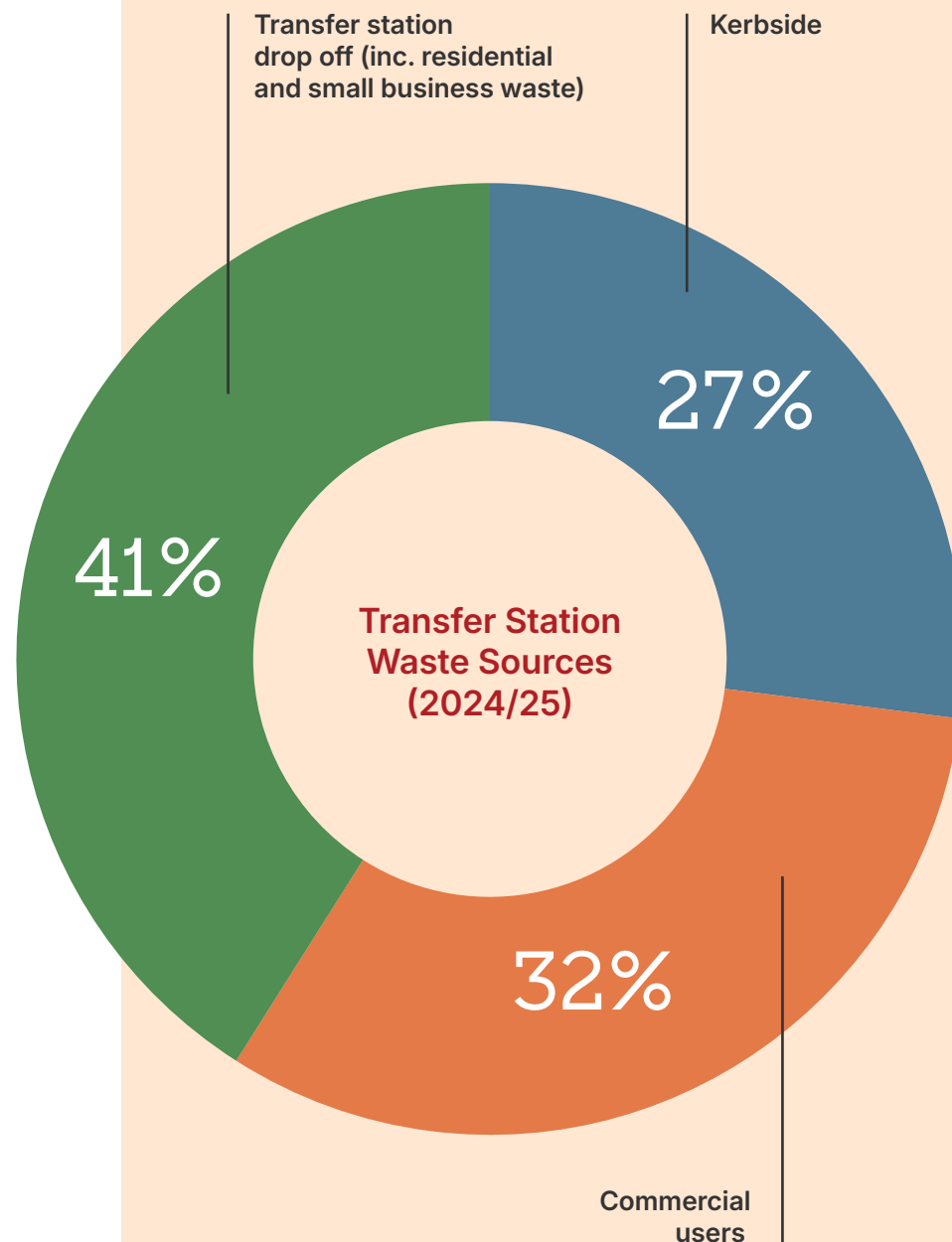
These include bulky household goods, hazardous waste, batteries, electronic waste, agricultural products and emerging materials such as end-of-life solar panels.

Limited local processing infrastructure and markets.

Sending materials outside the district increases costs, transport emissions and exposure to market disruption.

Incomplete data.

Better data, regional collaboration and investment will be needed to create a more resilient waste system.



| Figure 2.6: Whanganui transfer station waste sources

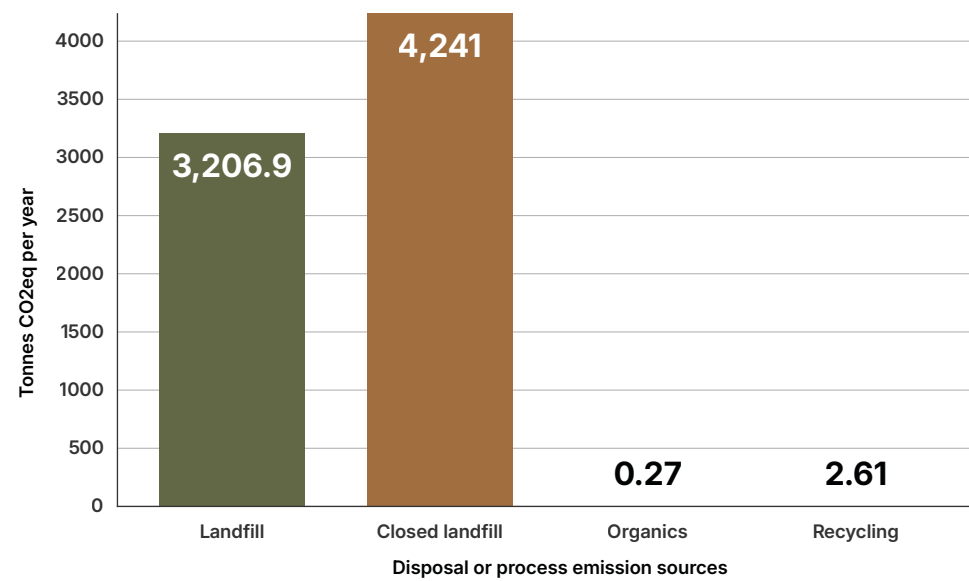
Emissions from waste

In Aotearoa, 4.5 per cent of our overall greenhouse gas emissions come from the waste we create. Most of these emissions from waste are biogenic methane that's produced when organic materials like food, paper and timber decompose without oxygen in the landfill.

Did you know that by reducing the amount of organic waste going to landfill, we can help to slow down climate change? Methane traps 80 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.

Waste-related greenhouse gas emissions in Whanganui are dominated by landfill disposal, including emissions from both Bonny Glen Landfill and the closed Balgownie Landfill. Emissions from recycling, organics processing, and transport of waste are comparatively very small (Figure 2.7). This highlights that diverting more material from landfill through increased recycling and organic waste recovery represents the greatest opportunity to reduce the district's waste-related carbon emissions.

Figure 2.7: Emissions from recovery of materials and disposal of waste to landfill in Whanganui (2024/25).

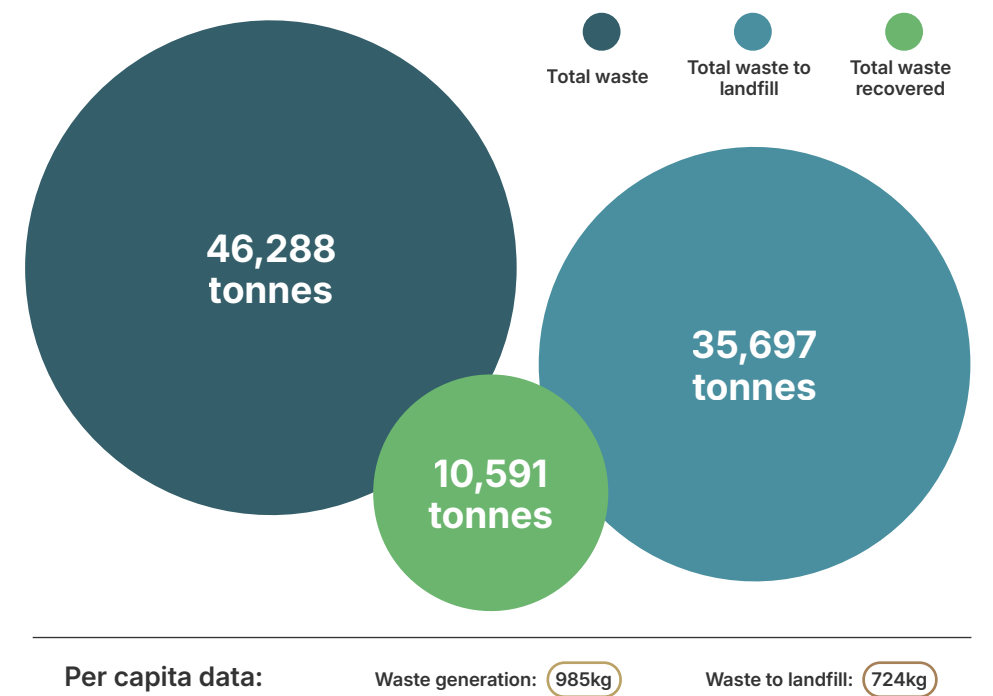


What does this all mean for our community?

While our recycling rates have improved, high quantities of waste continue to be disposed to landfill, particularly from commercial activity and transfer stations (Figure 2.5). Overall, only 23% of the waste we generate is recovered through reuse and recycling channels (Figure 2.8).

Without changes to the waste services currently provided, it's projected that population growth will increase the total amount of waste generated in Whanganui (even if the amount produced per person stays the same). This would put further pressure on waste services and infrastructure.

Fig 2.8: Annual Waste Generation Data for the Whanganui district 2024/25



Challenges and opportunities

Overall, the challenges facing Whanganui's waste system are significant – but so are the opportunities to recover more material and improve our services.

Challenges

- Keeping waste services and infrastructure affordable and accessible as the district grows.
- Limited local recycling infrastructure with most materials processed outside of Whanganui.
- Limited rural access to recycling services.
- Responding to changing waste streams, particularly construction and demolition waste, batteries, and end-of-life solar panels.
- Reducing waste-related emissions while ensuring infrastructure remains resilient.
- Preventing illegal dumping and safely managing difficult or bulky waste.

Opportunities

- Strengthening council's role as a leader in waste minimisation, providing clear direction and supporting partnerships and investment.
- Greater recovery of organic waste and construction and demolition materials.
- Collaborating regionally on shared waste infrastructure to improve efficiency, capacity, and long-term resilience.
- Better waste data to plan smarter, identify gaps, measure performance, and guide investment.
- Explore emerging technologies to increase recovery, reduce emissions, and create higher-value products from waste.
- More effective use of the Solid Waste Bylaw to improve event waste planning, strengthen compliance and collect better data, including on construction waste.
- Exploring the use of waste to energy technology in collaboration with partners².

² This terminology captures a wide range of approaches and technology. Examples include use of specific material streams as fuel (e.g. tyres or treated timber in cement manufacturing), anaerobic digestion of organic materials (sewage solids, food waste), combustion of mixed waste (not implemented in New Zealand).



What is the council's role?

Historically, the council has not delivered many core waste services, leaving this to private waste operators.

While this has enabled a strong private sector for general waste services, it has also resulted in limited progress on reducing the amount of material going to landfill.

The introduction of the kerbside recycling service by the council in 2024 has improved recovery, but more could be done.

This Plan considers where further council involvement could address service gaps, improve resource recovery or provide better value for the community.

This does not necessarily mean delivering every service directly. Depending on the need, the council could act as a service provider, regulator, funder, partner, educator or advocate.

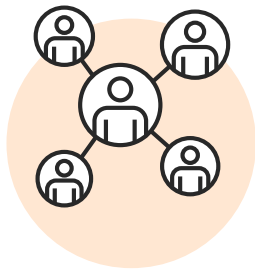
The council's role in waste includes:

- Providing or supporting affordable and accessible waste and resource recovery services.
- Planning and enabling investment and innovation in infrastructure.
- Working in partnership with mana whenua, industry, community groups and neighbouring councils to develop coordinated and practical solutions.

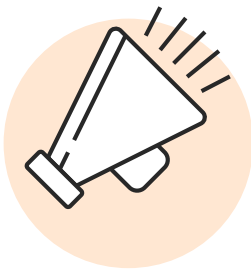
- Providing clear information and practical waste minimisation education to the community.
- Advocating to central government for measures that support waste minimisation, including product stewardship.
- Using policy, regulation, data and monitoring to guide decisions, improve performance and ensure services are delivered consistently and responsibly.

These roles align with the national Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy and are shown in Figure 2.9.

| Figure 2.9: The council's role in meeting its waste management and minimisation requirements



Collaborator / connector



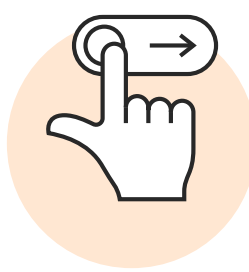
Promoter



Service provider



Regulator



Enabler



Advisor

What does this waste plan mean for you?

Achieving the Plan's goals will require shared action across our community. Table 2.1 outlines what different groups can expect from the council and how each can contribute.

Some initiatives will require further consultation, feasibility work, funding and formal approval before they can proceed.

	What you can expect	How you can help
Residents	• Clear information about waste services and infrastructure. • Continued and improved access to kerbside services, rural waste services and resource recovery facilities. • More opportunities for reuse, repair, and recovery initiatives • Action to reduce illegal dumping and protect public places and waterways.	• Reduce consumption and avoid unnecessary packaging where possible. • Reuse, repair, donate or share items before throwing them away. • Sort materials correctly and use appropriate waste services. • Compost food and garden waste when possible. • Report illegal dumping to the council using Antenno and provide feedback on our services.
Community groups and not-for-profit organisations	• Support for reuse, repair, food rescue and recovery initiatives. • Access to educational resources and potential Waste Minimisation Funding. • Opportunities to work with council, mana whenua, businesses and other organisations on waste minimisation initiatives.	• Deliver local education, reuse, repair, food rescue, composting, clean-up or recovery initiatives. • Share local knowledge and identify service gaps or community needs. • Work with council, mana whenua and businesses to develop practical solutions.
Mana whenua	• Meaningful participation in waste planning and decision making. • Strengthened ongoing relationships with council. • Recognition of mātauranga Māori, tikanga, mauri, Te Awa Tupua and wider environmental and cultural priorities in waste planning. • Opportunities to explore mana whenua-led or co-designed initiatives, with information or funding support where appropriate and agreed.	• Share priorities, mātauranga, tikanga and local knowledge. • Help us co-design services, infrastructure, education and engagement approaches. • Identify opportunities for marae-, iwi- or hapū-led solutions. • Contribute to our consultation and ongoing review of the Plan.
Businesses and industry	• Clear information about waste requirements, product stewardship and disposal options. • Opportunities to work with council and other sectors to identify shared services, infrastructure, recovery trials and local markets for recovered materials. • Advice on compliance, event waste planning, resource recovery and practical ways to reduce waste.	• Reduce waste through better procurement, product design, reuse, repair, deconstruction and food waste prevention. • Separate materials correctly and use approved collection, recycling and disposal services. • Share waste data and knowledge with council and other businesses. • Participate in workshops, networks, recovery trials and product stewardship initiatives. • Dispose of waste responsibly and promote good waste practices among staff, suppliers and customers.

Table 2.1: How different stakeholders relate to the Plan

3. Where do we want to be?

In developing this Plan, we asked people from across our community what they wanted Whanganui's waste system to look like. Their feedback helped shape the vision, goals and actions that follow.



What the community has told us

We heard from the community through a public survey, a series of targeted stakeholder sessions – and engagement with mana whenua. (Figure 3.1).



802 survey responses



7 workshops with businesses, community organisations and mana whenua



5 hui with local iwi



3 interviews and 1 workshop with local waste contractors



3 workshops with elected members

What we heard:

- **Affordability and access**
The cost and accessibility of waste services were the most consistently raised concerns across all groups. Feedback focused on transfer station fees, private collection costs and value for money from rates – as well as access for rural communities, older residents and people with disabilities.
- **Local solutions and local benefits**
Mana whenua emphasised the importance of local solutions that create employment and economic opportunities – particularly for rural communities and marae. There was also a clear expectation that waste planning should reflect the values of Te Awa Tupua and Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika.
- **Recycling system improvements**
The crate-based recycling system attracted significant feedback, including crates being difficult to carry and issues with wind. We also heard feedback that recycling collections could be extended to businesses and community organisations.
- **Illegal dumping**
A persistent issue for residents, community organisations, and the construction sector. Views differed on the role of education, with many participants calling for stronger enforcement and easier ways to report dumping.
- **Limited local processing infrastructure**
Contractors and neighbouring councils highlighted Whanganui's reliance on facilities and markets outside the district (sometimes overseas).

- **Construction and demolition waste and organics**
Raised across multiple groups as a significant gap in the district, with construction waste having no local recovery pathway, and minimal organic waste processing services.
- **Historic and difficult waste**
Mana whenua raised legacy contamination and asbestos on Māori land; businesses and residents raised hazardous waste and bulky items.

This feedback informed the following priorities in the Plan:

- A fit-for-purpose resource recovery centre, with a focus on construction and demolition waste and expanded community facilities.
- Extending kerbside recycling to small businesses and community organisations.
- A comprehensive review of rural services, prioritising recycling access and measures to reduce illegal dumping.
- Stronger action on illegal dumping through bylaw updates, meaningful enforcement, and community reporting tools.
- Advocacy to central government for stronger product stewardship and a container return scheme.
- Practical business support including clear information, waste audits, and targeted help for high-waste sectors like hospitality and construction.
- Investment in education and behaviour change starting in schools and kura – supported by incentives, not just information.

| Figure 3.1: Community engagement

Strategic framework – Our plan for 2027 – 2033

Community feedback, specialist advice and input from businesses, waste operators and mana whenua have helped shape the strategic framework that will guide waste management and minimisation in Whanganui. Its vision, goals and objectives are set out below.

Vision: Whanganui, where waste minimisation is second nature

Tools	Partnership	Environment
We have the right solutions to reduce waste.	We work together to keep resources in use and prevent waste generation.	We take pride in our environment and actively protect it.
Provide fit-for-purpose, affordable waste and resource recovery infrastructure that supports all communities.	Provide leadership through council policy, operations and advocacy.	Manage waste services and infrastructure to minimise harm and protect public health.
Improve access to information and data to support informed choices by the council and the community.	Collaborate to improve efficiency, resilience and shared waste outcomes.	Design resilient, future-ready waste systems and reduce waste related emissions.
Empower the community to reduce waste and improve resource recovery through education.	Invest in innovative technologies that improve waste reduction, reuse and recovery.	Promote sustainable, circular resource use through waste prevention to support environmental and community wellbeing.

Targets

The council has set three targets (Table 2) that will help to make sure we can measure progress towards the goals and objectives of this Plan.

	Baseline (2024)	Target (2033)
Waste generation: Reduce the amount of material entering the waste management system by 10 per cent per capita	702 kg/ capita/year	631 kg/capita/ year
Waste disposal: Reduce the amount of material that needs final disposal by 30 per cent per capita	621 kg/ capita/year	435 kg/ capita/year
Waste emissions: Reduce the biogenic methane emissions from waste by at least 30 per cent	31,358 t CO2e	21,950 t CO2e

Table 2: Proposed targets
Targets will be finalised in the final version of this plan, subject to consultation.



Photo: Peter Russell

4. Funding the plan



How much does managing our waste cost?

Council spending on waste management and minimisation is approved through Long Term Plans and Annual Plan processes. These activities are funded through a mix of rates, user fees, waste disposal levy revenue and external funding (Table 3).

The council's annual operating expenditure on waste management and minimisation is \$4.8M.

Kerbside recycling is partly funded by a targeted rate of \$161.30, including GST, for each eligible property. This amounts to an annual total of \$2.9M, with a further \$560,000 coming from the council's allocation of national waste disposal levy revenue.

Other council waste services, including the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre, are funded through a mix of general rates, user fees and waste levy revenue.

Any new actions in this Plan will proceed only where funding is available and any required feasibility work, consultation, and council approvals have been completed.

The estimated cost of proposed new actions in this Plan is approximately \$5.8m per year across 10 years.

Funding source	Description	Applied to waste activities, such as...
Targeted rates	Eligible properties pay rates to be provided specific services that benefit them.	• Kerbside recycling collection service. • Kerbside recycling processing
General rates	General rates fund a range of waste services and activities that benefit the wider district.	• Education and behaviour change programmes. • Household hazardous waste days • Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre • Removal of illegal dumping/litter collection. • Enforcement of Solid Waste bylaw 2024 and Litter Act. • Managing closed landfills.
Waste disposal levy allocation	The council receives an allocation of national waste disposal levy funds (from landfill fees), which must be used for waste minimisation activities set out in this Plan.	• Activities that contribute to waste minimisation outlined in this Plan.
User fees	Revenue generated from fees paid by people using council waste services, such as those at the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre.	• Services the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre provides, like garden waste processing.
Other funding	External funding such as • Central government funding (e.g., Climate Emergency Response Fund). • Contestable funds (Waste Minimisation Fund). • Co-funding from commercial sector or private organisations.	Major capital works projects, such as upgrades to waste infrastructure and assets. Currently government priorities for funding are for food & garden waste and construction & demolition processing waste.

Table 3: Funding sources for waste action plan

5. How are we going to get there?



Action plan

The action plan sets out what the council will do over the next six years, including where it will work with mana whenua and the wider community.

The actions respond to the key challenges and opportunities identified in this Plan and are grouped into five focus areas identified through the council's 2025 Waste Assessment (Figure 5.1).

Key actions include:

- Introducing a kerbside rubbish collection and a food/garden waste collection service to households in the kerbside collection area, subject to feasibility.
- Planning improvements to the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre, with a focus on construction and demolition waste.
- Reviewing rural waste services with a focus on waste minimisation and access to recycling.
- Providing more support to businesses and event organisers to reduce waste.

These are explained further in Table 4 to Table 8.



Accessible and affordable services



Improve reuse and recovery of materials



Innovation and partnership



Planning for the future



Reducing harm

| Figure 5.1: Key focus areas



| Table 4

Accessible and affordable services

What are we going to do?

Building on existing waste services and infrastructure, we will make the most of what we have and identify opportunities to increase access and affordability where there are gaps. This will involve:

- Increasing awareness through education programmes and initiatives.
- Reviewing the council's role in delivering kerbside services more cost effectively and where this will complement existing services.
- Improving access and recycling services for rural communities and marae.

Why are we doing it?

Maintaining affordable waste services in a tough economic climate, while still progressing towards our waste minimisation goals is challenging. We need to keep services affordable while adapting to rising costs, changing waste streams, and future needs.

Making the most of the waste services we have through better awareness and considering where council delivery of services might be more cost-effective and complementary to existing services is a key focus.

There is limited access to waste and recycling services in rural communities and marae, and concerns around the impact of illegal dumping.

| Table 5

Improve reuse and recovery of materials

What are we going to do?

Investigate and, where feasible, invest in improved infrastructure, services and education to improve waste minimisation activities like reuse and recycling. This will involve:

- Continuing to investigate and (if feasible) upgrade the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre to improve recovery of construction and demolition materials, and reuse and recycling opportunities.
- Review options for improving organic waste diversion with household and businesses.
- Support and promote business and event waste minimisation.

Why are we doing it?

To enable our community to make the best choices to minimise waste, our infrastructure and services must be fit for purpose and maximise reuse and recovery of the waste we create.

Focusing on organics and construction and demolition waste provides the greatest impact on both reducing waste to landfill and greenhouse emissions from waste.

| Table 6

Innovation and partnership

What are we going to do?

Work collaboratively with regional councils, industry, mana whenua, and national networks to share knowledge, coordinate on waste issues, and unlock new recovery opportunities. This will involve:

- Building relationships with the resource recovery sector to increase local material recovery.
- Regularly attending regional and national waste hui and forums to stay informed, contribute to national initiatives and identify opportunities to collaborate.
- Establishing a mana whenua waste working group to support ongoing partnership on waste planning and solutions.
- Collaborating with industry and community groups on recovery trials for difficult-to-manage materials such as textiles and timber.

Why are we doing it?

No single council can solve waste challenges alone. Collaboration across councils, iwi, industry, and government allows us to pool resources, share knowledge, and develop more effective and resilient solutions than we could achieve independently.

Working with mana whenua is essential to ensure waste planning reflects local te ao Māori values and priorities. Establishing a mana whenua waste working group will support an ongoing, meaningful partnership on waste planning and solutions.

Trialling recovery approaches for difficult materials in partnership with others will help identify solutions for waste streams that currently have no viable local option.

| Table 7

Planning for the future

What are we going to do?

Strengthen the data, policies, and infrastructure needed to plan smarter and build a more resilient and efficient waste system for Whanganui. This will involve:

- Updating the council procurement and asset management policies to prioritise waste minimisation outcomes.
- Improving collection of waste data within council and from commercial operators through the waste bylaw.
- Advocating to central government on waste policy.
- Working with neighbouring councils to review the regional resource recovery network, identify infrastructure gaps and future needs.
- Assessing the resilience of Whanganui's waste network to the impacts of climate change.

Why are we doing it?

Good decisions about waste infrastructure and services require reliable information. Better data from council services and commercial operators will help us target investment and measure progress.

The council can also lead by example by considering waste minimisation in its own procurement and asset management decisions.

Looking further ahead, our waste infrastructure must be resilient to climate change and future growth. A regional view of infrastructure gaps will help identify where investment is needed and where shared solutions could be more efficient and cost-effective than going it alone.

Reducing harm

What are we going to do?

Take action to reduce the environmental and community harm caused by waste, through stronger regulation, targeted education, and more resilient infrastructure. This will involve:

- Updating and implementing the waste bylaw to strengthen enforcement of illegal dumping and inappropriate disposal, protecting Te Awa Tupua and other waterways.
- Developing education campaigns and working with communities, including rural communities and businesses, to improve waste practices.
- Monitoring closed landfills, investigating remediation requirements, and exploring opportunities for alternative uses of closed landfill sites.
- Reducing emissions from council waste services and planning for disaster waste.

Why are we doing it?

Waste that is not properly managed causes real harm to our environment, our waterways, our communities, and our climate. Illegal dumping, poor waste practices, and unmanaged closed landfills all pose risks to public health and sensitive environments, including Te Awa Tupua.

Strong regulation, community education, and coordinated enforcement are essential tools to address these issues and change behaviour over time.

The council also has a responsibility to understand and reduce the carbon footprint of its own waste services, and to ensure our waste network is resilient to the increasing impacts of climate change and emergency events.



The Action Plan table on the next pages show the following:



Specific actions to address the issue



Council's intended role



Goals addressed

The Action Plan table includes a status column that categorises each action according to its stage of development and level of ambition.



Status Quo actions are those already underway and will continue as part of the council's business-as-usual work.



Progressive actions build on this existing work and represent the next step in strengthening and expanding the council's approach to waste management and minimisation.



Stretch actions are longer-term aspirations that require groundwork before implementation can begin. In many cases, the Status Quo and Progressive actions will lay the foundation needed for these more ambitious goals.

Funding the plan

There are a range of options available to the council to fund the activities set out in this Plan. These include:

- **User charges**
Includes charges for user-pays collections as well as Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre service fees.
- **Targeted rates**
A charge applied to properties receiving a particular council service.
- **Waste disposal levy funding**
The government collects a levy on each tonne of waste sent to most landfills. Under current law, 50% of the money collected is distributed to councils (based on population).
- **Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF)**
Most of the remaining 50% of the waste disposal levy money collected is currently redistributed to specific projects approved by the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport. 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**
Businesses and other organisations may fund or co-fund waste minimisation activities. The council may work with private sector providers where this supports the Plan's goals.

Focus area 1 – Accessible and affordable services

Action	Status of action	Alignment with goals	Council's intended role	Activity type	Funding sources	Action period	Measure
1.1 Service awareness – Deliver educational and communications activities to increase awareness and use of reuse, recycling, and safe disposal services (e.g. community engagement sessions, workshops, school programmes, digital and social media campaigns, targeted outreach).		  	Advocator/ promoter	Education & behaviour change	Waste levy funding, Targeted rates	TBC	Number of education and engagement activities delivered
1.2 Rural recovery – Support and promote rural product stewardship schemes locally (Agrecovery, Plasback and the Rural Recycling Scheme)		  	Advocator/ promoter	Infrastructure & services	Waste levy funding, Private sector funding	TBC	Number of rural product stewardship schemes promoted/supported
1.3 Kerbside services – Introduce a kerbside rubbish collection and a food/garden waste collection service to households in the kerbside collection area, subject to feasibility.		  	Enabler/ service provider	Infrastructure & services	Targeted rates, User charges, Waste levy funding	TBC	Completion of kerbside services review and implementation of recommendations
1.4 Recycling expansion – Extend the current council kerbside recycling service to include small businesses that generate similar recycling quantities and materials to households		 	Service provider	Infrastructure & services	Targeted rates, User charges, Waste levy funding	TBC	Completion of recycling service expansion assessment
1.5 Rural collections – Review rural waste services and recycling access		  	Enabler/ service provider	Infrastructure & services	Targeted rates, User charges, Waste levy funding	TBC	Completion of rural services feasibility assessment and implementation of recommendations
1.6 Marae services – Work with mana whenua to develop and implement a preferred waste management/collection service. This could be delivered by council or marae.		  	Collaborator / connector	Infrastructure & services	Waste levy funding, Targeted rates, Waste Minimisation Fund	TBC	Number of marae engaged and services implemented

Legend



Status Quo



Progressive



Stretch



Tools



Partnership



Environment

Focus area 2 – Improve reuse and recovery of materials

Action	Status of action	Alignment with goals	Council's intended role	Activity type	Funding sources	Action period	Measure
2.1 Diversion partnerships – Work closely with community groups and the private sector to support increased waste diversion.	→	  	Collaborator / connector	Infrastructure & services	Waste levy funding, Private sector funding, Waste Minimisation Fund	TBC	Number of partnerships supported
2.2 Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre upgrades – Develop a fit-for-purpose and future-proof resource recovery centre, with a focus on construction and demolition waste.	→	  	Advisor	Infrastructure & services	Targeted rates, User charges, Sale of recovered materials, Waste Minimisation Fund, Private sector funding	TBC	Completion of C&D recovery business case and preferred option identified
2.4 Business waste minimisation – Support businesses to reduce waste by providing advice, connections, and running events on waste minimisation.	↗	  	Advocator/promoter	Education & behaviour change	Waste levy funding, Targeted rates	TBC	Number of business circular economy events delivered
2.5 Organics diversion – Complete a feasibility study to determine best options for diverting and processing food scraps and garden waste from households.	↗	  	Advisor	Infrastructure & services	Waste levy funding, Waste Minimisation Fund, Targeted rates	TBC	Completion of organics diversion feasibility study
2.6 Event waste – Help event organisers meet Solid Waste Bylaw requirements by providing guidance and practical tools to prepare, implement and report on waste management and minimisation plans.	↗	  	Advisor	Education & behaviour change	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Number of event waste management plans supported/ approved

Legend



Status Quo



Progressive



Stretch



Tools



Partnership



Environment

Focus area 3 – Innovation and partnership

Action	Status of action	Alignment with goals	Council's intended role	Activity type	Funding sources	Action period	Measure
3.1 Regional collaboration – Continue to connect with other councils in the wider region to discuss and address waste issues	→	 	Collaborator / connector	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Number of regional waste collaboration meetings attended
3.2 Recovery sector connections – Continue building relationships with organisations working to recover materials at their highest value and identify opportunities to increase local recovery.	→	  	Collaborator / connector	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding, Private sector funding	TBC	Number of recovery sector stakeholders engaged
3.3 Regional and national engagement – Regularly attend and support regional and national hui to stay informed, learn from others and can contribute to national initiative (including WasteMINZ TAO collaborative fund)	→	 	Collaborator / connector	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Number of regional and national waste forums/ hui attended
3.4 Mana whenua connections – Establish a mana whenua waste working group to support ongoing partnership on waste planning and solutions.	↗	  	Collaborator / connector	Policy & Governance	Waste levy funding, Targeted rates, Waste Minimisation Fund	TBC	Establishment and ongoing operation of a mana whenua waste working group
3.5 Recovery trials – Collaborate with industry and community groups on recovery trials for difficult to manage materials e.g. timber, textiles.	⌚	  	Collaborator / connector	Policy & Governance	Waste levy funding, Waste Minimisation Fund, Private sector funding	TBC	Number of material recovery trials supported

Legend



Status Quo



Progressive



Stretch



Tools



Partnership



Environment

Focus area 4 – Planning for the future

Action	Status of action	Alignment with goals	Council's intended role	Activity type	Funding sources	Action period	Measure
4.1 Procurement – Update the council's procurement and asset management policies to prioritise waste minimisation, such as specifying reused, recycled, or low-waste materials and encouraging deconstruction for in council-led projects.		 	Regulator	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates	TBC	Waste minimisation focused procurement requirements incorporated into council policies
4.2 Data access – Use the waste bylaw to require commercial waste operators and service providers to report waste data		 	Regulator	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates	TBC	Number of commercial operators reporting waste data to the council
4.3 Data systems – Strengthen the council waste data collection and reporting by improving existing systems and processes (increasing automation where practical).		 	Service provider	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Improvements implemented to waste data collection and reporting systems
4.4 Policy advocacy – Support the Local Government Waste Management Manifesto and advocate to central government for policies addressing construction waste, organic waste and wider waste minimisation.		  	Advocator/promoter	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Number of waste policy submissions and advocacy initiatives completed
4.5 Regional network – Work with neighbouring district councils to review the regional resource recovery network, assess gaps in waste infrastructure and services, and identify future needs, potential partnerships and funding opportunities.		  	Collaborator / connector	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding, Waste Minimisation Fund	TBC	Completion of regional resource recovery network review
4.6 Climate resilience – Assess the resilience of Whanganui's waste network to the impacts of climate change.		 	Advisor	Infrastructure & services	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Completion of climate resilience assessment of the waste network

Legend



Status Quo



Progressive



Stretch



Tools



Partnership



Environment

Focus area 5 – Reducing Harm

Action	Status of action	Alignment with goals	Council's intended role	Activity type	Funding sources	Action period	Measure
5.1 Monitoring – Monitor closed landfill in accordance consent conditions until consents expire.	→		Regulator	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates	TBC	Compliance with closed landfill monitoring consent requirements
5.2 Bylaw enforcement – Update and implement the waste bylaw to strengthen compliance and enforcement of illegal dumping, burning, burying and other unlawful waste disposal practices, reducing environmental harm and protecting Te Awa Tupua and waterways.	→	 	Regulator	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates	TBC	Number of waste bylaw compliance and enforcement actions undertaken
5.3 Business communication – Strengthen business compliance with the waste bylaw through clear requirements, targeted education and communications, and proportionate monitoring and enforcement.	↗	  	Regulator	Education & behaviour change	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Number of businesses engaged through compliance and education activities
5.4 Rural recovery – Work with rural community to improve rural and farm waste practices including reducing farm dumping and open burning of waste.	↗	  	Collaborator / connector	Education & behaviour change	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding, Private sector funding	TBC	Number of rural waste education and engagement initiatives delivered
5.5 Resilience – Develop a Disaster Waste Plan for the district, in collaboration with neighbouring councils where appropriate.	↗	  	Regulator	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates	TBC	Completion of Disaster Waste Plan. Effectiveness of plan when required to be implemented

Legend



Status Quo



Progressive



Stretch



Tools



Partnership



Environment

Action	Status of action	Alignment with goals	Council's intended role	Activity type	Funding sources	Action period	Measure
5.6 Regional alignment – Partner with Horizons Regional Council to prevent and manage waste-related discharges to the environment, through information sharing, coordinated compliance activities, and aligned education and communication programmes.		 	Collaborator / connector	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Waste reduction from initiatives undertaken with Horizons Regional Council
5.7 Emissions – Reduce emissions from council waste services by improving emissions data collection and reporting, increasing service efficiency, and implementing actions aligned with the Council Climate Change Strategy.		  	Service provider	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Reduction of waste related emissions
5.8 Public litter bins – Create a public litter bin strategy to ensure bins are adequately managed, fit for purpose, and located where they are most needed.		 	Service provider	Infrastructure & services	Targeted rates	TBC	Number of public litter bins installed, maintained or upgraded Reduction in illegal dumping events
5.9 Landfill remediation – Assess closed landfills and undertake remediation where required.		 	Service provider	Infrastructure & services	Targeted rates, Waste Minimisation Fund	TBC	Completion of landfill remediation assessments and identified works

Legend



Status Quo



Progressive



Stretch



Tools



Partnership



Environment

Focus area 5 – Reducing Harm (cont)

Action	Status of action	Alignment with goals	Council's intended role	Activity type	Funding sources	Action period	Measure
5.10 Policy change – Monitor and be ready to implement changes to the Litter Act.		 	Regulator	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates	TBC	Monitoring of Litter Act changes and implementation response completed where required
5.11 Education campaign – Develop a comprehensive campaign to reduce illegal dumping in our community.		 	Service provider	Education & behaviour change	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Delivery of illegal dumping education campaign Reduction in illegal dumping events
5.12 Community reporting – Work with the community to improve the identification and reporting of illegal dumping.		 	Collaborator / connector	Policy & Governance	Targeted rates, Waste levy funding	TBC	Number of illegal dumping reports received from the community

Legend



Status Quo



Progressive



Stretch



Tools



Partnership



Environment



6. Monitoring, evaluating and reporting progress



Evaluation and review of this plan

To ensure this Plan remains relevant, the council will review it at least every six years. Before each review, a Waste Assessment will be conducted to gather community input and to understand our waste management system as required by the Waste Minimisation Act.

Monitoring and reporting

The council will monitor and report on the targets and actions set out in the Plan. At a minimum, this will include:

- The type, quantity and composition of waste and recovered/recycled materials.
- The origin of the waste and materials received.
- Contamination levels for waste services managed by the council.
- Specific waste streams and issues, such as illegal dumping.
- The quality and completeness of waste data collected across the district.
- The effectiveness of actions in the Plan and progress towards the targets set.
- Compliance with legislative requirements.
- Reuse, repair and resource recovery activities, and climate change emissions generated from waste.

Measuring progress

Progress against each focus area will be tracked through a set of measures included in the Action Plan. These measures provide a means of monitoring whether the council's actions are having the intended effect and help ensure accountability over the life of the plan.

Where possible, measures are linked to existing data collection and reporting systems to reduce additional reporting and improve consistency over time. Progress will be reviewed regularly, allowing the council to respond to emerging challenges, reflect on what is working, and adjust its approach where needed.

Together, the five focus areas provide a comprehensive framework for tracking Whanganui's progress towards its waste minimisation vision.

Appendix A Glossary

Term	Definition
Anaerobic digestion	Process to recover value from organic materials within a sealed vessel without the presence of oxygen. Outputs from anaerobic digestion include digestate and biogas.
Circular economy	The circular economy is a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. In a circular economy, products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting. The circular economy tackles climate change and other global challenges, like biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution, by decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources.
Class 1 landfill	A landfill that accepts municipal solid waste, including household waste, commercial waste, and other general wastes (including organic waste). Class 1 landfills are the most common type used across New Zealand, and the type that most of Whanganui's general rubbish is sent to.
Class 2 landfill	A landfill that accepts non-putrescible waste (materials that do not rot), including construction and demolition waste such as timber, asphalt, plasterboard, insulation, and other inert industrial wastes.
Class 3 landfill	A landfill that accepts managed fill, materials that may include contaminated soil, asbestos, and other materials with contaminant concentrations that exceed controlled fill limits. Class 3 landfills require specific site management controls to manage discharges to the environment.
Class 4 landfill	A landfill that accepts controlled fill, predominantly natural soils and inert construction and demolition materials, including materials that may contain contaminants within specified maximum limits. Class 4 landfills are subject to environmental management requirements.

Term	Definition
Class 5 landfill	A landfill that accepts only virgin excavated natural material, that is, uncontaminated clay, soil or rock that has not been processed or treated. Class 5 landfills have the most limited acceptance criteria of all landfill classes. Also called "cleanfill" facility.
Composting	Process to recover value from organic materials including in-vessel composting, vermi-composting, static pile composting, and windrow composting.
Construction and demolition (C&D) waste	Waste created during the construction, renovation or demolition of residential and commercial buildings and facilities. This includes both vertical infrastructure, such as buildings and horizontal infrastructure, such as roading and bridges.
Diversion rate	Portion of materials recovered for recycling, reuse, composting etc. relative to total waste stream.
Diverted material	Materials that are reused, repaired, repurposed, recycled, composted or processed via anaerobic digestion. These materials are "diverted from landfill."
Green waste	Means lawn clippings, weeds, plants, other soft vegetable matter or other organic waste, which will degenerate into compost. Also called garden waste.
Industrial waste	Waste from industrial, commercial, and institutional sources.
Kaupapa	Topic, purpose, agenda, program.
Mana whenua	Authority associated with whakapapa to, and occupation of tribal lands. Each mana whenua group may define this uniquely.
Mātauranga Māori	Māori traditional or ancestral knowledge.

Term	Definition
Organic materials	Materials suitable for organic material recovery e.g. composting including food and garden waste, timber, plant materials, and sawdust.
Papatūānuku	Earth Mother or earth's surface.
Product stewardship	Product stewardship is when businesses take responsibility for the life-cycle impacts of their products, either voluntarily or in response to regulatory tools.
Residential waste	All waste originating from residential premises other than that covered by one of the other, more specific classifications.
Resource Recovery Centre (RRC)	A specialised facility where people drop off unwanted materials, bulky items, and recyclables so they can be repaired, reused, recycled, or safely managed instead of going to a landfill. A resource recovery centre can also include general waste disposal in its range of services.
Taonga	Treasure, natural resource(s).
Te ao Māori	Māori worldview.
Te taiao	The natural environment.
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	The Treaty of Waitangi.
Transfer station	Facilities that contain a designated receiving area where waste is received, and from which waste (or any material derived from that waste) is transferred to a final disposal site or elsewhere for further processing. Transfer stations do not provide long-term storage for waste or material derived from that waste.

Term	Definition
Waste	Anything disposed of or discarded including a type of waste that is defined by its composition or source (for example, organic waste, electronic waste, or construction and demolition waste); and to avoid doubt, includes any component or element of diverted material, if the component or element is disposed of or discarded.
Waste disposal	Any waste that is disposed to landfill (including classes 1 - 5).
Waste disposal levy	Charge applied per tonne of material disposed to class 1, 2, 3 or 4 landfills paid to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport. The levy is used to fund; waste minimisation activities, projects to remediate contaminated sites, activities that reduce environmental harm or increase environmental benefits, the Ministry's waste and hazardous substances work programme and local authorities to manage emergency waste and to repair or replace waste infrastructure damaged by an emergency.
Waste hierarchy	A strategic framework of waste management principles indicating best and least favoured options to reduce and manage waste.
Waste management	The collection, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of waste. Waste management encompasses the full range of activities involved in handling waste once it is generated, from the point of collection through to final disposal or processing.
Waste minimisation	Reducing the amount and harmfulness of waste generated and disposed of. This includes avoiding the creation of waste in the first place, reusing and repairing items, recycling and composting, and recovering value from materials before disposal. Waste minimisation sits above waste management in the waste hierarchy.
Waste service	A service for the collection, storage, transportation, or treatment of waste, or for the disposal of waste. In the context of this Plan, waste services include kerbside collection, transfer stations, drop-off facilities, and any other service provided to residents or businesses to manage their waste.



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