

Solid Waste

Community Outcomes

Mana Tangata / Social well-being - Safe, connected communities where people feel happy and proud of where we live.

Mana Taiao / Environmental well-being - Sustainable communities that manage resources in a way that improves our environment for future generations.

Why we do it

Our solid waste services are designed to protect the health and wellbeing of the community and the environment by ensuring the community can dispose of solid waste in a convenient, secure and sustainable manner.

What we do

Currently we operate a weekly kerbside (wheelie bins and crate) collection service to collect waste and recyclables from approximately 8,752 households in the District's towns and along the main collection routes. As of 1 October 2024, this service will be run fortnightly along with a weekly food scrap collection. We also provide a fortnightly voluntary organic waste (greenwaste and food waste combined) collection service on a user-pays basis to approximately 2,700 households. This greenwaste is composted, which reduces the amount of waste going to the landfill.

We operate seven transfer stations throughout the District to give the public and businesses access to waste disposal facilities and free recycling. Currently more than 95% of our population has access to these services within 20 minutes driving time. We also hold consents for the discharge of leachate and stormwater from seven closed landfills and legacy sites. These are at Kaponga, Manaia, Pātea, Ōpunakē, Hāwera, Otakeho and Eltham.

We have adopted a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023–2029 which identifies our vision to have 'Zero waste to Landfill 2050' and the action plan to accompany this goal. This Plan has been created with the community, the environment, Te Ao Māori (Māori world view) and our future in mind.

Looking Ahead

The quantity of waste from the South Taranaki District has increased from 11,718 tonnes in 2020/2021, to 13,096 tonnes in 2021/2022 and 12,898 tonnes in 2022/2023. The continuous increase in waste is largely attributed to waste received from contractors that was previously disposed of directly to landfill. Any future growth from population change and new businesses should be compensated for by additional waste minimisation initiatives. It is assumed that the voluntary greenwaste kerbside collection service will attract about 3,000 users for the life of this Plan.

The Government charges a levy on all waste disposed of through landfills across the country. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has rates for the different classes of waste and the prices have been increased over the 2023 and 2024 period. The purpose of the waste disposal levy is to raise revenue for the promotion and achievement of waste minimisation as well as recognise the effects that waste has on the environment, society and the economy. The Council is also affected by the cost increases, but we will continue to promote initiatives to lower the amount of solid waste or more environmentally friendly ways to treat waste within our District.

During this LTP, we want to open a Reuse Shop at the Hāwera Transfer Station with the goal of reducing the amount of waste that goes into the landfill. This activity will align with the Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2021–2031 and the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023–2029. Not only will this help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, but it will also create a more circular economy by selling second hand items for affordable prices.

We are undertaking a feasibility assessment to determine how best to manage the erosion of the Waiaua River adjacent to the Ōpunakē Transfer Station on Ayloun Street and the Ōpunakē Lake. Once the preferred approach has been determined, the action plan is likely to occur during this long term plan period. The effects of climate change are being felt in this area and to continue running this service for the Ōpunakē community, we need protect the river from further erosion into this area.

The three district councils across the Taranaki region are working together to create an organic waste processing facility. Where and how this is going to be managed is still to be determined, however, it will reduce the emissions across the District dramatically because organic waste will be transported and managed within the Taranaki Rohe. Allowing the separation of greenwaste and general waste will reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill as organic waste can be managed and disposed of in a more environmentally friendly way.

Key Projects

Description	Year	Total (\$)
Hāwera Transfer Station Renewals	Year 2	\$841k
Transfer Station ReUse Shop	Years 1 and 2	\$208k
Taranaki Organics Materials Processing Facility	Year 1 to 2	\$2.7m

Significant Negative Effects

Activity	Well-being	Significant Effect	Mitigation
Waste to Landfill	Mana Taiao/ Environmental well-being	Environmental and health impacts caused by the discharge of contaminants to land, air and water from waste disposal and from closed landfills. Environmental and health impacts caused by fly-	Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill through increased recycling and reprocessing as described in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. Compliance with resource consents and aftercare management. Regular monitoring of gas emissions and leachate from closed landfills.

		tipping and the illegal dumping of waste. Additional costs associated with clean-up and disposal.	Regular monitoring of known illegal sites and areas, erecting signage, public education and enforcement. Keeping transfer stations' charges/fees at affordable levels.
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Non-Financial Performance Measures

Level of Service	Performance Measure <i>C=customer measure</i> <i>T=technical measure</i>	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target Years 4 - 10
A reliable kerbside recycling and rubbish collection service is provided.					
	(C) % of customers satisfied with the Solid Waste collection service.	≥ 90%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%
Increasing number of tonnes per annum of recyclable material diverted from landfill.	(T) Number of tonnes of recyclable waste diverted from landfill per annum.	Maintain or improve from previous year	Maintain or improve from previous year	Maintain or improve from previous year	Maintain or improve from previous year
WASTE MINIMISATION - New measures					
Reduce the amount of rubbish/waste that is collected from kerbside collection per household.	(T) Number of tonnes of waste collected on average per household per annum.	< 320kg per household	< 310kg per household	< 300kg per household	< 290kg per household