CONSULTATION SUMMARY
Draft Auckland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018

Have your say on Auckland’s future by 8pm on the 28 March 2018.
akhaveyoursay.nz
Neat Streets project in Ōtara.
Waste is everyone’s business: we all have a part to play

Every year, we send more than 1.6 million tonnes of waste to landfill in Auckland – that’s over one tonne per person.

Every tonne of waste that is landfilled comes at a cost. Most of this waste could be diverted to other, productive uses. Instead of being a cost, it could be seen as a valuable resource that can be an opportunity to create jobs, boost our economy, strengthen our communities, and take better care of the environment.

Mihi

Ko Kaupapa-rua te tikanga,
Ko mahia hōutia te whai,
Ko hangarua te whakamataara,
Ko para kore te taumata whakaaro nui.
Mā wai rā a Papatūānuku e tiaki
mei kore māku,
mei kore māu?

Re-purpose is the plan,
Re-use is the driver,
Recycle, the catch-cry
Zero Waste – the bold goal.
Who else will care for Mother Earth
if it isn’t me,
and it isn’t you?

This guide is also available in Te Reo, Samoan, Tongan, Simplified Chinese, Korean, EasyRead and New Zealand Sign Language. Visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say to download your copy.

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Auckland: we know we can do better

We began working on waste minimisation in 2012 and so far we have:

- reduced household waste by 10 per cent – from 160kg/person in 2012 to 144kg/person in 2017
- reduced council office waste by 30 per cent by 2014
- begun standardising domestic waste and recycling services to create an efficient kerbside collection service
- introduced new region-wide services such as the onsite inorganic collection
- conducted a food scraps trial with over 2000 households to fine-tune how we introduce the collection across all of urban Auckland
- started building a network of Community Recycling Centres, diverting useful materials from landfills, creating jobs, offering training, and connecting people with their communities
- worked alongside communities to mobilise thousands of Aucklanders to start minimising their own waste at home, at work, and in their neighbourhoods.

This has worked well, but we still face some very big challenges:

- household kerbside refuse is only 14 per cent of total waste, but business and commercial waste is growing
- total waste to landfill grew by 40 per cent between 2010 and 2016, largely due to an increase in construction and demolition waste driven by new housing needs and Auckland’s population growing
- the amounts of plastic and organic waste going to landfills has increased
- there are significant barriers to overcome, ranging from lack of financial incentives for waste minimisation to our rapid population growth.

This is your opportunity to have your say about our proposed action plan for managing waste. We will consider all feedback and issue a final plan in June 2018.
Our vision

Auckland aspires to be Zero Waste by 2040, taking care of people and the environment, and turning waste into resources.

Zero Waste is about making the most of the resources we have, using them for their highest and best value, and sending nothing to landfill or to incinerators. What is currently considered waste is redefined as a valuable resource that can be used again.

In practice, this means:

- waste minimisation is integrated into design, manufacturing, retailing, and consumer choices
- materials are used in ways that preserve value, minimise environmental impacts and conserve natural resources
- products are designed and used according to the waste hierarchy, staying as high up the hierarchy as possible
- resources can be used and reused, through better systems for repurposing and remanufacturing materials into other goods.

In Auckland, Zero Waste is also about embracing Te Ao Māori – aligning with Te Ao Māori and the tradition of kaitiakitanga.

Zero Waste is a long-term goal, but there’s a lot we can do right now.

REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

RECOVER

TREAT

DISPOSE

WASTE DIVERSION

MAXIMUM CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES

Rubbish bins on a suburban street.
Our new plan

As part of preparing this plan, we looked at three options:

1. keep going as we are, with a strong focus on the 20 per cent of waste the council can most easily influence
2. keep going as we are and expand our focus to include the 80 per cent of waste that is commercially managed
3. invest in technology such as large-scale incinerators to deal with residual waste.

We are recommending option two because:

• option one would not meet our legislated responsibility to minimise waste, especially given Auckland’s growth
• option three requires capital investment beyond our budgets and doesn’t support our Zero Waste vision.

We will work towards three targets, to reduce*:

- **All waste**: 30% by 2027
- **Domestic waste**: 30% by 2021
- **Council office waste**: 60% by 2024

*compared to 2012.
Children learning about zero waste at the Waitākere Learning Centre.
What this means for you

We will continue working on the 20 per cent of waste we’re directly responsible for, and increase our efforts to help reduce the 80 per cent of waste that is commercially managed.

Council services

We will continue core functions such as household kerbside collections, with some changes to help reduce waste to landfill.

Our current and proposed services include*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>How often</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recycling collection</td>
<td>Fortnightly</td>
<td>Already in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inorganic collection</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Already in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay-as-you-throw kerbside refuse collection</td>
<td>Weekly, eventually shifting to fortnightly</td>
<td>Being extended to all of the region by 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introducing wheelie bins for refuse collection across urban areas, and a mix of bags and bins in rural areas and the Hauraki Gulf islands</td>
<td>Weekly, eventually shifting to fortnightly</td>
<td>Being extended to all of the region by 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introducing a kerbside collection of food scraps for urban areas</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Being introduced from 2018 up to 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why pay-as-you-throw?

Currently, around half of Aucklanders pay for household refuse through a targeted rate. The other half use pay-as-you-throw systems with paid bags or bin tags.

We plan to move everyone to pay-as-you-throw systems. This way, there’s a clear link between how much you throw away and how much you pay. Households using the pay-as-you-throw system generally send less waste to landfill. They also put their bin or bag out less often – waiting until it is full instead of automatically putting it out every week.

Food waste is an opportunity

Nearly half the weight of an average household rubbish bin is food.

It generates unwanted greenhouse gases in landfills and we think there’s a better way to manage it – by introducing a kerbside collection for food scraps across urban Auckland. We can process food waste for useful purposes, such as making compost or generating energy. We’ll also keep supporting initiatives to help you reduce the amount of food waste you produce, and to compost at home.

Over time, as weekly collections of food scraps remove the largest (and often smelliest) volume of waste from bins, we expect to be able to reduce refuse collection to a fortnightly service.

A second life for used goods

Five Community Recycling Centres are up and running across Auckland. Here, you can drop off unwanted goods, and find a bargain. We’re working to set up more centres, with plans for a total of 12 centres by 2024. The centres are already achieving beyond expectations, diverting around 70 per cent of all material that they receive from landfill, and generating local employment opportunities.

The Hauraki Gulf Islands

We provide waste services to Waiheke, Aotea Great Barrier, Rakino and Kawau Islands. Isolation and the expense of shipping materials off-island for disposal or recycling make waste services much more expensive than on the mainland. This cost is currently subsidised from region-wide rates funding, with the intent to reduce the subsidy over time.

Together with island communities, we have developed the Tikapa Moana Hauraki Gulf Islands Draft Waste Plan to respond to their unique needs and develop on-island solutions.

*With some variation to account for local conditions.
Commercial waste

Tackling and reducing the 80 per cent of waste that is commercially generated

Most of Auckland’s waste is generated by businesses and collected and disposed of by private waste companies.

We want to prioritise waste minimisation across three commercial waste streams:

- construction and demolition waste
- organic waste
- plastic waste.

Our goal is to work collaboratively with businesses and central government to divert more of these materials from landfill and into useful purposes, as part of seeing waste as a resource.

Our booming construction industry

Construction and demolition waste (C&D) to landfill is the single largest waste stream. Better planning and on-site management can help the building industry to divert materials such as metal, plasterboard and timber from landfill, and save money.

We have piloted the deconstruction approach in several of our own building projects, and we’re looking to work with large developers to support wider uptake. There is also a role for us to help facilitate the reuse of materials, with the development of specifications and markets for recovered materials, and a waste brokering service for construction and demolition waste.

Every year, we send more than one tonne of waste to landfill for every Aucklander. 144kg per person is collected through domestic kerbside collections. The remainder of the waste is commercially generated and managed.
### Organic waste

Organic waste is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions of all waste materials sent to landfill. Alongside the domestic kerbside collection of food scraps, there is an opportunity to work with large food waste producers and processors to find alternatives to landfiling their organic wastes. We also want to work with supermarkets, restaurants and cafes, and the garden waste industry to help divert more organic waste from landfill.

### Plastics

Around 12 per cent of the materials going to landfill (by weight) are plastic. While some plastics are recyclable, others can’t currently be remanufactured. We need more information on the different types of plastics going to disposal, to either limit their use in products, or find recycling solutions.

### What’s going into our landfills (2016)?*

- **Rubble** – 26%
- **Organics** – 23%
- **Plastics** – 15%
- **Timber** – 12%
- **Paper** – 10%
- **Textiles** – 5%
- **Metals** – 4%
- **Nappies and sanitary** – 2%
- **Rubber** – 2%
- **Glass** – 1%

*Excludes ‘special wastes’, for which there is limited data available.
We need better policy tools

If we are going to turn the tide on waste, we know that more needs to be done than we, as the council, currently have the ability to do. We need new national policy to drive change.

As part of this proposed plan, we will be asking central government to unlock some of the tools that are available under the Waste Minimisation Act.

We’re focusing on:

1. **The waste levy**
   
   A levy of $10 applies to every tonne of waste that is landfilled. The levy funds are invested in waste minimisation activities. But, this rate was set in 2008, and needs to be reviewed as we think it’s too low to encourage waste minimisation. We will work with the waste and recycling industry and other councils to advocate strongly to central government to increase the levy and review how it is applied.

2. **Product stewardship schemes**
   
   We support introducing mandatory, nationwide product stewardship schemes for items like tyres, e-waste and plastic bags. Under these schemes, producers and consumers share responsibility for the end of life of their products and packaging, ensuring greater reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery of materials.

   We would like to see a container deposit scheme for beverage containers. Building a refundable deposit into the purchase price of drinks could greatly increase their recycling rate, reduce litter, and lessen costs for ratepayers. Product stewardship requires legislation, so again we must advocate to central government, along with other councils who support the proposal.

   Independent analysis suggests that the benefits of a container deposit scheme would be three to six times greater than the costs:
   
   - 83% of Kiwis support the establishment of a container deposit scheme
   - nationally councils could expect to save up to $20.9M per annum on recycling collection costs
   - over a 10 year period society would be better off by up to $645M
   - beverage container recycling rates could increase from as low as 45% up to 82%.

Working together

We have built good relationships across Auckland, using partnership and creative processes to design solutions with our communities. Community-led waste minimisation efforts deliver world-leading results. We need to do the same with the 80 per cent of waste that is commercially generated and managed. Partnerships with these sectors will become increasingly important.

We need to strengthen our relationships with waste-producing businesses, the waste and recycling industries, mana whenua, mataawaka, schools, community and other organisations. This will help us put our proposed action plan into practice.

“Zero waste is a bug and once you catch it, it influences everything you do – what you buy, what you eat, your everyday choices.”
– Community waste champion

Our Waste Minimisation and Innovation Fund seed-funds ideas to minimise waste. Funding is available for businesses, community groups, schools and Māori/iwi organisations.

Global recognition

Auckland is the proud winner of the prestigious C40 Cities4ZeroWaste Award. The C40 awards highlight the world’s top-ten urban sustainability projects that represent the most ambitious and innovative efforts by cities to address climate change. Auckland Council was the clear winner in the Zero Waste category, with strong evidence of transitioning our city away from landfill, working with communities to achieve our Zero Waste goal.

Councillor Alf Filipaina collecting the C40 Cities4ZeroWaste Award on behalf of Auckland at the C40 awards 2017.

Tour of inorganic collection warehouse.
We currently spend around $113 million per year on domestic waste services, including refuse, recycling, inorganic collections, litter, and illegal dumping. We spend another $5-8 million each year looking after old landfills.

The amount budgeted for council-provided waste services will remain around the same for the next decade. As new arrangements for domestic collection services become business as usual, new activities will become possible within the budget. We can expand our focus on minimising commercial waste streams.

We propose to fund the kerbside collection of food scraps through a new targeted rate for households in urban areas. This will be part of the 10-year Budget consultation, happening alongside this waste consultation.

### Changes to urban household waste costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current services 2017/18</th>
<th>Future services 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Papakura, North Shore and Waitākere</strong></td>
<td><strong>Auckland and Manukau</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household</td>
<td>Efficient household</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$237</td>
<td>$219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuse collection (Pay as you throw)</td>
<td>$102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base service incl. recycling &amp; inorganics collection</td>
<td>$135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food waste (Targeted rate*)</td>
<td>$67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base service incl. recycling &amp; inorganics collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This targeted rate will only apply in areas where the service is available, starting in Papakura in 2018.*
The result we want to see by 2024

- We’re on track to Zero Waste by 2040, and to meet our 2027 target - a 30 per cent reduction in waste to landfill compared to 2012.
- Households are making full use of services to minimise their waste and reduce their disposal costs.
- Stronger financial incentives – like the waste levy – make resource recovery preferred ahead of landfilling.
- Product stewardship schemes are in place for products like beverage containers, tyres and e-waste.
- Communities, businesses, mana whenua and mataawaka are engaged in finding solutions to reduce Auckland’s waste.
- A network of twelve thriving community recycling centres is in place across Auckland, supporting waste minimisation.
- The council leads by example, with better knowledge of waste generated across our operations, and plans in place to significantly reduce waste to landfill.