Appendix C: Background paper on the Resource Recovery Network
RESOURCES RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Introduction

Facilities that enable residents and businesses to separate, sort and recover resources instead of sending them to landfill are needed for Auckland to become a zero waste city. The challenge is how to achieve this when most of the city’s waste infrastructure is owned by the private sector which doesn’t have the same responsibilities as Council to reduce waste to landfill under the Waste Minimisation Act.

Council’s 2011 Waste Assessment attempted to address this by including a proposal in one of its three strategic direction options for council to seek influence over waste infrastructure via lease/licence agreements or contracts1. Although Option 3 was adopted - which proposed council gaining more influence over the entire waste stream to encourage more resource recovery and diversion of waste from landfill, the WMMP mainly addresses the waste council manages through its own kerbside collections and facilities. The focus of Council’s efforts over the past five years has therefore been on reducing the 17 -20 per cent of waste it influences.

The current WMMP includes a broad range of initiatives, only some of which have been implemented. Fully implementing the actions of the plan, along the three ‘game changer’ policies identified by an independent review of Auckland’s waste management options2 (advocating to central government to increase the landfill levy, introducing a statutory requirement for site waste management plans and addressing organic waste) will be essential in achieving the 70-80 per cent waste diversion of other high achieving zero waste cities.3

This paper discusses key initiatives in the WMMP related specifically to resource recovery infrastructure, all of which will have an impact on the 83 per cent of waste that council does not influence.

In summary the focus of the next WMMP will be on fully implementing the actions of the current WMMP, including roll-out of the Resource Recovery Network (RRN).

2. Why is establishing resource recovery infrastructure so important for Auckland?

Many local authorities in New Zealand have maintained strong involvement with infrastructure, owning both transfer stations and landfills. However Auckland Council has less direct control of waste infrastructure than any other metropolitan council in New Zealand. The main exception is the Waitakere Transfer Station which is the only large transfer station owned and operated by council.

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1 Table 7.5-2 Page 121 Auckland Council Waste Assessment 2011
2 SLR ref
3 SLR ref
With commercial waste, making up over 80 per cent of Auckland’s waste, being handled through privately operated transfer stations, there is little scope for Council to make a significant impact through its own facilities or the services it provides.

Establishing a range of resource recovery facilities around the city, potentially with community and private sector partners, will provide the capacity for residents and businesses to separate, sort and recover resources and move Auckland towards zero waste and a low carbon, circular economy.

3. Resource recovery infrastructure initiatives in the current WMMP

The WMMP is a comprehensive plan including both short and medium-long term measures, with a strong emphasis on community engagement. While progress has been made implementing many of the short-term initiatives, particularly around harmonising regional kerbside collection services, there is still work to be done to implement some of the medium-long term initiatives including those that involve establishing resource recovery infrastructure.

The following table summarises the key initiatives in the WMMP related to resource recovery infrastructure. Further detail on each initiative is included in the following sections.

### Resource recovery infrastructure-related initiatives in the WMMP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WMMP Initiative</th>
<th>Infrastructure Requirement/Linkage</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop the Resource Recovery Network (RRN) infrastructure (WMMP sections 2.6, 3.1.8)</td>
<td>Twelve Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) are being established over a ten year period as part of the long-term RRN strategy.</td>
<td>Four Community Recycling Centres have been established and four trials started.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish facilities for construction and demolition recovery within the RRN (WMMP section 3.1.8)</td>
<td>Large construction and demolition sites would be part of the RRN (privately and council owned). Community Recycling Centres provide capacity at a local level.</td>
<td>Community Recycling Centres are already accepting and processing local construction and demolition materials. Construction and demolition-specific sites were not included in the long-term RRN strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link an enhanced waste exchange/waste brokering service with the RRN (WMMP sections 3.1.8 and 3.2.7)</td>
<td>Community Recycling Centres and Resource Recovery Parks will provide sites for storage and distribution of recovered materials</td>
<td>External working group has been established. Looking at ways to address construction and demolition materials through a waste</td>
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</table>
The Resource Recovery Network (RRN) is a key initiative of the WMMP providing the framework for wider service delivery. It is a large, long-term project that eventually could eventually include council, private sector and community sector facilities focused on resource recovery.

In October 2014 council’s Regional Strategy and Policy Committee endorsed a long-term strategy and budget for the Resource Recovery Network which included establishing twelve Community Recycling Centres over a ten year period as the core of the network. In the three years that have passed the following has been achieved:

- Four Community Recycling Centres have been established in Waiuku, Helensville, Devonport and Henderson. A social procurement process was used to secure operators for each facility and each is now run by a social enterprise operating under a five year contract.
- Four community capacity-building trials have started on Waiheke Island, Great Barrier Island, Whangaparaoa and Onehunga.
- A central facility with a strong environmental educational focus is being developed at Western Springs, with the strong support of the Waitemata, Albert-Eden and Puketapapa local boards.
- A site for a processing facility to complement the central facility has been secured in Onehunga. Two local community groups will run a capacity-building trial on the site for 12 months.
- Procurement will start in 2017 for operators of council-owned transfer stations in Warkworth and Wellsford, which have the potential to become Community Recycling Centres.
- Sites are being sought for two Community Recycling Centres in the south of the city, following a scoping study undertaken for the five southern local boards: Howick, Mangere-Otahuhu, Manurewa, Otara-Papatoetoe, and Papakura.

Waste diversion

The following table shows the waste diversion that is being achieved at each of the Community Recycling Centres. All are performing well and as a group are exceeding the

| Establish hazardous waste drop-off and handling capacity at resource recovery facilities (WMMP section 3.1.8) | Community Recycling Centres will provide local drop-off points for residents. Future Resource Recovery Parks will provide commercial drop-off points. | Five drop-off points have been established at existing transfer stations since the haz-mobile service ceased in 2012. Work is underway to establish drop off points at Community Recycling Centres | exchange/brokering service |

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3.1 The Resource Recovery Network

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Waste diversion

The following table shows the waste diversion that is being achieved at each of the Community Recycling Centres. All are performing well and as a group are exceeding the
waste diversion estimate included in the long-term RRN strategy. The three standalone facilities (excluding Waitakere which is part of the Waitakere Transfer Station) are diverting on average 63 per cent (by weight) of all material entering their sites and diverting over 3,200 tonnes from landfill annually. This is an encouraging result as the operators are still establishing themselves in their communities and none of the sites have been redeveloped yet. They are all former transfer stations and will be able to divert much more material when they can accommodate a full range of resource recovery activities.

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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waiuku</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>1,585</td>
<td>1,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>739</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>63 (average)</td>
<td>670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helensville</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>525</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devonport</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td>1,104</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>3,697</td>
<td>2,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>61</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>914</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59 (average)</td>
<td>59 (average)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waitakere</td>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>389</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>3,206</td>
<td>2,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>63 (average)</td>
<td>63 (average)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Job creation**

The Community Recycling Centres are also exceeding the job creation estimates in the long-term strategy. As of March 2017 the four sites were employing 48 staff in 25.9 full time equivalent (FTE) positions. Before the four facilities were contracted as Community Recycling Centres they were employing 3.1 FTEs, so nearly 23 new, FTE positions have been created since November 2014.
The facilities also create opportunities for various types of volunteering with around 27 regular volunteers currently working at the four sites. There are also a larger number of casual volunteers and Correction Department groups who have regular work sessions at Waitakere and Waiuku. In total 840 hours per month of volunteer time is being donated at the four sites - mostly by local people taking up the opportunity to connect and be part of their communities.

The following table shows the jobs and volunteering opportunities that have been created by each Community Recycling Centre, as of March 2017.

**Community Recycling Centres: Jobs and volunteers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Staff FTEs under previous management/contract</th>
<th>Volunteers Total number of staff (March 2017)</th>
<th>Volunteers FTEs (March 2017)</th>
<th>Volunteers Total number of regular volunteers</th>
<th>Volunteer hours per month</th>
<th>Long-term RRN strategy; job creation estimate (FTEs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waiuku</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helensville</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devonport</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waitakere</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>25.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>27.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>840</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Independent evaluations of Waiuku⁴ and Helensville⁵ Community Recycling Centres after their first year of operation showed that as well as waste diversion and job creation, they were also doing well against local spend (dollars spent within the community), engagement of local suppliers and innovation. These and other less measurable benefits are harder to put a value on but a common methodology to measure social outcomes will hopefully be developed within council over the next few years.

**Potential waste diversion and job creation**

Extrapolating the results achieved to date, and taking future site development and the maturation of the Resource Recovery Network into account, it is estimated that facilities within the network will be diverting around x tonnes by X.

**Future development of the Resource Recovery Network**

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⁴ Waiuku Community Recycling Centre – Year One Review. Envision NZ Ltd. December 2015
⁵ Helensville Community Recycling centre – Year One Review. Envision NZ Ltd. December 2016
The long-term strategy for the Resource Recovery Network endorses establishment of twelve sites over a ten year period from 2014 to 2024, which covers the life of both the current and the next WMMP (2018-2024). Results to date are showing that the strategy is sound, however there is significant potential to increase waste diversion by increasing the number of sites and expanding the network. To support this expansion additional funding will be required and this will be sought from internal and external sources including the Ministry for the Environment’s Waste Minimisation Fund and private sector investment.

Prior to any further expansion an analysis will be undertaken to determine the optimal number and location of sites that will be required across Auckland using data that has been generated over the past three years.

Additional funding will also need to be sourced for the following two facilities which are addressed in the long-term strategy but which currently do not have sufficient budget attached.

a) **Waitakere Transfer Station**

The long-term RRN strategy proposes developing the Waitakere Transfer Station as a commercially focused Resource Recovery Park with a Community Recycling Centre operating within it. A social enterprise has been contracted to run the Community Recycling Centre and minor site changes have been made to accommodate the new activities.

However the biggest opportunity for waste diversion is in redesigning the site to maximise resource recovery from commercial as well as residential customers. Currently the site accepts around 115,000 tonnes of material annually (refuse and recyclables) making it one of the largest transfer station in the country. Currently only around 12 per cent of material entering the site (excluding kerbside bagged refuse) is recovered for recycling and reuse so there is huge opportunity to increase diversion.

Concept designs have been drawn up and it is considered that with the appropriate equipment, a commitment to waste diversion and eventually a higher landfill levy, the new configuration would allow the site to achieve similar diversion to high performing sites in the UK which are diverting around 80 per cent. A more realistic goal for Waitakere under the current legislative environment would be to aim for 65 per cent diversion in five years’ time – which would still result in an annual diversion of 74,750 tonnes.

Designed as a Resource Recovery Park Waitakere would be able to provide commercial customers with incentives to sort their loads to increase resource recovery and reduce cost, with flow-on effects back up the supply-chain to customers. It would be the only purpose-designed Resource Recovery Park in Auckland raising the standard within the industry and showing that council is walking the talk.

Indicative costings for site redevelopment are significantly higher than budgeted in the long-term RRN strategy ($1.5 million). However this budget was only intended for first stage development and the intention is for it to be supplemented with operational income and to seek external funding.
b) **Second drop-off for the central area**
Lack of suitable sites for a full size Community Recycling Centre in central Auckland meant an alternative strategy had to be developed for this densely populated area. Two drop off facilities providing residents with a drop-off service (with no processing or waste capacity) will be linked to a larger processing site outside the central area. Sites have been secured for one drop off at Western Springs and a processing facility in Onehunga. However a site has yet to be secured for the second drop-off. The search will continue but if a suitable council-owned site cannot be found a site will need to be purchased. Funding for this has been set aside from the sale of 27 Normanby Road, Mt Eden, which was identified as the preferred site for a Community Recycling Centre in a 2014 business case, but which was required for other purposes.

### 3.2 Construction and Demolition Waste

The WMMP includes two construction and demolition waste initiatives that are dependent on resource recovery infrastructure; establishing facilities for construction and demolition recovery within the RRN, and linking an enhanced waste exchange/waste brokering service with the RRN.

**Facilities for construction and demolition waste**

The WMMP states that council will support business waste reduction, particularly in the construction and demolition industries, by providing infrastructure within the RRN. Most of the twelve Community Recycling Centres will have capacity to recover some local construction and demolition materials, but to varying degrees depending on their size, design and location.

Only Waitakere, when redesigned as a Resource Recovery Park will have the capacity to provide commercial-scale recovery, but even it will be limited by the space available. More sites of Waitakere's size and larger will be required to deal with the volume of construction and demolition material that will be produced over coming years as a result of Auckland’s growth. The Tamaki Regeneration Company, as one example, is planning to replace around 2,800 houses with 7,500 dwellings over a 10-15 year period. Some of these will be relocated and some will be demolished but there is also potential for them to be deconstructed, or carefully taken apart to salvage as much material as possible for reuse. If just 50 per cent of the 2,800 dwellings are demolished around 35,000 tonnes of waste would be produced. Around 75 per cent of this could be recovered and recycled if they were deconstructed. This material and the material from many other projects around the city will need to go to sites where it can be processed and stored, ideally as close to redevelopment projects as possible. Potentially these could be temporary facilities on council-owned land.

A number of private businesses already provide construction and demolition recovery services and the WMMP makes it clear that council does not intend to be in competition with these but will collaborate to maximise recovery and potentially plug the gaps in logistics or locations. There is potential therefore for council to assist in a facilitation capacity or through joint venture arrangements with private operators or other organisations to increase construction and demolition recovery capacity.
Waste exchange/waste brokering service

The WMMP states that an enhanced internet-based waste exchange/waste brokering service will be developed to link with the RRN and provide a way to advertise and sell materials collected through the network. In fact the potential for a combined waste exchange/waste brokering service is greater than this, potentially enabling direct transactions between waste producers and end users, as well as linking RRN facilities to each other and to customers. This could also play a role in reducing the pressure on Auckland’s transportation system.

A web-based waste exchange exists in Auckland but is based on outdated technology and is more or less redundant. A review of the waste exchanges commissioned by Auckland Regional Council in 2008\(^6\) showed there was strong demand for a waste exchange service but users found the technology was not up to standard even then. The review recommended revamping the waste exchange, developing a ‘waste-matching’ service, establishing a recycling directory and setting up national branding and an internet portal. While technology has progressed significantly since 2008 and sites like Trade Me are well utilised, international experience suggests there is a place for a dedicated waste exchange to move construction and demolition materials in bulk.

Although council has not initiated any work in this area an external working group led by the Sustainable Business Network is looking at ways to increase recovery of construction and demolition materials in Auckland and is investigating the potential of a waste exchange/waste brokering service.

3.3 Hazardous waste

The WMMP states that council will establish hazardous waste drop off and handling capacity at resource recovery facilities and that this will be done alongside a phasing out of the haz-mobile. The haz-mobile was phased out in 2012 and five public drop-off points were set up at transfer stations as a transitional measure until resource recovery facilities could be established. Around 20 tonnes of hazardous waste are currently collected from these sites annually. However, based on New South Wales experience\(^7\), a well-publicised service in Auckland could potentially collect around 64 tonnes annually.

Resource consent is currently being sought to set up the first household hazardous waste drop-off at Waiuku Community Recycling Centre coinciding with its redevelopment. Consents will also be sought for Devonport and Helensville Community Recycling Centres but not Waitakere as there is already a collection point at the transfer station. Drop off facilities will be established at new Community Recycling Centre as they are established with the goal being to have at least 12 drop off points established around the city by 2024.

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\(^7\) New South Wales EPA. Household Problem Wastes Programs. 2015-16 Summary Report
While these sites are being established an interim solution will be required as privately owned transfer stations currently providing public drop off do not want to continue with the service after June 2017.

A solution similar to that operating in New South Wales is proposed; which has a collection service operating in tandem with a network of Community Recycling Centres. This service could be set up relatively quickly in Auckland providing residents with a haz-waste drop-off service at Community Recycling Centres three to four times a year. As permanent haz-waste drop off facilities are established the collection could be phased out. However there may be a requirement for a limited collection service at Community Recycling Centres where consents cannot be secured.

The cost of establishing and running household drop off facilities at Community Recycling Centres will be included in existing capital and operational expenditure budgets. The cost of a transitional collection (for one year until permanent sites are fully established) would be approximately $200,000.

Disposal of agrichemicals and other hazardous farm wastes is an issue for Community Recycling Centres in rural areas. These facilities could extend their capacity to collect these materials, which are commercially generated, on a user-pays basis as well as providing collection points for product stewardship schemes.

### 3.4 Organics

One of the biggest changes to Auckland’s kerbside collections will be the introduction of a kerbside food waste collection. Roll out of the service is due to start in 2019 and will require sites for consolidation and processing. The WMMP suggests that South Auckland and the Waikato would be the most likely locations for a processing site. It also suggests that consolidation points could be located at Resource Recovery Parks, ideally in the north and central parts of the city with direct delivery from the south to the processing plant.

The procurement process for the organics collection will determine the type of infrastructure required and who will provide and fund it. However, the processing system should have capacity to handle commercial food waste as well as domestic. Recent audits have shown that commercial organic waste makes up eight per cent of all waste (commercial and domestic) sent to landfill, making it the second largest contributor to the commercial waste stream.

SLR’s review of Auckland’s waste services\(^8\) identified organic waste (domestic and commercial) as a key waste stream to divert from landfill and estimated a requirement for 230,000-300,000 tonnes of processing capacity per annum by 2040.

Different solutions will need to be found for residents living in rural area and the Hauraki Gulf Islands as the kerbside food waste collection will only be provided in urban areas. The WMMP states that alternate solutions will need to be developed in these areas to provide residents with disposal options. In the case of the Hauraki Gulf Islands the plan states that council will explore opportunities for local resource recovery initiatives that retain as much material as possible on the islands. A number of trials have started on Waiheke, funded

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\(^8\) Waste Management Options Review and Modelling, SLR. March 2017
through the Waste Minimisation and Innovation Fund, which will help test the potential of local solutions.

The contract to operate the Waiheke Transfer Station comes to end in 2019 when it will be retendered as a Community Recycling Centre. This will provide an opportunity for it to play a role in some kind of on-island food collection.

In rural areas Community Recycling Centres can potentially provide organic services in their communities. Waiuku, Helensville, Warkworth and Wellsford could potentially provide services for their areas if there is enough space and consents can be secured. Council will need to work with each operator to develop solutions appropriate for each community, potentially with the assistance of the Community Recycling Network whose members have expertise in local organic collection and processing systems.

4. What will influence the next WMMP?

The focus of the next WMMP will be on fully implementing the actions of the current WMMP, including roll out of the Resource Recovery Network. However it will need to take into account new drivers that have emerged over the past five years, such the impact of Auckland’s rapid population growth, the growing urgency to mitigate climate change and council’s commitment to empowering local communities.

Intensification - securing sites for the future

Housing intensification has an impact not only on construction and demolition waste but also on finding sites for Community Recycling Centres. Provision needs to be made for these facilities in new developments, in the same way as for other community facilities like libraries and parks. Without some prioritisation it will be impossible to provide residents with accessible facilities in the future.

Ideally Community Recycling Centres should be located on council- owned sites to ensure council retains the ability to recover resources over the long term. Owning sites also gives council the ability to charge low or no rent if the viability of an operation requires it. Most social enterprises do not generate enough income to pay commercial rent, their focus being on creating jobs and other local benefits.

Land availability will become an increasing issue across Auckland so setting aside for future service provision will need to be a priority.

Climate change

Auckland’s Low Carbon Action Plan was released in July 2014, setting a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by 2040 with one of the five key areas for achieving this being ‘transforming to zero waste’.

Auckland Council joined the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group in 2015 adding further weight to council’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions. In 2016 Auckland Council was shortlisted as a finalist in the Solid Waste category of the C40 awards based on the ambition and high level of community-engagement of the WMMP. Council is now leading the C40’s Waste to Resources work stream which will give international exposure to the work being done to review and update the WMMP and the impact on carbon reduction.
Local resilience and disaster management

Following the Christchurch and Kaikoura earthquakes Auckland Council has focused on developing local resilience to ensure communities can cope during natural disasters. Community Recycling Centres run by social enterprises provide natural hubs for developing local resilience. Kaikoura’s Community Recycling Centre showed this, playing a key role in developing the connections that helped the community cope immediately after the earthquake, and later during the clean-up and recovery phase.9

On a smaller scale, but closer to home, Auckland Council was able to help families displaced by flooding in west Auckland in March 2017 by working with the Waitakere Community Recycling Centre to provide access with to second hand goods.

Local resilience is especially important in isolated rural and island communities which could be hard to reach in a natural disaster. Community Recycling Centres in these areas can play an important role in developing volunteer and community networks and providing a conduit for resources and aid during an emergency.

In the event of large scale disaster Auckland may also need the capacity to handle large volumes of material from damaged buildings, debris etc. Resource Recovery Parks could provide some of this capacity but planning will be required over the next few years to secure sites, particularly in the north and south of the city, and potentially in collaboration with neighbouring councils.

Empowered Communities Approach

The empowered communities approach has become a strong driver within Council, the goal being to support local decision making and capacity building so communities can do things for themselves. The procurement process used to secure operators for Community Recycling Centres supports this approach, giving emphasis to local job creation, volunteering, training opportunities and innovation, as well as waste minimisation. As a consequence social enterprises having won contracts to run the four Community Recycling Centres established to date and these facilities are becoming vibrant community hubs, providing multiple social and environmental benefits in their communities.

Multi-use of council property

With increasing pressure on land council is increasingly looking towards multi-use of its properties to generate the most ratepayer benefit. Community Recycling Centres are well suited to being co-located with other community facilities such as community gardens, halls and sportsgrounds where common services can be shared and benefits generated from co-location. Western Springs is a good example, with work underway to accommodate multiple users on the one council-owned site including a community hall for hire, a community leased building and a Community Recycling Centre.

Inorganic collection

The new inorganic collection service was introduced in September 2015 and was the first major service change of the WMMP. The pre-booked, on-property service is offered annually to 540,000 eligible properties across the Auckland region with collections undertaken by Waste Management NZ who separate material on property and take reusable and recyclable items to their warehouse in Glen Innes. Here it is sorted and distributed by the Community Recycling Network to over 80 registered community groups. The new service has addressed the negative issues associated with the previous collection systems including health and safety, mess on the streets, blocked footpaths, traffic congestion caused by scavengers, litter and the loss of amenity. It has also resulted in 30 per cent of material put out for collection being diverted from landfill (nearly 2000 tonnes) to beneficial use, and the creation of employment opportunities, including for people with disabilities who dismantle televisions and other e-waste from the collection.

The collection is closely linked to the RRN because inorganic items are an important component of the materials Community Recycling Centres accept and process. The new service was designed to support the establishment of the RRN and with the idea that it might be able to be phased out when enough Community Recycling Centres are established across the city.

The next few years (until the end of the inorganic collection contract in 2019/20) provide an opportunity to test the viability of this idea. Helensville Community Recycling Centre has already started trialling direct delivery of reusable and recyclable items collected from within the Helensville catchment area. This is to ensure they can get access to local materials without having to make the trip to the Glen Innes warehouse. The trial is proving successful and is likely to continue. A further step would be for Helensville, and potentially Waiuku Community Recycling Centres, to trial a local collection service in their areas, using the regional booking system and promotional materials, but collecting reusables, recyclables and refuse under contract to council.

The Hauraki Gulf Islands doesn’t receive the new service but a trial on Waiheke is testing a similar service with City Parks doing the collection and a consortium of community groups is receiving and distributing reusable items. This is proving successful and is likely to continue, at least until a Community Recycling Centre is established on the island.

The contract for the inorganic collection will finish part-way through the next WMMP. The proposal is to review its performance over the next couple of years with a view to either continuing with the current system or phasing it out and providing services through Community Recycling Centres as they are established.

**Product Stewardship**

Product stewardship is potentially a game changer for waste reduction in New Zealand, but requires central government intervention. Advocating for product stewardship schemes is an important initiative in the WMMP because product stewardship shifts the responsibility and cost of recovery, recycling and disposal away from local government (or ratepayers) to manufacturers and consumers. The WMMP states that council strongly supports product stewardship for all products but makes specific mention of beverage containers, tyres,
televisions and other electronic waste, construction and demolition waste, nappies/incontinence pads and batteries.

A cost benefit analysis has recently been commissioned to assess the impact of a national container deposit scheme for beverage containers. Older studies indicated that a scheme would be costly, in part because of the expense of establishing collection infrastructure. However when Community Recycling Centres are factored in as collection depots the report indicates that a container deposit scheme would be financially beneficial to Auckland ratepayers. Community Recycling Centres provide the ideal collection infrastructure in Auckland and revenue from the scheme would help support their operation expenses. They can also be used as collection depots for tyres, batteries, electronic waste and other items when schemes are introduced.

5. Proposals for the next WMMP

Resource Recovery Network

Continue implementing the long-term RRN strategy, including establishment of twelve Community Recycling Centres by 2024.

Additionally:

Community Recycling Centres:

- Secure a second drop-off in the central area, using funds from the sale of 27 Normanby Road if required
- Determine how many Community Recycling Centres will be required over the next 10-20 years and where they should be located. Seek additional funding for those established before 2024/25.
- Ensure council planning includes sites for Community Recycling Centres in new developments

Resource Recovery Parks:

- Redevelop the Waitakere Transfer Station as a Resource Recovery Park, using operational revenue and external funding
- Identify sites for Resource Recovery Parks in other parts of the city, potentially in association with neighbouring councils and/or private/community sector partners

Construction and demolition waste:

- Work with other council departments to secure temporary sites for deconstruction activity and for processing construction and demolition materials
- Investigate potential joint ventures with private/community sector partners to establish resource recovery facilities for construction and demolition waste
- Support the establishment of an internet based waste exchange/waste brokering service

Hazardous waste:
Establish household hazardous drop off points at all Community Recycling Centres (where consents allow)
Establish a collection service as an interim measure until enough permanent sites are established
Investigate the potential for rural Community Recycling Centres to provide drop off facilities for agrichemicals and other hazardous farm wastes

Organics:
Ensure (through the procurement process) that the domestic food waste collection processing plant has capacity to process commercial food waste in the future.
Investigate use of Community Recycling Centres in northern and central parts of the city as food waste consolidation points or, if these are not suitable, secure other sites.
Pilot small scale food waste collection and processing systems at Community Recycling Centres in rural areas and in the Hauraki Gulf Islands

Inorganics:
Continue trialling direct delivery of reusable and recyclable materials to rural Community Recycling Centres then expanding to full service provision
Review the inorganic collection before the current contract ends to assess the potential of partial or full delivery through the Resource Recovery Network