

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2012 - Achievements to date

Waste Management and Minimisation Fund

The Waste Management and Minimisation Fund was established in 2013. To date, this fund has awarded \$2.5 million to over 270 projects which have focused on minimising and diverting waste from landfill.

Resource recovery network

On 9 October 2014, the Regional Strategy and Policy Committee approved the strategy and budget for the resource recovery network, which included the establishment of 12 community recycling centres across the region. The Long-term Plan 2015-2025 approved this budget over a ten year period.

To date, four community recycling centres have been established on existing waste transfer sites. These are located in Waiuku, Helensville, Devonport, and Waitākere Ranges. A social procurement process was used to secure the operators for this site. To date all four recycling centres are operated by community enterprises. Other community recycling initiatives underway include:

- Trials to support community recycling initiatives on Waiheke and Great Barrier, in Whangaparaoa, and a site in Onehunga
- Scoping study undertaken for two community recycling centres in south Auckland
- Design and resource consent underway for a central recycling centre at Great North Road, Western Springs, which is expected to open in late 2018
- On-going capacity building

Food waste trials

Food waste trials have been undertaken with 2,000 households on the North Shore and more in-depth street based trials in south Auckland since 2014. A recent independent survey of the residents using the food waste service in the trial area indicated that 93% rated the service as 'a good idea'. Of those who completed the survey, 81% believed that it would be 'a bad idea' to stop the trial. The amount of household food waste has remained constant since the trial started. Based on audits undertaken by staff, residents participating in the trial have seen on average a 54 per cent reduction in the amount of refuse in their user pays bags (from 7kgs to 3.2kgs per bag), resulting in less bags being presented with associated cost savings.

Inorganics

In 2015, the new regional inorganics service was implemented. This changed from a mix of kerbside inorganic collections provided by the legacy councils to a booked on-property service. There is now a two-truck system where one truck collects items that can be recycled or repaired, and the second truck picks up the waste to landfill. The recovered items are taken to a processing plant that is operated by the Auckland Community Recycling Network, who redistributes the goods to registered community groups and businesses to reuse, recycle or repair. Customer satisfaction for the new service is currently at 75 percent.

Comingled recycling

All households across the Auckland region now have comingled recycling. In 2016, 210,000 households in north-west Auckland received new 240 litre recycling wheelie bins and 6,000 households in rural Franklin.

Manukau refuse bins

From September 2017, 110,000 households in the legacy Manukau City Council area will receive wheelie bins for refuse, replacing plastic bags. All households in this area will be eligible for a 120 litre waste wheelie bins, and the ratepayer can pay an additional \$55.00

per year on their rates, if they require a larger, 240 litre bin (subject to approval through the Annual Plan).

Community engagement

There is extensive community engagement planned, as well as a targeted waste minimisation behaviour change programme that are support the increasing number of community-led waste initiatives. This programme includes partnering contracts with respected community organisations, and targeted behaviour change programmes such as composting, waste free parenting, zero waste events, recycling right and preparing communities for service changes.

Para Kore ki Tāmaki

An iwi led waste movement is being supported through a partnering contract with Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei for the Para Kore ki Tāmaki project. This project is supporting marae and Māori-based organisations across the region to implement systems through a Te Ao Maori framework to become zero waste.

Advocacy

There has been ongoing advocacy working collaboratively with other councils across the country to increase the waste levy, for product stewardship and a container deposit scheme to central government.