

Albert-Eden Local Board Feedback

Input into Auckland Council's submission on the Ministry for the Environment's proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

The Albert-Eden Local Board:

- supports option one in the consultation document—a total and mandatory ban. The inappropriate consumption, use and discarding of plastic bags has significant impacts on Auckland's natural environment and our waste collection systems.
- considers that the ban should apply to all retailers who distribute single-use plastic shopping bags, rather than just the larger retailers. An incomplete ban will be less effective.
- supports the proposed six-month phase-out timeframe.

The following information demonstrates how the support for option one is consistent with the Albert-Eden Local Board's commitment to waste reduction and sustainability initiatives as shown in their planning, feedback, funded work programmes.

Extracted from the **Albert-Eden Local Board Plan 2017**

Whakaotinga 7: He whai whakaaro me te tiaki tonu tā mātou i tō mātou taiao / Outcome 7: We respect and protect our environment

Our community cares for our environment and develops innovative ways to look after it. Our natural landscape is healthy and well looked after.

You have told us you would like to see more sustainability initiatives in our area. We will continue to seek out and support innovative community projects such as the Central Community Recycling Centre in Western Springs. We will also encourage and support sustainable business initiatives.

We know reducing carbon emissions is something many of you are passionate about.

We will work towards becoming a carbon-neutral area and support low-carbon initiatives at a neighbourhood level.

Opportunity: Our Eco-Neighbourhoods programme to support sustainable, low-carbon lifestyles is well established and continues to grow.

Objective: Sustainable practices are encouraged and fostered.

Key initiatives

- Support and develop local sustainability programmes in partnership with the community, for example the Eco-Neighbourhoods programme.
- Investigate carbon-neutral initiatives. This includes activity such as developing a local low-carbon plan, advocating for efficiencies in new infrastructure and upgrades to council buildings (such as solar power) and incorporating carbon neutral principles in projects such as town centre upgrades.
- Work with our business community to encourage and support local sustainable business practices and initiatives, such as reducing the use of plastic bags.

Albert-Eden Local Board's feedback on the draft Auckland Council Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018

- Supports the proposed approach taken in the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.
- Supports continuing to follow the direction set in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2012, but with reviewed targets for reduction in domestic kerbside waste and council waste.
- Supports the focus on advocating to central government for:
 - a higher waste levy
 - product stewardship
 - other measures to address commercial waste noting that it constitutes up to 80 per cent of waste.
- Supports the focus on addressing three priority commercial waste streams:
- construction and demolition waste
 - organic waste
 - plastic waste.
- Supports addressing waste generated from council and council-controlled organisation's operational activities, particularly construction and demolition waste.

Albert-Eden community feedback to the draft Auckland Council Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018

Overall, 172 submissions were received on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan from the Albert-Eden Local Board area. This represented eight per cent of the total submissions received.

The majority of submitters supported the overall direction of the draft plan with:

- 81 per cent supporting expanding council's focus to non-domestic waste
- 85 per cent supporting working with businesses to reduce construction and demolition, plastic and organic waste
- 86 per cent supporting the expansion of the council's network of Community Recycling Centres

- 83 per cent supporting advocacy for product stewardship and container deposit schemes.

Albert-Eden Local Board funded projects in 2018/2019 financial year

Eco-Neighbourhoods - \$40,000

An Eco-Neighbourhood comprises groups of six or more neighbours from different households within the board area, with the objective of adopting sustainable, low carbon practices and increasing resilience within their homes, lifestyles and neighbourhoods. Each group decides activities they wish to undertake, with support from a project manager.

Of particular relevance, the Dominion Rd Boomerang Bags Eco-Neighbourhood group makes shopping bags out of surplus material with the assistance of local schools and distributes them through Dominion Rd businesses to shoppers who may take them until they have finished using them.

Other activities include:

- carbon footprinting, using the Future Fit carbon calculator to work out their most material impacts
- food - bee keeping, sustainable local food production and consumption, street orchards, shared chicken coops, food swapping, food resilience
- water conservation - rain water collection, water efficiency, eco cleaning products
- waste reduction – composting, beeswax wrap making, recycling/upcycling, living waste free
- transport - e-bike workshops, electric vehicle expos
- energy reduction - home energy and hot water efficiency, healthy homes
- biodiversity – tree planting, rat trapping
- opportunities for participants to complete Live Lightly community champions training.

In the 2017/2018 financial year, there were 12 EcoNeighbourhoods groups. It is expected that up to 20 groups could be supported with \$40,000 worth of funding from the local board in the 2018/2019 financial year. Alternatively, \$30,000 would support up to 12 groups, and \$35,000 would support up to 15 groups.

Business Sustainability Development - \$20,000

Promote sustainable business practices. This programme of work will include identifying the needs of local business through a short one on one engagement, working with interested businesses through coaching sessions to establish a sustainability action plan, and encouraging participant to monitor their progress.