

WASTE 2021-2022

Our District

Waste within our district is made up of household kerbside waste collection (bags and bins), waste from industrial or commercial activity, and waste from residents and businesses taking loads to the three transfer stations, as well as waste taken directly to privately operated landfills.

While we are doing a lot of recycling, we could be doing more.

There is urgency to move away from our current high-waste society to becoming a low-waste society. This requires us all to rethink our approach, reshape our behaviours and reimagine the future of waste management.



This shift not only requires us to recover resources at the end of their use rather than disposing of them. In addition we will need to choose and use resources in ways that can ensure they do not generate waste.

The concept of recycling is not just primarily about reducing how much waste is taken to landfills but also reduces the need to extract further raw materials from the earth needed to create the product.

Para-Kore (Zero Waste)

Reframing our thinking around waste aligns with the principle of kaitiakitanga or guardianship, whereby we adopt an integrated view of the environment and protect our natural environment from degradation.

“Everything in nature is part of a closed, continuous, endless cycle” (WMMP). This is called The Circular Economy.

Modern methods of manufacturing and material sourcing have led to an increase in volume of production and in-organic material. Using the circular economy model will take us closer to the principles of kaitiakitanga.

Our vision is to embrace Zero Waste (Para Kore) and the Circular Economy (Ōhanga āmiomio) as an alternative to the traditional linear economy. Circular economies means we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life where possible.

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP)

Council is required to develop and adopt a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) under s44 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. Our last Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (the Plan) was adopted in 2017 in partnership with our neighbours Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) and Hauraki District Council (HDC). While our Plan covered the period from 2017 to 2023, significant changes in Central Government policies, and in the waste industry sector have resulted in reviewing our Plan in 2020 to ensure it is 'fit for purpose' therefore amendments were made in 2021.

The WMMP is a collaborative model where, Council, business, Iwi, community groups and householders can all work together to build new waste minimisation services and grow local economic development, ultimately building community resilience at the same time. This plan aims to facilitate all individuals and businesses have access to recycling, resource recovery and waste management services. There is an opportunity to create more education and understanding around taking responsibility of our waste, therefore creating awareness of the value in resources being used, recycled and avoiding sending waste to a landfill.

According to our WMMP, the volume of waste sent to landfill in our district has not seen a dramatic increase in the last 10 years. While this may be the case for landfill quantities, it is worth noting that recycling rates have declined steadily which is a trend that is seen on a national and global scale.

The Future of Waste in our District

Central government have proposed a shift towards a low waste, low carbon future. In turn, there are likely to be increased costs associated with landfill disposal over the next few years.

When planning for the future in our district it is critical to identify how to implement effective waste management systems that works towards waste minimisation and resource recovery before it is sent to landfills.

We propose to do this by sequentially converting our refuse transfer stations into community resource recovery centres (CRRC) which will provide for greater separation of wastes and provide for collaboration enterprises that allow for community and business input.

These changes are fundamentally different compared to current practises. The changes suggested by central government and Council will call for changes in behaviour and practices, but will move us closer towards meeting our goals and objectives of the WMMP using a circular economy methodology.

Working towards a low-waste future and a circular economy.

One of the goals set out in the vision is to have 'a community that considers, and where appropriate, implements initiatives and innovative ways to assist in reducing, reusing and recycling wastes therefore minimising the waste that is sent to landfills' by:

- Provide sustainable waste minimisation services that are cost-effective to the community
- View waste as resource, making the necessary improvements and modifications to collections and facilities so that more materials and products can be diverted from landfill
- Making waste reduction, reuse and recovery initiatives our priority and align with other council objectives
- Reduce barriers that prevent the community from making the best use of the existing services
- Find and implement new ways that waste can be reduced, reused and recycled
- Examine feasibility options for developing community recovery centres
- Review processes and methods of waste management to keep it within the district

The second goal outlined in the WMMP vision is to ‘minimise environmental harm and protect public health’ by:

- Ensuring the reduction of environmental harm is understood from a holistic perspective, including tikanga and mātaurangi Māori (indigenous knowledge) as an important aspect of creating sustainable practices.
- Identifying all impacts on the environment and public health implications of all waste management options, and ultimately looking at what is most cost effective for the community

Please use the link below to access the Waste Minimisation Management Plan (WMMP):

<https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/have-your-say/wmmp>

How are we tracking?

There were two targets that were established as part of the WMMP for the Matamata-Piako District. These two target references:

- ***The total quantity of waste sent to landfills be reduced by 1% per person per year.***

The total waste sent to landfills for the year 2021 – 2022 per person was 143.8kg. During this time, Covid-19 protocols changed the availability of council’s rubbish collection services and there was a decrease in total amount sent to landfills. The year prior, had a total amount of refuse waste of 153.49kg per person, which is a significant drop from 172kg per person in 2019-2020. While the total quantity of waste sent to landfills is reducing, it is tricky to identify the pattern as there has been a significant changes and impacts due to covid-19.

Calculation: Total quantity of waste = 5277.9 (MT) / 36, 700 (estimated population)

$$= 0.1438 \text{ (x 1000)}$$

$$= 143.8\text{kg/ person/ year}$$

- ***A 5% decrease in kerbside household waste to landfill from approximately 62kg per person per annum to 59kg per person per annum***

The total kerbside waste sent to landfills for the year 2021-2022 was 41.79kg per person. This is an increase from 2020 – 2021 which was 33.32kg. However, both these years were lower than the previous year (2019 – 2020) which had a total quantity of kerbside waste of 45kg per person. Again, it is hard to draw conclusions due to the impact Covid-19 had on our practices including waste.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Calculation: Total quantity of kerbside waste} &= 1533.66 \text{ (MT)} / 36,700 \text{ (estimated population)} \\ &= 0.041789 \text{ (x 1000)} \\ &= 41.79 / \text{person/ year}\end{aligned}$$