



U R U R U A
W A S T E

WASTE 2022-2023

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, but also 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.

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 us reviewing our Plan in 2020 to ensure it is ‘fit for purpose’. Amendments were consequently made in 2021. The WMMP is a collaborative model where Council, businesses, 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 enable 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.

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 of our district it is critical to identify how to implement effective waste management systems that work towards waste minimisation and resource recovery before it is sent to landfills.

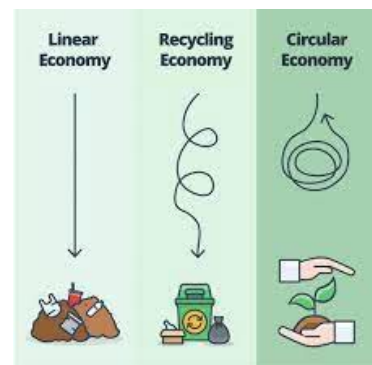
We propose to do this by sequentially converting our refuse transfer stations into community resource recovery centres (CRRRC) which will provide for greater separation of wastes and provide for collaboration enterprises that allow for community and business input. These changes are fundamentally different to the current practises. The changes suggested by central government and Council calls for changes in behaviour and practices, but using a circular economy methodology will move us closer towards meeting the goals and objectives of the WMMP.



Working towards a low-waste future and a circular economy

One of the goals set out in the WMMP 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



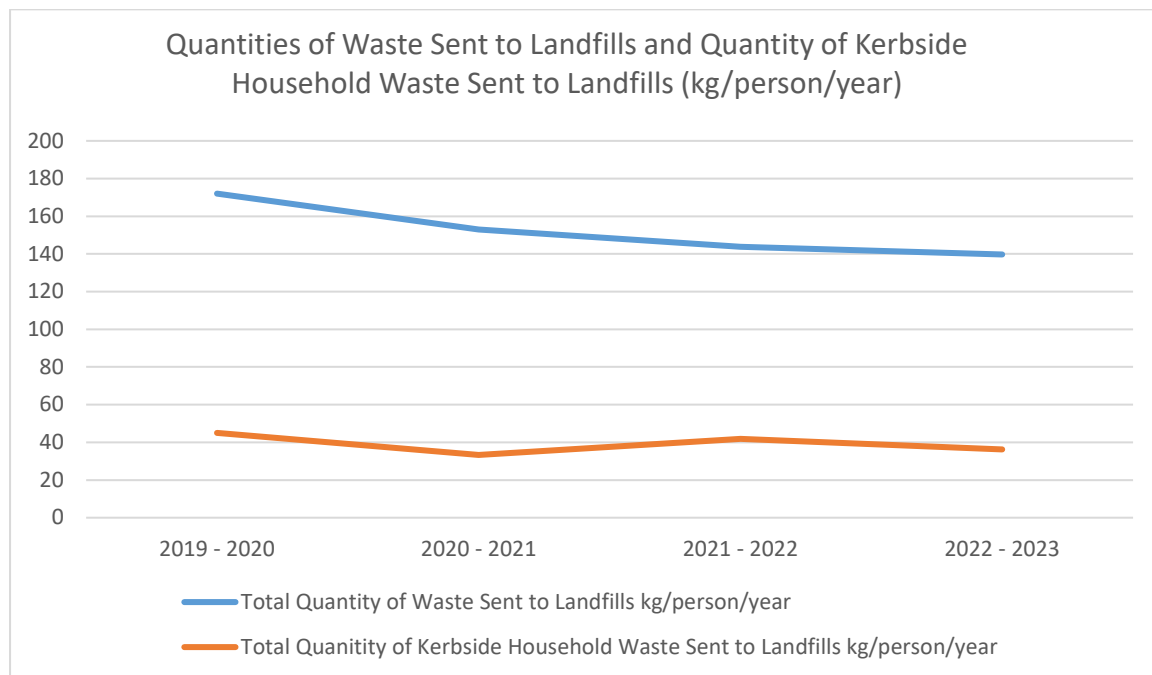
The second goal outlined in the WMMP vision is to ‘minimise environmental harm and protect public health’ by:

- 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 the public health implications of all waste management options, and ultimately looking at what is most cost effective for the community

How are we tracking?

There are two targets that the Matamata-Piako District Council is looking at tracking related to landfills. These two targets require the total quantity of waste sent to landfills to be reduced by 1% per person per year and expect a 5% decrease in kerbside household waste to landfill from approximately 62kg per person per annum to 59kg. For more information please visit our webpage: <https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/wmmp>

The following section looks at how our district is tracking.



The average kg of waste sent to landfills per person per year, has decreased steadily since the Plan was first implemented. In the 2022 – 2023 period there was an average of 139.7kg of waste per person, sent to landfills, which is a reduction of 4.1kg compared to the 2021 – 2022 period where there was an average of 143.8kg of waste sent to landfills. In the period 2020 – 2021, there was an average of 153.5kg of waste per person sent to landfills, which means that between 2020 – 2021 and 2021 – 2022, there was a reduction of 9.69kg per person. Our largest drop in landfill waste was between the period 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 where we saw a drop of 18.51kg per person.

The total kerbside waste sent to landfills for the year 2021-2022 was 41.79kg per person. This is an increase from 2020 – 2021 period, where was only 33.32kg per person. However, both these years were lower than the previous year (2019 – 2020) which had a total quantity of kerbside waste of 45kg per person. This year has had the lowest value, with only 36.4kg per

person which indicates a drop of 5.4kg per person from the 2021-2022 period. This is a really encouraging trend for our district.

On the face of it, this demonstrates that less rubbish is being sent our landfills, perhaps a result of increased uptake of recycling methods, choosing to reuse or repurpose and/or an uptake of Council's messaging around rubbish around how to correctly recycle or manage your waste rather than sending it to landfills. However, Covid-19 protocols did change the availability of the Council's collection services, which generally resulted in a decrease in material going to landfill. Due to these significant changes and impacts of Covid-19, it has been tricky identify conclusive patterns and behavioural changes.

Total Quantity of Waste sent to Landfills, per person per year

	Total quantity of waste sent to landfills per person per year	Reduction by how many kg compared to the year before:
2022 – 2023	139.7 kg	4.1 kg
2021 – 2022*	143.8 kg	9.69 kg
2020 – 2021*	153.5 kg	18.51 kg
2019 - 2020	172 kg	

*Covid-19 protocols changed the availability of council's rubbish collection services during these years and there was a decrease in total amount sent to landfills. Due to these significant changes and impacts of covid-19, it has been tricky identify patterns and behavioural changes.

Amount of Kerbside Household Waste sent to landfills, per person per year

	Total quantity of Kerbside Household Waste Sent to Landfills (kg/person/year)	Reduction by how many kg compared to the year before:
2022 – 2023	36.4 kg	5.4 kg
2021 – 2022*	41.8 kg	-8.5 kg
2020 – 2021*	33.3 kg	11.7 kg
2019 - 2020	45 kg	

*Covid-19 protocols changed the availability of council's rubbish collection services during these years and there was a decrease in total amount sent to landfills. Due to these significant changes and impacts of covid-19, it has been tricky identify patterns and behavioural changes.