

7.2 Solid Waste Report

Report To:	Local Services Committee
Meeting Date:	Thursday, 21 August 2025
Author:	Lynne Kenny
Author Title:	Project Manager - Assets
Authorised by:	Executive Manager Delivery

Purpose

To inform the Local Services Committee of current solid waste activities and the status of future projects.

Recommendation

That the Local Services Committee:

- a. receives and notes the Solid Waste Report (Resolve # 2025-309).

Executive Summary

Council set a goal that no waste or rubbish leaves the district.

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and Litter Act 1979 (both of which are under review) inform our WMMP which sets the activities that enable Council to support our goals and objectives and meet the forecast demand for waste services.

This report provides an update on waste minimisation and resource recovery activities for the April - June quarter 2025 and year-end reporting for 2024/25.

Context

Council owns and operates transfer stations in Tokoroa and Putāruru. General waste, green waste and a range of divertable materials are accepted at both facilities. There is a recycling only drop-off facility in Tīrau. All three sites are managed for Council by private operators in accordance with service contracts.

Commercial and industrial waste is accepted at Tokoroa transfer station only. All greenwaste is mulched on site at Tokoroa before transport to MyNoke for vermiprocessing.

Council provides kerbside collection services to the four urban areas:

- weekly rubbish in 120 litre wheelie bins
- fortnightly recycling in 240 litre wheelie bins
- fortnightly glass in either 45 litre or 60 litre crates.

Co-mingled recycling (#1,2,5 plastics, cans, paper and cardboard) is transported to the Hamilton Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and glass is transported to Visy Recycling in Onehunga.

Council contracts services for the collection and disposal of illegal dumping on all roads, excluding State Highways. When identifying information is found at a dumping site, it is forwarded to the Compliance team for appropriate action. We are actively exploring ways to reduce illegal dumping, with our 2025 intern dedicated to supporting this work.

Monitoring, compliance and reporting on our three closed landfills, as required by resource consent conditions, is undertaken by the Asset Compliance team.

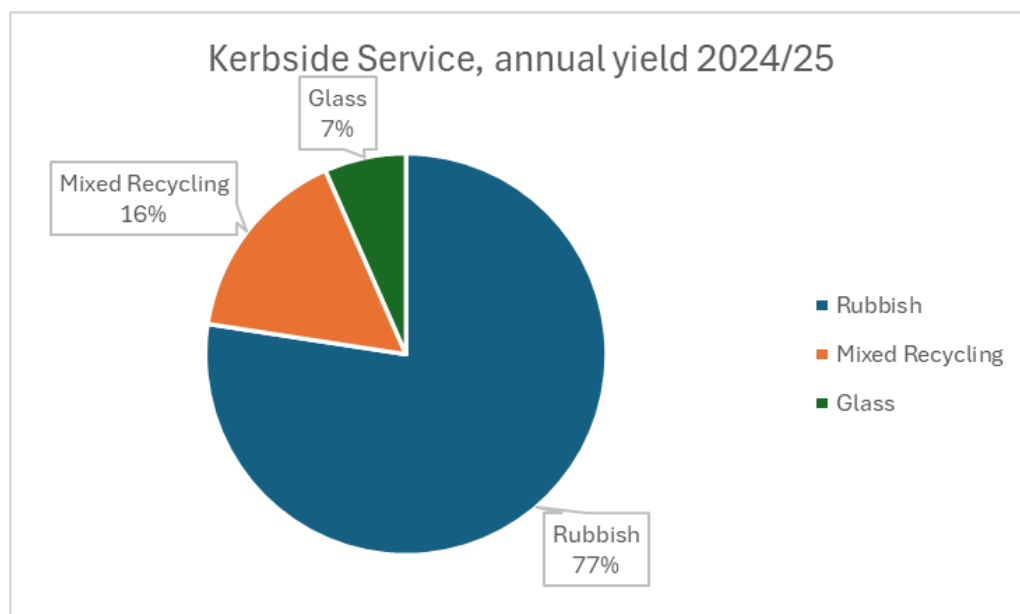
Waste awareness initiatives such as zero waste education in schools, community workshops, paper for trees program are funded by waste levy revenue.

Discussion

Kerbside Collection

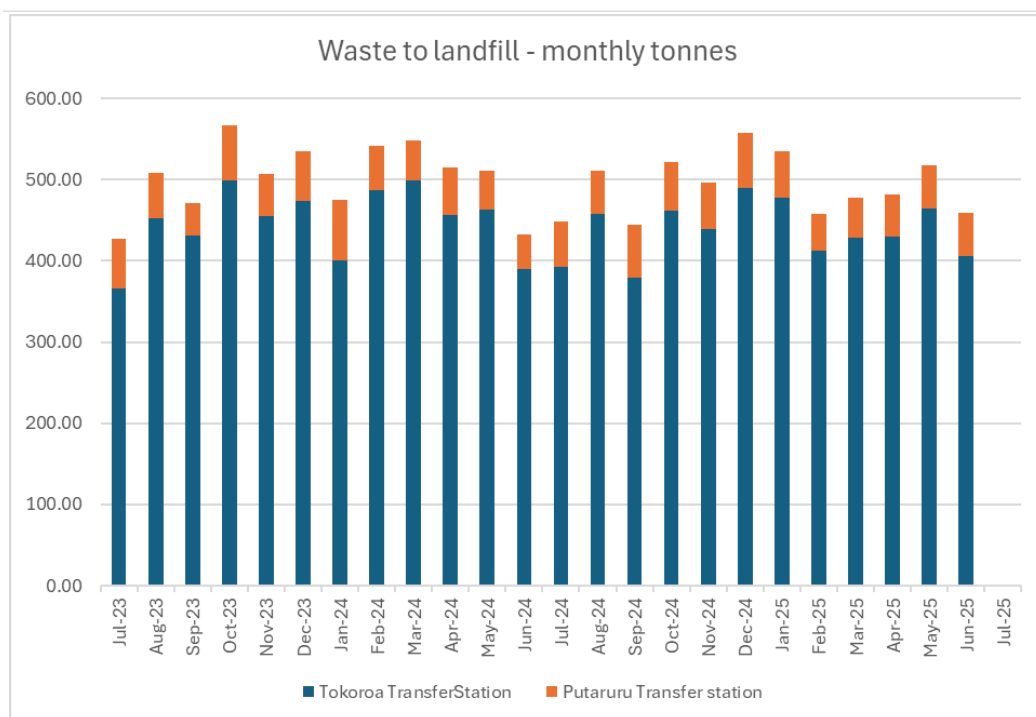
Kerbside collection data for the April - June 2025 quarter			
	Rubbish	Recycling	Glass
Monthly average bins emptied	27,580	10,894	3,290
Monthly average participation rate	76%	61%	18%
Monthly average tonnes	290	59	20

All measures are down slightly on the previous quarter.

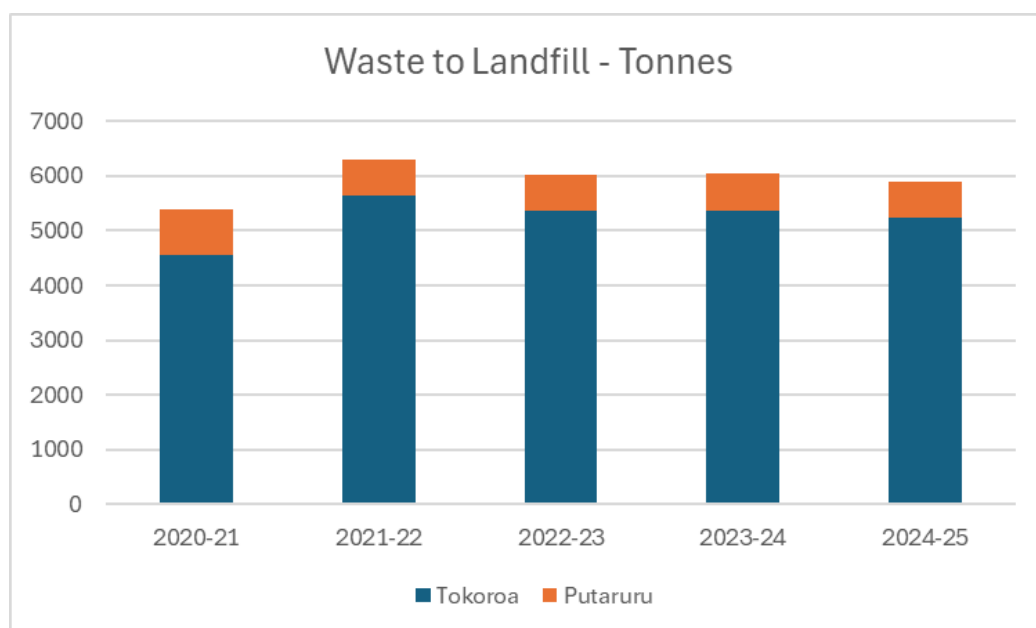


Outbound Waste to Landfill

Total outbound waste to Hampton Downs in 2024/25 was 5,907 tonnes, slightly down on previous year 6,038 tonnes.



Year on year since the Tokoroa Transfer Station commenced operation in November 2020, tonnage has remained between 5,300 tonnes and 6,300 tonnes annually.



Outbound Recycling and Diverted Materials for 2024/25

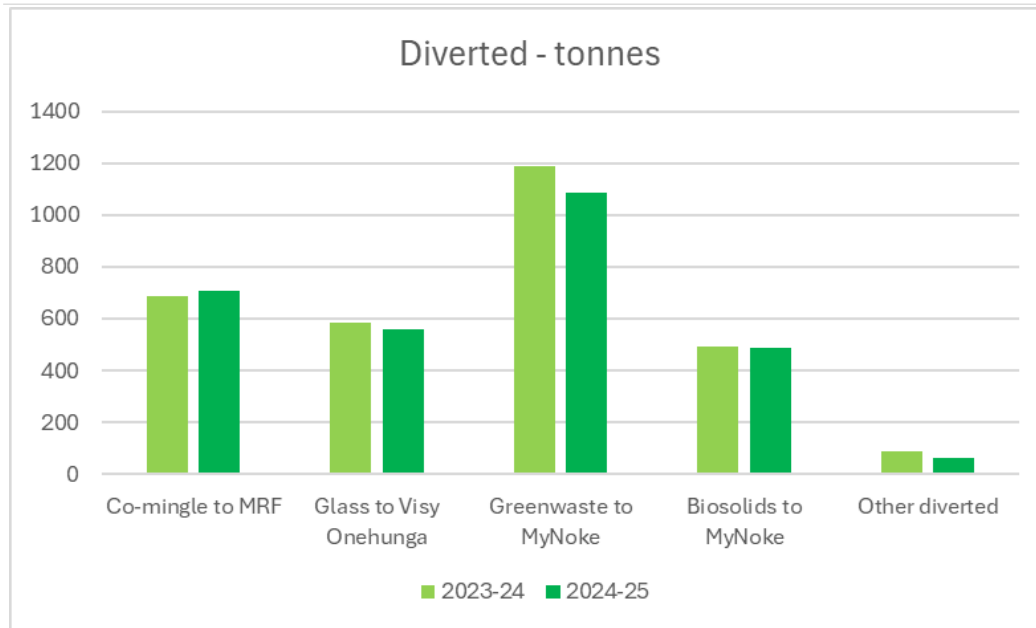
Total outbound recycling to Hamilton MRF: 706 tonnes.

Total outbound glass to Visy Onehunga: 559 tonnes.

Total greenwaste sent to MyNoke for vermiprocessing: 1,085 tonnes

Total biosolids sent to MyNoke for vermiprocessing: 487 tonnes

Other diverted: 64 tonnes



Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2022

Of the 25 activities in the WMMP, ten are completed annually and are ongoing throughout the six-year lifespan of the WMMP.

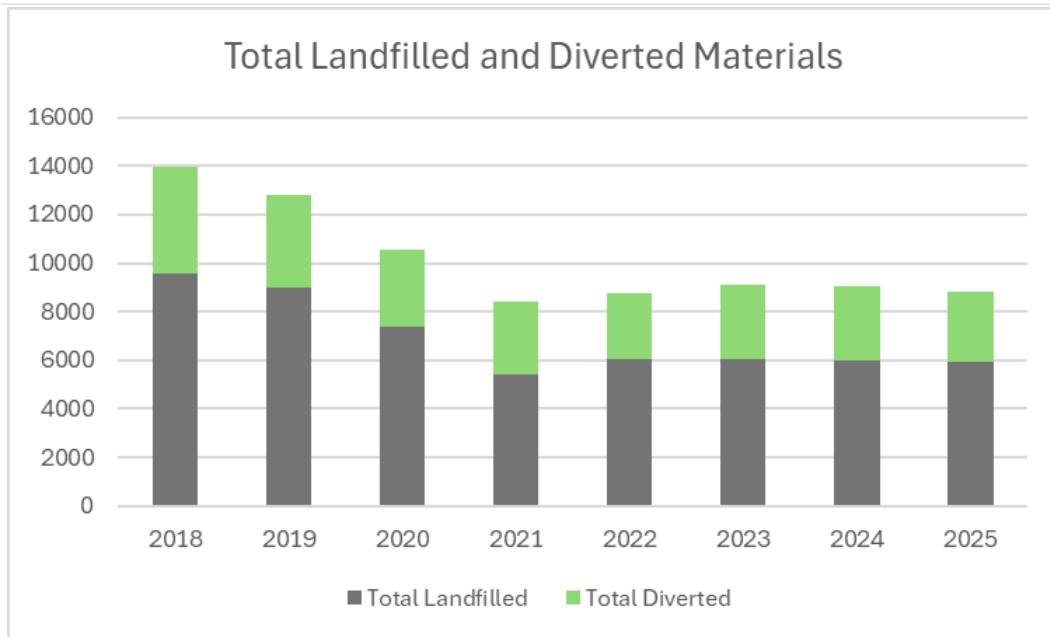
Five activities are currently underway, including:

1. Review of kerbside collection services is complete, but forms part of the five-year contractual review of the Solid Waste Services contract which is being undertaken by our external Engineer to Contract.
2. Introduction of kerbside organics collection is currently on hold. During recent discussion with Ministry for the Environment (MfE) it was recommended that we request an amendment to 'Gazetted Notice 'Standard Materials for Kerbside Collections' to allow inclusion of cardboard and paper in kerbside organics collections. This is underway.
3. Illegal dumping - intern project progressing.
4. Support national campaigns to actively reduce littering and illegal dumping - Keep New Zealand Beautiful is taking place 19th-25th September.
5. Online information - currently working with Comms team to update and streamline the waste section of Council's website.

Annual Plan KPI's

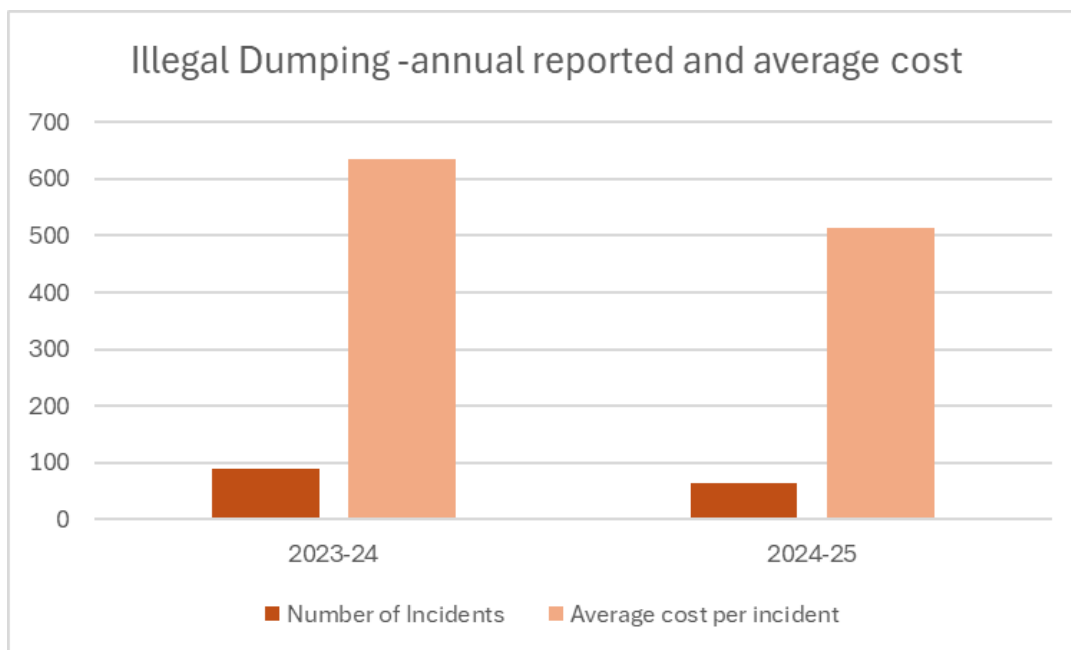
During 2024/25 there were 21 waste minimisation events undertaken, including Kate Meads community workshops, zero waste education in schools, school visits to Tokoroa Transfer Station and promotion of new recycling services such as the child car seat program. Our KPI target was 12 events.

During 2024/25 our diversion rate as a percentage of waste to landfill was 49%. Diversion tonnage includes greenwaste, all standard recycling, paint, whiteware, scrap metal, child car seats. It also includes the WWTP biosolids to MyNoke as these were landfilled prior to 2020. It does not include diverted material that is measured by volume such as household hazardous waste, batteries, cellphones, waste oil. Our KPI target was 45%.



Illegal Dumping 2024/25

Reported incidents and cost to clean up illegal dumping were both down on the previous year. This is primarily due to an increased focus on illegal dumping, and the work being undertaken by our intern.



Circular Economy Intern - Illegal Dumping Project

While fines already exist for illegal dumping, enforcement can be challenging without witnesses and limited identifying information. To increase our ability to punish serious offenders the South Waikato District Council has joined other districts in pushing for less evidence requirements when holding dumpers accountable.

Efforts are also underway to improve public awareness, including legal disposal options such as transfer stations and kerbside services, and to reinforce the environmental consequences of illegal dumping.

The council alone cannot stop illegal dumping; it is up to the whole community to act. Residents can report incidents through the council, but only a unified community-wide effort, combining education, enforcement, and a shared commitment to protecting the local environment can minimise illegal dumping in our district.

Mobile Recycling Trailer

Our customised Mobile Recycling Trailer (MRT) has been funded through Waste Levy Revenue. The MRT is designed to support waste minimisation efforts in rural communities by making recycling more accessible. It will provide regular, staffed recycling drop-off services to areas without existing kerbside collection. In addition, the MRT will be available for booking by community event organisers, helping attendees recycle correctly during events. After each use, the trailer and its contents will be transported to the Tokoroa Transfer Station for consolidation with other recycling, before being prepared for its next scheduled deployment. The trailer has been fabricated by local company Ing Engineering and is currently awaiting signwriting.

Monitoring Report: Emissions Reduction (2025)

The Climate Change Commission have released their annual emissions monitoring report. Overall findings of the 2025 report:

- The total amount of waste sent to landfill increased by 33% between 2013 and 2023
- Waste is responsible for 3.8% of the country's gross emissions
- The amount of methane emissions produced by municipal landfills remains steady
- Policy changes, Waste Minimisation Fund funding cuts, and reduced momentum on organic waste reduction and diversion from landfill will likely increase waste emissions.
- There is a lack of clarity about how an anticipated reduction in organic waste emissions can now be achieved.

Linkage to Strategic Plan Priorities

Environmental sustainability
Economic development
Durable Infrastructure

Financial Considerations

Our Waste Levy Revenue for 2024/25 is estimated at \$480k (final quarter payment not yet received). This aligns with MfE advice that levy revenue has been re-forecast down by 12% over the last 12 months, partially due to the construction slump, and resultant drop in landfilled waste. Proposed legislative changes may allow broader use of the levy and ensure a fairer distribution across councils, while still addressing the needs of larger centres.

Attachments