

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2022



Introduction

Council is required to prepare and adopt a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) at intervals of no more than six years. It is four years since our last WMMP, and Council has made significant changes to waste and recycling infrastructure and service delivery during that time.

Over the same period there has been a global shift in recycling markets, increasing environmental awareness of the impact of waste, widespread economic fallout from the pandemic, and a push from our central government towards a circular economy.

In recent years Council has been receiving about \$90,000 per annum from the Waste Levy Fund. The levy doubled to \$20 per tonne in 2021 and will increase incrementally to \$60 per tonne in 2024. Our increasing revenue from the national Waste Levy Fund provides Council with potential to add services and/or infrastructure that may have previously been unaffordable. The WMMP is key to Council being well positioned to strategically spend our increasing revenue.

Why do we need a plan?

Managing and minimising waste is a key Council responsibility, and this 2022 draft of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) will set the strategy for our solid waste activities, services and infrastructure for the next six years. We are guided in the development of this strategy by the Waste Minimisation Act, which encourages waste minimisation to protect the environment from harm, and to provide environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits.

In the four years since the last WMMP Council has made significant changes to waste and recycling infrastructure and service delivery. Our forecast of future demand for waste and diversion services provides Council with key opportunities to build on these changes and lead the district towards lower resource use and lower environmental impact in line with national initiatives proposed by Ministry for the Environment (MfE).

The landfill levy doubled to \$20 per tonne in 2021 and will increase incrementally to \$60 per tonne in 2024. Our increasing revenue from the national Waste Levy Fund provides Council with potential to add services and/or infrastructure that may have previously been unaffordable.

How well are we doing?

- In 2021 our per capita waste to landfill was 449kg, well below the national average of 680kg per capita
- We diverted 3,000 tonnes from landfill, mostly recycling, greenwaste and sewage sludge
- Our transfer stations received 11,400 tonnes of waste for landfill, but 45% of that could have been recycled, recovered or composted
- We collected 2,500 tonnes of waste from kerbside wheelie bins, but nearly half of that was food waste that could have been composted.

We've made good progress against actions and targets in our 2018 WMMP except in the areas of waste education and diverting waste materials from landfill. This plan has a greater focus on waste awareness across all sectors of our community and addresses the national and global move towards a circular economy.

A circular economy (make-use-recycle, *repeat continually*) rather than the existing linear model (take-make-use-dispose) will make a significant impact towards a sustainable future, creating local job opportunities, providing long term cost savings and reducing the amount of harmful waste produced.

Our targets 2022-2028

The Action Plan contains 25 actions which we can take to better manage and minimise our waste and meet the challenges that may impact our progress towards a circular economy. The actions will all contribute to our proposed targets:

- 1. Kerbside food waste collection is implemented in urban areas by 2025**
- 2. Waste minimisation information is provided, or readily available, to 100% of our community by 2026**
- 3. Our diversion rate increases to 50% of the district's waste disposed to landfill by 2027**

This draft WMMP is broken down into three parts which will aim to address solutions to achieve the targets that have been outlined above.

Part A – Strategy

Part A outlines Council's commitment to manage and minimise waste in ways that meet legislative requirements, identifies the plan's goals, objective and targets and Council's responsibility to provide the community with the services and infrastructure to meet those targets.

Part B – Action Plan

Part B sets out the program of action for achieving the vision, goals, objectives and targets of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) as identified in Part A. The action plan includes proposed timelines, funding options, and the objectives that each activity will meet.

Part C – Appendices

Part C includes the Waste Assessment 2022, which is the primary supporting document to the WMMP, plus additional information that relates to this WMMP.

This draft WMMP is the final stage of a three-stage process.

1. Solid Waste Analysis Protocol (SWAP) survey and audit 2021 - Completed December 2021

The SWAP survey provided the comprehensive data on waste volume, source, and composition that Council needs to make informed choices about future waste issues.

2. Waste Assessment 2022 - Adopted by Council on 17 March 2022

This technical document described the current waste situation and forecast of future demand. It included goals, objectives and targets, and identified options to meet the forecast demands of the district. The SWAP data was essential to the detailed development of the Waste Assessment, which itself is the primary supporting document for the WMMP.

3. Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2022 – Draft attached ECM #586781

The WMMP provides our community with a clear strategic direction and action-oriented plan for promoting effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within the district. The WMMP's Action Plan sets out all the activities we may take, the proposed timeline, how each activity could be funded and the objectives which the activity will address. The Action Plan is crucial to enabling our spend of Waste Levy Fund revenue.

All WMMP's are subject to the requirements of the Local Governments Act's (LGA) special consultative procedure, a requirement also set out in the Waste Minimisation Act Part 4, sections 44 and 50(3).

Have Your Say

Council wants to hear your views on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2022 before decisions are made. Anyone can give feedback on the proposal, including individuals, organisations and businesses.

The submission period is open from 9am on Thursday 8 September 2022 to 5pm on Monday 10 October 2022.

You can give feedback by:

- * Completing an online submission form at <https://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/community-engagement>
- * Completing a hard copy submission form.

Copies of the submission form, draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2022 and Statement of Proposal are available on the website (<https://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/community-engagement>) or hard copies can be viewed at the South Waikato District Council offices in Tokoroa and Putaruru, as well as the Tīrau i-SITE.

Submissions can be:

Posted to:	WMMP Consultation South Waikato District Council Private Bag 7 Tokoroa 3444
Delivered to:	South Waikato District Council Torphin Crescent, Tokoroa; or 2 Overdale Street (Jim Howland Centre), Putaruru; or Tirau i-SITE, Main Road, Tirau
Emailed to:	info@southwaikato.govt.nz <i>Draft WMMP submission</i> in the subject line

The submission form must contain the submitter's name, address, contact phone number and/or email address. Submissions must be in writing and contain the information shown in the submission form if that form is not used.

All submissions will be made public and will be available on the Council's website.

Hearings will be held if submitters wish to be heard. Those submitters wishing to be heard will be informed of the dates and locations of the hearing after the submission period has closed.

There will be no right to appeal once the decisions have been made.