



INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR
**HOUSEHOLD
WASTE SURVEY**

August 2010



Our Target
60% REDUCTION
OF WASTE TO LANDFILL
by 2015

Wanganui District Council

CARING ABOUT OUR CITY

Waste Minimisation - 'it's our responsibility'

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 was passed into legislation in September 2008.

The purpose of the Waste Minimisation Act (2008) is to encourage a reduction in the amount of waste that is both generated and disposed of in an effort to lessen its environmental harm. This will be achieved through a host of sustainable measures which place emphasis on the community, waste producers, waste disposers and territorial authorities to lessen their collective environmental harm.

The Waste Minimisation Act (2008) represents a key shift in urgency towards waste minimisation as the state enacts steps to ensure that these actions are both funded and sustainable. It retains emphasis on the role of territorial authorities to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation in a district-wide sense and extends 'waste thinking'. This means all territorial authorities are now required to produce a Waste Management *and Minimisation* Plan and to broaden district assessments of current and future waste services.

Players in the Wanganui market and Council's position in the waste stream

Since the late 1990s Wanganui District Council has made a conscious decision to withdraw from the waste stream and allow the market to assume provision of this service – other than where there were market gaps or failure.

This has resulted in today's situation where we have:

- No local landfill
- Our waste accommodated in a privately owned landfill in the Rangitikei district
- Two transfer stations separately owned by private firms
- Two city kerbside waste collection services owned by private firms
- A partially Council subsidised rubbish bag collection service in the peri-urban area
- A rates funded bag drop-off facility in the rural area

Council also withdrew from a cheap but problematic kerbside recycling service around 2002 and replaced it with a recycling drop-off facility in Peat Street.

This withdrawal from the waste stream has had a double-edged effect. On one hand it allowed industry advances in services provided and encouraged the 'user pays' principle to apply with little or no rates funding. It also meant that Council was not left to fund costly infrastructure such as landfills, transfer stations and waste collection vehicles.

How will more recycling benefit the environment?

Waste reduction: It could be expected that Council provision of a kerbside waste collection and recycling service would decrease landfill disposal rates considerably. This could be especially so if the service dynamics such as costings and bin sizes were to drive householder behaviour. Delivery of this system would be based on its ability to encourage greater waste minimisation practices by being readily available, easy to use, efficient, attractive and cost effective. It would meet Council's prescribed intention to divert waste from landfill by positioning disposal as a 'last resort' behind reduction, reuse and recycling efforts.

For further information on Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plans visit www.wanganui.govt.nz.

What Happens To Our Recycling Now?

'Full Circle' Councils contracted recycling partner, currently achieves a 99% recycling rate for the collected recyclables at the Peat Street Recycling Centre.

If introduced, **kerbside recycling is expected to increase the volumes collected threefold** and our recycling partner will be able to recycle all this increased volume collected.

“About 40% of your household refuse can be recycled – even more if you compost!”

“The Wanganui waste dumped in the Bonny Glen landfill would fill the main pool at the splash centre 210 times a year”

“A kerbside collection of recycling product is expected to reduce Wanganui’s volume of waste to landfill by 2000 tonnes per year”.

Currently the Recycling Centre collects the following for recycling:

Glass - Recycled back into glass bottles within glass recycling factory in Auckland.

650 tonnes currently collected and recycled per year.

Paper / Cardboard - Is recycled back into mixed paper and Kraftliner through the Kinleith and Penrose Mills.

450 tonnes currently collected and recycled per year.

Plastics - Recycled into more plastic products such as drainage pipes and also polar fleece clothing.

100 tonnes currently collected and recycled per year.

Aluminium / Steel Cans - Scrapped and heated to make further aluminium and steel products.

50 tonnes currently collected and recycled per year.

*For further information on Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plans
visit www.wanganui.govt.nz*

or contact any member of the Waste Minimisation Working Party

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Additional Information For Each Option

Option 1:

STATUS QUO (NO CHANGE)

Private operators continue to provide kerbside refuse collection services to households with no Council involvement. Households directly pay private operators for the services.

Service:

There are two main waste operators in the District. Currently kerbside waste services offered by these firms include the provision and collection of various sized wheelie bins, collection of rubbish bags and one firm offers additional wheelie bin recycling and green waste collection services.

Council would continue to provide a contracted rural waste collection service as well as the Peat Street Recycling Drop-Off Centre.

How it's funded:

User funded direct with waste collection company or through the purchase of bags through supermarkets etc. The rural waste collection service and the Peat Street Recycling Drop-Off Centre are funded from rates.

Approximate current costs for this option charged by local companies:

- \$330/year for 240litre wheelie bin weekly refuse collection service.
- \$240/year for 120litre bin weekly refuse collection service
- \$140/year for 80litre bin weekly refuse collection service
- 60litre prepaid bag or stickered plastic refuse bag costs approximately \$115.00 year (based on one bag collected per week).
- One waste operator offers user pays kerbside collection services for recycling and green waste in conjunction with its other waste services.
- The cost of the Peat Street Recycling Drop-Off Centre to ratepayers is approximately \$7.00 per annum.

Advantages of this option:

- Currently in place, works reasonably well and people are used to the service.
- No rates funding other than for the rural services and recycling drop-off centre.
- Private waste operators are more flexible to meet service demands and variables than a Council-provided service.
- Council's involvement and costs are minimal.
- Current costs for services should be reflective of a competitive market.

Disadvantages of this option:

- Potential duplication of service with two firms travelling the same streets with a resulting fragmented market.
- Potentially overpriced e.g. services are more costly here than in New Plymouth and Palmerston North where the council controls the services and economies of scale allow reduced costs to consumers.
- Council has little control or knowledge over the waste stream, so it is difficult to ensure waste strategies are implemented.
- Not aligned to Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy which states that Council will actively pursue waste minimisation initiatives.

Option 2:

STATUS QUO PLUS TWO FURTHER SATELLITE DROP OFF RECYCLING STATIONS

Council would supplement the current recycling drop-off centre in Peat Street with smaller satellite station/s in outlying city suburbs.

Service:

This option would be subject to appropriate sites being identified, secured and consented. Most materials would be transferred to the existing Peat Street drop-off centre for processing and packaging. Ideally satellite recycling stations should be sited in locations with 24 hour operation and/or surveillance cameras (e.g. service stations). It is assumed that these facilities would be able to be provided within public or semi-public spaces (e.g. schools, sportsgrounds) or at cooperating commercial sites and therefore no land purchase would be required.

Satellite sites could potentially be located in Castlecliff and Wanganui East.

How it's funded:

For the purposes of providing initial costs for this option, Council has made the assumptions that the satellite recycling stations would be largely un-manned although serviced, able to be sited with little land purchase or rental requirement and would accept all the products Peat Street Centre currently collects.

Council believes EACH satellite recycling station could be established for \$30,000 with an annual operational cost of \$50,000.

The set up costs could/would be funded through either the national or local waste minimisation fund whilst operational costs would be rate funded.

Advantages of this option:

- Significantly lower cost than kerbside option and potential to draw on national waste levy funding.
- Services greater population than just the central recycling centre and this convenience should attract greater participation and overall waste reduction.
- High quality product achieved at low cost.
- Allows private waste operators to continue to offer kerbside recycling services on a user pays basis for those who want it.

Disadvantages of this option:

- May be perceived as lower level of service to kerbside collections.
- Relies on people being committed to recycling.
- Relies on community ownership and buy-in (may be difficulties in securing ideal satellite sites that meet community and environmental concerns).
- Potentially prone to vandalism, misuse and greater contamination of product.
- Added cost on rates to current drop-off facility.
- Will divert less waste from landfill than kerbside recycling collection.
- Large numbers of vehicle movements would lessen environmental benefit.



Option 3:

STATUS QUO FOR REFUSE COLLECTION PLUS COUNCIL PROVIDES A KERBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE

This option allows waste operators to continue collecting refuse on a user pays basis but introduces a contract (let by the Council and funded through rates) for the collection of kerbside recyclables. Peat Street Recycling Centre would continue to give rural and commercial people recycling options and a 24/7 service.

Service:

Council lets one contract for the provision of a **kerbside recycling collection service**. There are varying levels of service that could be decided upon within this option. The kerbside recycling service would involve a regular collection of recyclables from householders using a wheelie on either a weekly or fortnightly basis. A separate glass collection service may also be considered.

This option operates on the 'polluter pays principle' in that a household's waste costs should reduce as they use the recycling service offered. Experience elsewhere is that about 40% of refuse can be recycled. As the recycling service is prepaid through rates, generally householders will be more inclined to use it encouraging greater levels of recycling and less waste to landfill.

How it's funded:

Kerbside **refuse collection services** would continue to be provided directly between the user and the waste company.

The kerbside **recycling collection service** would be a Council funded (targeted rate) contract.

Indicative costs for various recycling collection *OPTIONS* are:

\$56/household/year – weekly collection of 240litre bin

\$54/household/year – weekly collection of 120litre bin

\$42/household/year – fortnightly collection of 240litre bin

\$33/household/year – fortnightly collection of 120litre bin

Advantages of this option:

- The community would receive a modern recycling service which meets public expectations.
- The kerbside recycling service would generate greater recycling participation and volumes, resulting in less waste to landfill and lessen environmental impacts. It is expected that recycling volumes will increase threefold.
- The recycling service would encourage householders to place less general waste out for collection which should result in lower disposal costs. *e.g. downsizing from a 240L bin to a 120L bin will save \$100pa.*
- The recycling service would encourage good waste minimisation behaviours.
- Aligns with Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan direction.

Disadvantages of this option

- A new recycling service would result in a rates rise.
- Kerbside recycling services and contracts face issues to overcome around health and safety of collections, efficient collection procedures and quality of recyclables.
- Service can attract collection of poorer quality and contaminated recyclable products, affecting end point viability, although the Auckland experience is that only 4% of collected recycling is contaminated and ends up in a landfill.

Option 4:

COUNCIL PROVIDES *BOTH* A KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES

For this option Council would **let a contract for both kerbside refuse and recycling collection services**. Both contracts would be funded through rates.

Service:

This option would result in Council letting one contract for the kerbside collection of waste and another contract for the kerbside collection of recyclables from residential households. There may be service variations within this option to offer different sized bins at different rates. Essentially one waste operator will win the Council contracts to provide the services, although it is anticipated that waste operators currently providing kerbside waste services would wish to retain some form of market share by offering a level of service different to that offered to that offered by the Council contractor.

How it's funded:

Approximate costs to ratepayers:

- Approximately \$150/household/year for **kerbside refuse collection** service.
- Further investigation would be needed with regard to the level of service that would be provide. This estimate is based on a 240L wheelie bin collected weekly.
- Approximately \$50/household/year for a **kerbside recycling collection** service depending on level of service chosen – see Option 3.

Note: As an example, South Taranaki District Council and Palmerston North District Council operate kerbside refuse and recycling services which cost ratepayers \$150.00 (Palmerston North) and \$200.00 (South Taranaki) per annum.

Advantages of this option:

- **For most householders there would be a reduction in total costs for waste services**
i.e. although householders would be paying more in rates for the service, this would be less than their previous user pays service paid to the waste companies.
- Council would have greater control over services and options.
- Aligns with Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan direction.
- Introduces kerbside recycling services, diverting more waste from landfill.
- May result in only one company's vehicles driving streets to pick up waste.

Disadvantages of this option:

- Would result in an approximate \$200 rate rise (offset by lower user fee costs).
- Service may provide fewer choices than is currently offered by the market.
- May force one of the primary waste companies, with associated infrastructure, out of Wanganui.
- Not totally user pays with ratepayers paying for service. Users are not always ratepayers
e.g. rental properties.



Option 5:

MARKET PROVIDES *BOTH* A KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES

Council would form an alliance with private waste operators to provide a **recycling** collection service.

Service:

Under this option all operators that provide waste collection services in Wanganui would be compelled to provide a kerbside recycling service to all householders who use their waste collection services. Council would licence operators to ensure standards are met and kerbside recycling services delivered. The recycling collection service would probably be a weekly collection of a 60L recycling crate or similar, as determined by Council.

All urban households would be given a free crate but the crate would remain the property of Council or its agent.

If the crate was not big enough for a household or a family's circumstances, they could purchase additional crates. The householder would be charged for replacement crates if they were lost.

This service option would be a collaboration between Council and the waste collectors in the District. All parties would agree to work together to fund a kerbside recycling service for all their residential customers. The investment each company would make in the scheme would be calculated on the current "market share" they have in the local waste collection business. All the private waste collectors and the Council would need to be committed to this innovative approach to recycling in Wanganui. This option is modelled on the service that currently operates in Kapiti Coast District and Horowhenua District.

How it's funded:

The service would be funded from the waste collection charges each of the partners impose on their current and future customers.

The cost of the service would be a surcharge on all waste collection costs i.e. every time a resident bought a rubbish sticker or paid the bill to a contractor to remove their waste, they would be helping to fund our district-wide recycling scheme.

The likely increase in waste service costs charged by waste companies is expected to be around \$1.00 per rubbish bag/sticker and \$50.00 year per wheelie bin. e.g. a 240L wheelie bin will increase from approximately \$330.00 per annum to approximately \$380.00 per annum, but will include a recycling crate.

Advantages of this option:

- Provides a kerbside recycling service for Wanganui.
- No increase in rates.
- Some Council control and knowledge of waste stream through licensing/bylaw system.
- Polluter pays principle enforced and waste costs minimised as recycling is encouraged.
- Currently operates in Kapiti Coast and Horowhenua.

Disadvantages of this option:

- May be confusing for residents and not easily understood.
- Results in cost rises for waste collection services.
- Council is not in total control of service
- Potential for difficulties arising over time through the alliance between Council and the operators, and between the waste operators themselves.
- The crate system may be inadequate for some householders. Elderly people, in particular, prefer wheelie bins.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SEPARATE SURVEY FORM PROMPTLY

We value your contribution