

Let's talk rubbish



We all create it.

We all care about it.

Now it's time to talk about it.



Council wants your feedback on its
Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018-24
See inside for a summary of what's proposed for the next six years.



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

What is the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan?

Council reviews its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan every six years.

The plan describes how we will ensure there are convenient and cost-effective waste management services and facilities provided throughout the district.

It includes our vision, goals and objectives for waste management, our intended role, and specific proposals and actions for the coming six years.

Our last plan was adopted in 2012.

Among other things, the 2012 plan confirmed Council's 2008 decision to leave kerbside collection of rubbish and recycling to the private market, and to close the Oamaru Landfill and replace it with a refuse transfer station.

A lot has been achieved since 2012 and the system is generally working as intended, however, there are some issues Council wants to address through this latest plan.

What we've got now

Council doesn't run a kerbside rubbish or recycling collection service in Waitaki, so we don't charge for this in rates.

Everyone can instead choose a privately-run kerbside service and pay the contractor directly, or take their waste and recycling to a local transfer station, recovery park or landfill.

The advantage of this user-pays system is that people can select a service that best meets their needs and only have to pay for the waste they produce - meaning they can reduce their costs by reducing and recycling their waste.

If we charged for kerbside collection in rates, and made dropping off rubbish at facilities too cheap (and heavily subsidised by rates), there would be less incentive for people to reduce their waste.

To support this approach, Council works to ensure there are plenty of opportunities for recycling around the district.

We're very fortunate to have the Waitaki Resource Recovery Park in Oamaru, which is run by the Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust (WRRT). They do a fantastic job of managing the district's recycling and promoting waste minimisation in the district.

We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Trust and support them with a grant to the value of around \$270,000 every year.


The Memorandum of Understanding also includes Waste Management NZ, who have developed the new Refuse Transfer Station in Oamaru. This replaces the Oamaru Landfill, which closed last year .

In addition to the WRRT Oamaru recovery park, there are several Council-owned recycling facilities located throughout the district, including the township recycling bins and rural recovery parks.

Waste management and minimisation facilities and services in Waitaki

Localised drop-off facilities


Rural recovery parks (transfer stations) - Hampden, Kurow, Otematata & Omarama



Council owned & managed
Contractor operated

\$ Funded through a mix of user charges & general rates


Township recycling bins - Herbert, Papakaio and Enfield



Council owned & managed
Contractor operated

\$ Funded through general rates


Litter bins & recycling bins



Litter bins - Council owned & managed
Recycling bins - WRRT owned & managed

\$ Funded through general rates(litter) and grants (recycling bin installation)


Palmerston Landfill



Council owned & managed
Contractor operated

\$ Funded through a mix of user charges & general rates


Waihemo Wastebusters, Palmerston



Waihemo Wastebusters (community organisation) owned & operated

\$ Funded through user charges, resales & grants (including approx. \$24,000 per annum from Council)

Cleanfills, scrap metal yards, second-hand dealers etc




Privately owned & operated

\$ Funded through user charges & resale income

Kerbside collection


Kerbside recycling collection in Palmerston area



Waihemo Wastebusters (community organisation) owned & operated

\$ Funded through user charges


Rubbish and recycling collection throughout Waitaki



Privately owned & operated

\$ Funded through user charges

Green waste collection




Privately owned & operated

\$ Funded through user charges

Centralised & major drop-off, handling & transfer facilities

Each facility accepts, handles and transfers various waste and divertable material (including recycling and green waste) from the general public, and other facilities and private contractors.

Waitaki Resource Recovery Park, Oamaru




Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust owned & operated

\$ Funded through user charges, income from diverted materials, resales & grants (including approx. \$270,000 per annum from Council)

Memorandum of Understanding with Council

Oamaru Refuse Transfer Station



Waste Management NZ owned & operated

\$ Funded through user charges

Issues we've considered

In developing the new plan, we reviewed the way the current system is working, the volumes of waste and recycling produced in the district, and the likely demand for services and facilities in the future.

In general, the current system is achieving what we intended when decisions were made in 2008. However, like many other waste systems in New Zealand (whether Council-run or privately-operated) there are some issues we want to address.

Waitaki has a large geographical area and relatively small population, which can make it more challenging to provide convenient, cost-effective services. In addition, some areas, such as the Waitaki Valley, are experiencing pressure from increasing visitor numbers, especially in summer. We need to ensure the services in these areas are flexible enough to cater for seasonal demand, while still being affordable for users and ratepayers.

Some of the key issues we've considered and plan to address include:

- The long-term affordability of the rural recovery parks (transfer stations) in Hampden, Kurow, Otematata and Omarama, and the Palmerston Landfill. At the moment, the cost of managing rubbish and green waste at these facilities is far greater than what users are charged. This means all ratepayers in the district heavily subsidise the cost of running these facilities - to the tune of around \$300,000 every year (or 85% of the running costs)
- The need to plan for the closure of Palmerston Landfill before its consent expires in 2027
- Ongoing management of coastal erosion at Hampden's closed landfill

- Doing a better job of informing and educating the community and businesses about waste services and facilities, and ways to minimise their waste
- Ensuring current kerbside collection services remain convenient and affordable for the community
- Providing the most cost-effective facilities and services for the community by working with other councils, community groups and private waste service providers
- Making sure our Solid Waste Bylaw is up to date and consistent with the plan
- Supporting the valuable work community providers do into the future



What we're planning for the future

In summary, to address the issues mentioned above, our plans include:

Charges for rubbish at rural recovery parks (transfer stations)

We plan to increase the charge for disposing of rubbish at the parks in Hampden, Kurow, Otematata and Omarama to \$120 per cubic metre, from 1 July 2018. This is consistent with charges for rubbish disposal at other facilities (such as the Twizel Transfer Station) and will lift the level of cost recovery at the parks, meaning district-wide ratepayers will contribute less to the operation of these facilities - as discussed above. It will also mean we can afford to keep them open for the community over the long term.

We'll ensure the recovery parks continue to offer a range of opportunities for recycling at no charge, and that private contractors are providing kerbside collection in the area at competitive rates. We will also continue to closely monitor illegal dumping and take action to address this wherever possible.

Charges for green waste at rural recovery parks, Palmerston Landfill

We also plan to increase the charge for disposing of green waste at the rural recovery parks and the Palmerston Landfill to \$50 per cubic metre, from 1 July 2018. This is more consistent with charges at other facilities elsewhere and closer to the actual cost of handling the green waste. It will also help lift the level of cost recovery at the parks.

The green waste will be mulched and made available to local residents to take away free of charge. This will help keep costs down by reducing the need to transport the green waste elsewhere to meet the parks' consent conditions.

Managing Palmerston Landfill and Hampden Closed Landfill

We will develop a closure plan for the Palmerston Landfill within the next two years. This will include looking at ways we can make better use of available space at the landfill and increase revenue. This may mean the landfill closes earlier than 2027 (when the consent expires), but it will reduce costs to ratepayers until that time.

We will also address ongoing coastal erosion issues at the closed Hampden Landfill, to ensure we are not in breach of its consent conditions. One option we're looking at is completely removing its contents and disposing of them at the Palmerston Landfill. If this can be done, it will save ratepayers a significant amount of money over the long term - likely to be around \$1.5M less than taking it to an out-of-district landfill.

We will also continue to work behind the scenes managing the other 13 closed landfills around the district in order to meet their ongoing consent conditions.

Increasing waste minimisation education and initiatives

Council hasn't had a dedicated solid waste officer for several years, so we haven't been informing and educating the community about our waste system and waste minimisation as much as we would like to. We plan to fund a resource from 2018 onwards to do this, using some of the funding we get from the Ministry for the Environment. This funding may be provided to the Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust to engage and manage the resource on our behalf.

Kerbside collection services

The current kerbside system has been in place for more than 10 years. We've had both positive and negative feedback about how well it's working for people.

In 2019, we plan to survey the wider community to see how many households are using the privately-run kerbside services, how much they're paying, and how well the services are meeting their needs. Feedback from the survey will help us work out if the system needs to be improved, and how this could be done.

How to get more information

To find out more about the proposals mentioned above, and to see Council's other proposals, you can view the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan on Council's website - www.waitaki.govt.nz - or by visiting Council offices in Oamaru and Palmerston.

If you would like a copy of the plan sent to you, call 03 433 0300 or email service@waitaki.govt.nz


How to give your feedback

You can give your feedback on the draft plan by completing the submission form over the page, or by going to our website and completing it online.

Submissions close at 5pm on Monday 30 April 2018.

Council will hear verbal submissions to the plan from 14 to 18 May.

YOUR SUBMISSION CONT'D



Waitaki

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Attach more pages if needed

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