

ENABLING OUR COMMUNITY TO REDUCE WASTE,
USE RESOURCES WISELY AND CREATE POSITIVE
OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE

WASTE MANAGEMENT & **MINIMISATION PLAN**

REDUCING WASTE AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE 2027 -2033



Te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

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Introduction

As Council we are required to develop and adopt a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) under s44 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA 2008). Our last WMMP was adopted in 2021.

This updated plan has been developed for the Matamata-Piako District to meet our statutory responsibilities and respond to our communities' needs. It supports practical waste management and minimisation services that are fit for the future, while aligning with national legislation, the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and the national waste hierarchy.

Waste issues, infrastructure needs and service opportunities often extend beyond district boundaries. We will continue to work with neighbouring councils, Waikato regional partners, central government, the commercial waste sector, Iwi and community organisations where a coordinated approach can improve outcomes, reduce duplication, support better data, or provide more practical and cost-effective waste management options for our communities.

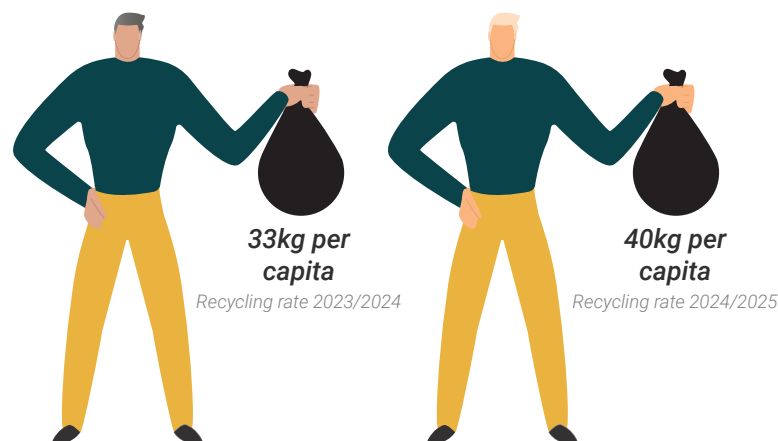
It is based on a collaborative model where Council, businesses, Iwi, community groups and households can all work together to build new waste minimisation services and grow local economic development, ultimately building community resilience at the same time.

We will ensure everyone has access to recycling, resource recovery and waste management services, that businesses and individuals understand that reducing and minimising waste is their responsibility, and that valuable resources are reused or recycled and don't go to landfill.



How much waste do we have?

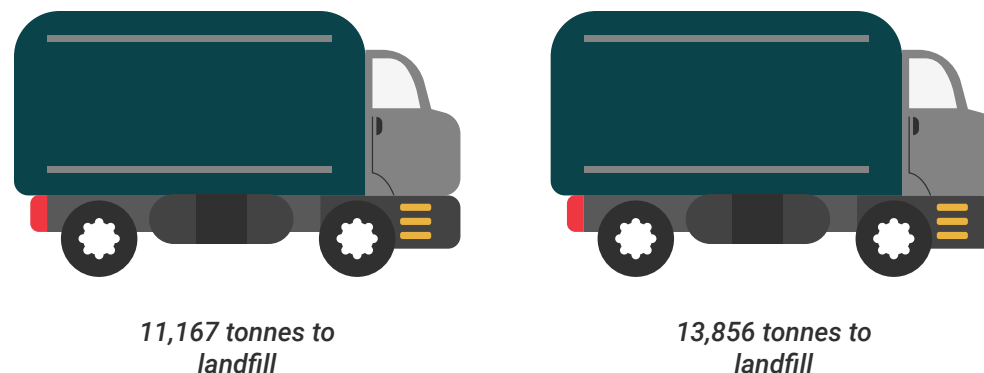
Unlike the majority of New Zealand, our council's volume of waste to landfill has not increased dramatically over the past 10 years. While the volume of waste to landfill remains steady, our recycling rate has increased but still remains comparatively low.



We do not have data on waste that is burned or buried so the actual volume of waste being disposed of within our District is unknown.

Central government has set national direction through the WMA 2008, the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy, product stewardship requirements, waste disposal levy settings and national waste data expectations. These settings reinforce the need for councils to reduce waste sent to landfill where practical, improve data and reporting, support resource recovery, and manage disposal responsibly.

We propose to do this by progressively converting our Refuse Transfer Stations into Community Resource Recovery Centres (CRRC) to provide for greater separation of waste streams, and provide for collaborative enterprises that allow for community and business input.



The management of our CRRC's will remain in-house. This means there is a responsibility for our Council to consider all waste in our district, although we may not have direct involvement in the management of it all. This will include suggesting areas where other groups, such as businesses or households, could take action themselves, or where councils, Iwi, businesses and the community can work together collaboratively to enhance local economic development and build community resilience.

Council's rates-funded kerbside rubbish, recycling, glass and food scraps services commenced in September 2023. We will continue to monitor and optimise these services, alongside refuse transfer station operations and private sector activity, to ensure they support practical waste reduction, reliable service delivery and compliance with national direction.

All of these changes will require a change in behaviour, a key consideration in the development of this plan. The actions in this plan will be carried forward into our long term and annual plans to ensure we have the resources to deliver the WMMP's goals and objectives. Our WMMP needs to be reviewed at least every six years with new goals set and this proposed WMMP will cover the period 2027-2033.

VISION: Enabling our community to reduce waste, use resources wisely and create positive outcomes for people and place

Goals and objectives: What we want to achieve

G1

Use resources well

A community that considers and, where appropriate, implements new initiatives and innovative ways to assist in reducing, reusing and recycling waste, minimising waste sent to landfill.

- Provide sustainable waste minimisation services that are cost-effective to the community.
- View waste as a resource, improving and modifying collections and facilities so that more materials and products can be diverted from landfill.
- Prioritise waste reduction, reuse and recovery initiatives that align with other council objectives.
- Remove or reduce barriers that are preventing the community making best use of existing services and any potential new services.
- Investigate and implement new services, facilities, or other initiatives that will increase the amount of waste reduced, reused, or recycled.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing community resource recovery centres for bulky goods, e-waste, rural waste and other waste streams to 'future-proof' our Refuse Transfer Stations.
- Process and manage waste locally, or within the district wherever feasible and cost-effective.



G2

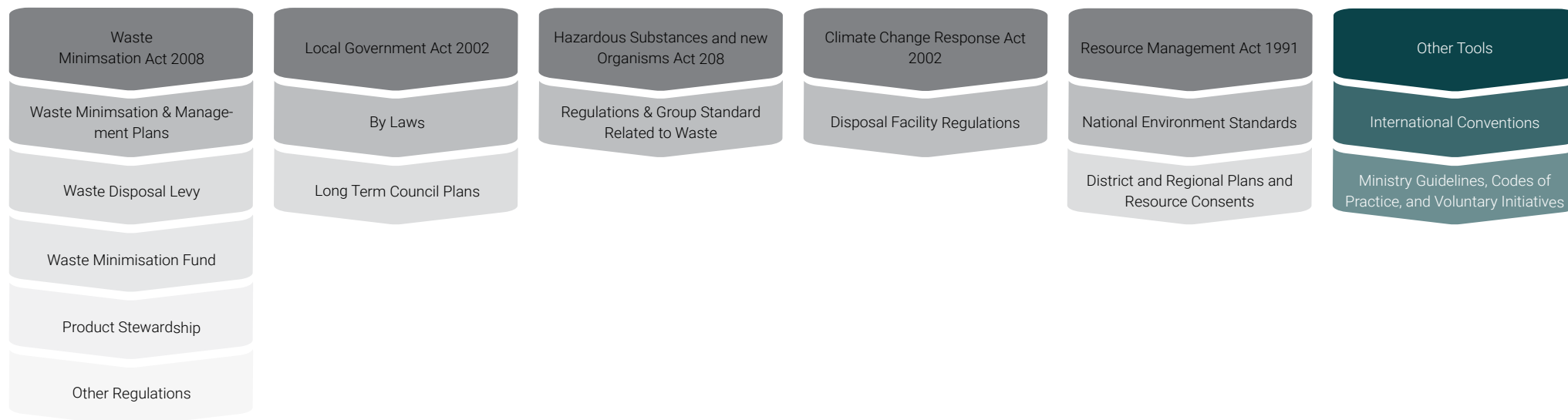
Protect people and place

Minimise environmental harm and protect public health.

- Ensure the reduction of environmental harm is understood from a holistic perspective that incorporates tikanga and mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge) as an important component of sustainable practices.
- Consider the environmental impact and public health implications of all waste management options and choose those that are cost-effective to the community, while also protecting environmental and public health.

NEW ZEALAND WASTE STRATEGY

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK



Why do we need a plan?

Council has a statutory requirement under the WMA 2008 to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within our district, we do this by adopting a WMMP. We also have obligations under the Health Act 1956 to ensure that our waste management systems protect public health.

Our WMMP sets the priorities and strategic framework for managing waste in the district. The WMMP should align to the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy, the waste hierarchy, Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plans, and it should also support or align with other relevant strategies and plans including any other central government directions on the issue of waste management.

What informs the plan?

The plan must meet requirements set out in the Waste Minimisation Act, including:

- Considering the 'Waste Hierarchy', which sets priorities for how we should manage waste
- Ensuring that waste does not create a 'nuisance'
- 'Having regard to' the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and other key government policies, including the recently released guidelines by central government that signal changes to the way we will need to manage waste.
- Considering the outcomes of the 'Waste Assessment'
- Following the Special Consultative Procedure set out in the Local Government Act (2002).

The waste hierarchy

The ‘waste hierarchy’ is a common approach to ways we can think about waste. It is a framework used to rank waste management options from the most environmentally preferable to the least preferable. Efforts to eliminate or reduce waste are at the top of the hierarchy and disposal is at the bottom.





The New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and waste hierarchy

Our vision aligns with the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and the waste hierarchy. It recognises that the most effective way to manage waste is to reduce the resources we use and design waste out where possible, keep products and materials in use for longer, process materials into new products where practical, recover value where possible, including through emerging recovery technologies where appropriate, and use treatment and disposal only as the least favoured option.

This approach supports practical decision-making for our district. It encourages Council, Iwi, businesses, community groups and households to keep resources in use for longer, recover value from materials where possible, and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Tangata whenua principles such as kaitiakitanga continue to be important to how we think about waste and resources. These principles sit alongside the national direction by encouraging care for land, air and water, responsible resource use, and long-term protection of people and place.

What is waste and why is it a problem?

The national direction encourages councils and communities to reduce the amount of waste generated, keep products and materials in use where practical, recover value from materials where viable, and send material to landfill only where better options are not practical or available.

Most of the things we do, buy, and consume generate some form of waste. Managing this waste properly comes at a cost and represents a loss of potentially valuable resources. Importantly, if we do not manage the waste properly, it can cause significant impacts on the environment, people's health and communities. Our WMMP covers all solid waste and diverted material in the district whether council manages it or not.

This does not necessarily mean that the Council is going to have direct involvement in the management of all waste, but there is a responsibility for us to at least consider all waste in our district, and to suggest areas where other groups, such as businesses or households, could take action themselves.





The New Zealand situation

Prior to 2018, most of our recyclables materials were sent to China. Restrictions introduced by the Chinese Government in 2019 reduced the types and quantities of recycled materials accepted by China. The effect has been that we need to find new markets and uses for recyclable materials, particularly onshore. Awareness amongst the public about a number of waste issues, notably plastic bags and single-use plastics, has increased dramatically and led to petitions calling on government to ban single-use packaging and other similar items.

There has been increased investment into onshore facilities so that we can process (recycle) more materials onshore. However, the quality of materials collected for recycling has a big effect on the costs and feasibility of recycling; contaminated and mixed material types are more costly to sort and reprocess (for example food waste mixed with plastic packaging). There is therefore a need to continue to improve the quality of recyclable materials so that this investment in infrastructure does not go to waste.

We also need to consider adopting procurement policies that encourage and support the use of recycled products. Buying recycled is not just about reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill, but also reducing the amount of 'virgin' materials that are extracted for manufacturing. The reuse of materials that we already have available through recycling, rather than throwing items away after a short time and extracting more raw materials, is far more preferable in terms of environmental impact and long-term economic resilience.

Our district

How much waste is there and where does it come from?

Based on population-adjusted 2025 data, Matamata Piako District sends an estimated 13,856 tonnes per annum of waste to Class 1 landfill. This waste comes from household kerbside waste collections, industrial or commercial activities, and includes commercial, residential and rural residents taking loads to our three transfer stations and, waste taken directly to landfill by private operators. It also includes the tonnage taken out of the district for disposal.

In September 2023, MPDC transitioned from a user-pays bag-based rubbish system to a comprehensive rates-funded kerbside service, an element of which included the introduction of food scraps collections. In September 2023, our council ceased commercial collections. Currently those living and working in the Matamata Piako District have access to a range of options to manage their waste including:

Council rates-funded kerbside service:



Fortnightly mixed recycling in 240-litre wheelie bins.



Fortnightly rubbish collection in 120-litre wheelie bins.



Weekly food scraps collection in 23-litre bins.



Fortnightly glass collection in crates.

Private company wheelie bin services

Green waste drop-off at Refuse Transfer Stations

Refuse Transfer Stations accept:

- general refuse
- paper and cardboard, plastics 1, 2, and 5, steel and aluminium tins and cans
- green waste
- scrap steel, tyres, whiteware
- household hazardous waste

To view the complete list of items accepted at the Refuse Transfer Station, please visit:

www.mpdc.govt.nz/rubbish-and-recycling/transfer-stations

Due to perceived convenience, the household wheelie bin market is highly competitive nationally. This has led to a number of councils losing significant market share and even reviewing their role in providing waste collections. Prior to the introduction of rates-funded kerbside wheelie bin services, many households in the district already used wheeled-bin services provided by private companies, with approximately only 9% of the waste collected in our district using council rubbish bags. The remaining waste going to landfill includes waste from industrial and commercial sources and waste taken directly to the Tirohia Landfill, or to one of our three Refuse Transfer Stations.

The commercial collection market is served entirely by private operators. Matamata-Piako District Council ceased rubbish and recycling collections from commercial areas in September 2023, with businesses directed to arrange their own services. Private operators provide regular collection of commercial residual waste and recycling in various container types, with charges depending on type, size, and frequency. This market is reasonably well-served, with multiple providers offering flexible options suited to differing commercial needs.

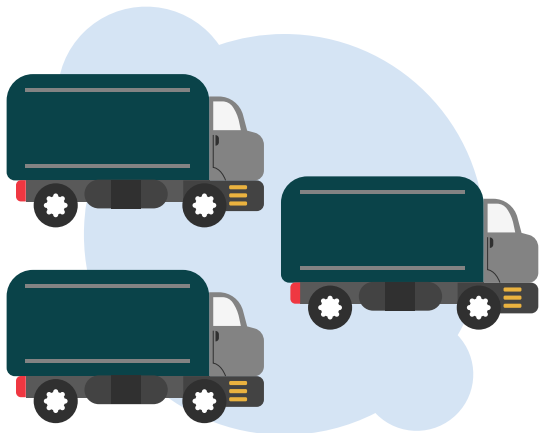
What happens with our waste?

Council-collected waste passes through one of our three Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) in Te Aroha, Morrinsville and Matamata, where waste can also be taken directly by residents and business. Some waste travels directly from source to Tirohia landfill. Commercial operators (waste companies) provide household and commercial collections that account for the rest of the district's waste.

Recycling collected at the kerbside and at our RTS's is managed by our contractor who sort and bale materials that are then on-sold.

A 2025 audit of Council wheelie bins estimates 19.1 tonnes of organic waste (kitchen and green waste) are put out for collection in rubbish wheelie bins each week, or over 990 tonnes per annum, contributing nearly half (46.6%) of the total kerbside rubbish. Sanitary paper was the second most common component at 12.5% (5.1 tonnes per week), followed closely by plastics at 12.3% (5.1 tonnes per week).

While the council now provides a rates-funded kerbside collection to residential properties, some households continue to use a private wheelie bin company. Council data on the qualities of waste collected does not account for the market share split between private and Council waste to landfill, so it is not possible to gain a clear picture of overall waste volumes and trends. Therefore, rather than incorporating updated Council figures in isolation, a blanket population growth rate has been applied to the total waste to landfill figure from the 2020 SWAP to provide a projected estimate of current volumes.



**All waste to landfill from
Refuse Transfer Stations,
kerbside and commercial
collections = 13,856
tonnes per annum**

**Organic waste (food and
garden) = 5,002 tonnes
per annum**

The top three waste streams that could be diverted from the overall waste disposed of at Class 1 landfill are:



1. Food waste: 44.5 tonnes per week



2. Compostable green waste: 37.6 tonnes per week



3. Recyclable paper: 9.5 tonnes per week

Overall, we could divert close to 50% of our waste from landfill every year and recycle or compost this instead. This is important, particularly as Tirohia Landfill will have closed by 2038. The closest landfill will then be 75kms away and any waste created will need to be transported out of the district for disposal.

WHAT COULD BE DIVERTED?

How well are we doing?

While we have completed a number of the actions from the last WMMP, it is difficult to measure what impact this has had on our performance due to changes in the way we collect and store information.

To determine how well we are doing in terms of waste minimisation it is useful to compare ourselves with other parts of New Zealand.

- When we consider all waste sent to landfill, the waste per capita is 350kg, which is down from 419kg when surveyed in 2010.
- When it comes to kerbside household recycling, we recycle about 40kg per capita per year, which has increased from 33kg per capita in 2023/24. This is still on the lower side when compared to other councils.
- When we look at how much waste from households we send to landfill from our kerbside collections, we generate about 93kg per person, per year. This has reduced from 183kg per person and is also lower than many other councils. However, it is important to note that this figure only accounts for households that utilise the Council kerbside collection service (59% of the district's population), so does not include a significant proportion of households that still use private wheelie bin services, properties that may be generating much higher quantities of waste per person.

How much better could we do?

Surveys of the rubbish picked up at the kerbside, and the rubbish sent to landfill, show that there is a large percentage that does not need to go to landfill and could instead be recycled, composted or be recovered in some other way such as reused.

Recoverable materials in all waste to Class 1 landfills - Projected 2025 quantities	Overall waste (includes kerbside rubbish)	
	% of total	Tonnes per week
Paper - Recyclable	3.6%	9.5 T/week
Paper - Cardboard	2.8%	7.3 T/week
Plastic - Recyclable	1.3%	3.5 T/week
Ferrous metals	3.0%	7.8 T/week
Non-ferrous metals	0.8%	2.2 T/week
Glass - Recyclable	2.9%	7.7 T/week
Textiles - Clothing	1.8%	4.9 T/week
Rubble - Cleanfill	2.0%	5.2 T/week
Timber - Reusable	0.6%	1.7 T/week
Subtotal	18.8%	49.9 T/week
Compostable materials		
Kitchen waste	16.7%	44.5 T/week
Compostable greenwaste	14.2%	37.6 T/week
New plasterboard	1.4%	3.6 T/week
Untreated/unpainted timber	2.1%	5.6 T/week
Subtotal	34.3%	91.2 T/week
TOTAL - POTENTIALLY DIVERTABLE	53.1%	141.2 T/week

Recoverable materials in Council kerbside rubbish bins November 2025	Overall waste (includes kerbside rubbish)	
	% of total	Tonnes per week
Paper - Recyclable	4.2%	0.34 T/bin
Plastics - #1,2,5 containers	2.1%	0.17 T/bin
Ferrous metals – steel cans	1.3%	0.03 T/bin
Non-ferrous metals – aluminium cans	0.4%	0.03 T/bin
Glass – bottles/jars	2.3%	0.19 T/bin
Subtotal	9.4%	0.77 T/bin
Compostable materials		
Organics – food waste	31.7%	2.61 T/bin
Organics – garden waste	8.1%	0.67 T/bin
Subtotal	39.8%	3.28 T/bin
TOTAL - POTENTIALLY DIVERTABLE	49.1%	4.04 T/bin



Key issues

The 2026 Waste Assessment looked across all aspects of waste management in the Matamata Piako District and identified the main areas where we could improve our effectiveness and efficiencies.

- A significant proportion of waste going to landfill is organic waste, with food waste present across all kerbside rubbish collection systems.
- We now provides a wheelie bin service for rubbish and mixed recycling kerbside collection. While this is being utilised by a significant proportion of the population (59% of households) many households continue to use private wheelie bin services.
- There is a lack of facilities to recycle or otherwise divert a range of materials other than household recyclables, green waste, scrap metal and waste for disposal.
- Licensing provisions in the Council's Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024 are not yet implemented, so there is little data available on private operator activities and non-council waste streams in general.
- While there are services to manage household hazardous waste, there are no other services.
- Community engagement, understanding and awareness of waste issues could be improved.
- More recyclables could be diverted from both domestic and commercial properties.
- There is scope to increase landfill diversion of a broader range of materials from industrial and commercial. Paper and cardboard is the main material type currently diverted.

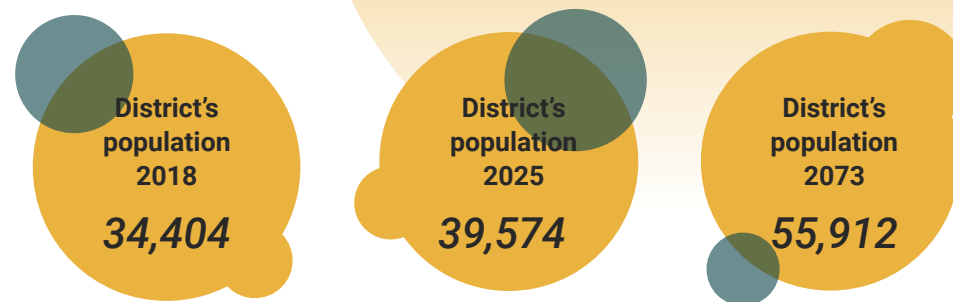
Future demand

A wide range of complex factors will impact future demand for waste services. Factors include:

- Economic growth or decline
- Population growth or decline
- Construction and demolition activity
- Changes in lifestyles and consumption. e.g. an increased use of electronics
- Demographic changes such as an aging population, e.g. more home-based medical assistance and wastes that require specialised recovery
- Changes in collection services and/or change in recovery of waste streams including rural wastes.
- The growing shift towards Product Stewardship, where producers take responsibility for their own waste.

Population growth in the district has been steady over the past 15 years. In 2018, it was 34,404 and has now surpassed 39,500 in 2025. It is expected to continue growing, projected to reach close to 56,000 by 2073 (41.3% growth).

The population aged 0-64 years is expected to ease slightly while the population aged 65 years and over will grow strongly. The number of households is projected to grow steadily from 14,631 in 2025 to 19,391 in 2072. This suggests no dramatic shifts are expected over this period of time.



Assuming quantities of waste increase in line with expected population growth, the total quantity of waste to landfill in the district is expected to be over 14,700 tonnes in 2035. This is likely to be a conservative estimate particularly given growth rates over recent years have exceeded previous projections.

The structure of our plan

This plan is in three parts:

Part A - Strategy: contains core elements vision, goals, objectives, and targets. It sets out what we are aiming to achieve and the broad framework for working towards the vision.

Part B - Action plan: sets out the proposed actions to be taken to achieve the goals, objectives, and targets set out in Part A. Part B also shows how we will monitor and report on our actions and how they will be funded.

Part C - Supporting information: contains the background information that has informed the development of our WMMP. Most of this information is contained in the Waste Assessment.

PART A: THE STRATEGY - Our Vision for the Future

Enabling our community to reduce waste, use resources wisely and create positive outcomes for people and place



Our vision reflects the intended direction for the district in putting maximum effort into diversion and using landfill disposal as a last resort.

It is guided by the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and the waste hierarchy, with a focus on reducing waste, keeping resources in use for as long as possible, and using landfill disposal only where better options are not practical or available.

In practice, this means making decisions that help products and materials last longer, support repair and reuse where practical, improve recycling and recovery options, and reduce reliance on landfill disposal.

G1

Use Resources Well:

A community that considers, and where appropriate implements, new initiatives and innovative ways to assist in reducing, reusing and recycling waste, minimising waste sent to landfill.

- Provide sustainable services that are cost-effective to the community as a whole.
- View waste as a resource, improving and modifying collections and facilities so that more materials and products are diverted from landfill.
- Prioritise waste reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling initiatives that align with other council objectives.
- Promote, encourage, and emphasise reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Remove or reduce barriers that are preventing the community of make best use of existing services and any potential new services.
- Process and manage waste locally, or within the district wherever feasible and cost-effective.
- Investigate and implement new services, facilities, or other initiatives that will increase the amount of waste reduced, reused, or recycled.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing community resource recovery centres for bulky goods, e-waste, rural waste and other waste streams to 'future-proof' our Refuse Transfer Stations.
- Use the national waste hierarchy to guide decisions about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal
- Support the investigation of emerging technologies, processing methods and regional solutions that can reduce waste to landfill and recover value from residual waste, where they align with the waste hierarchy, environmental outcomes and community priorities..

G2

Protect People and Place: Protect and enhance our place while supporting healthy communities.

- Ensure the reduction of environmental harm is understood from a holistic perspective that incorporates tikanga and mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge) as an important component of sustainable practices.
- Consider the environmental impact and public health implications of all waste management options and choose those that are cost-effective to the community, while also protecting environmental and public health.

PART B: ACTION PLAN: What are we going to do?

Targets

1

Reduce the amount of kerbside household waste disposed to landfill.

Reduction of 1% each year, measured against the previous year's average.

This recognises ongoing residential growth and development across the district while still focusing on waste reduction at a household level.

2

Enhance the recovery of organic materials (such as food waste) from kerbside waste streams by establishing cost-efficient collection and processing services that divert organic waste from landfills.

Aim to increase the amount of organic materials diverted from landfill by 30% above the baseline of 400 tonnes annually by 2033, with annual progress assessments.

Action plan overview

The action plan aims to set out clear, practical initiatives for Matamata Piako District Council to implement, either on our own or jointly. While the action plan forms part of the WMMP, it is intended to be a 'living' document that can be regularly updated to reflect current plans and progress.

Leadership actions focus on advocacy, regional collaboration, funding support and partnerships. This recognises that coordinated work with neighbouring councils, central government, the commercial waste sector, Iwi, community organisations and regional groups will be needed to improve waste data, plan infrastructure, respond to national policy direction, and support practical local outcomes.

Our proposed key action areas

Our action plan includes practical activities that will enable us to achieve our vision for reducing waste, using resources wisely and managing disposal responsibly. Regional collaboration is woven through the action plan because some waste streams, infrastructure needs, data gaps and policy settings cannot be addressed effectively by our council alone.

Regional collaboration may also assist in evaluating future waste processing, resource recovery and residual waste management opportunities that are not viable at a district scale.

1. Regulation
2. Measuring and monitoring
3. Education and engagement
4. Waste services
5. Waste infrastructure
6. Leadership

Plan



Action Area	Key Actions	Issues addressed and what it will do
Regulation	Increase data visibility across the waste industry, including construction and demolition, and event-related waste. Take action against illegal dumping and littering.	Addressing poor understanding of waste streams; better access to data enables better management of waste. Reducing the amount of waste being dumped and entering the environment.
Measuring and monitoring	Undertake regular waste composition audits and reviews of waste flows. Continued monitoring of both council and non-council waste flows.	Addressing poor understanding of waste streams; better access to data enables better management of waste.
Education and engagement	Provide community-wide education and awareness raising. Monitor areas not performing well. Develop behaviour change interventions.	Increasing wider understanding of waste issues and opportunities.
Waste service	Provide and optimise household collection and recycling services. Collaborate with commercial waste sector to facilitate improvements.	Addressing large amounts of divertable waste not yet being diverted from landfill.
Waste infrastructure	Update waste infrastructure via maintenance or construction as appropriate. Develop infrastructure such as resource recovery and organic waste processing facilities. Develop region-wide relationships.	Addressing large amounts of divertable waste not yet being diverted from landfill.
Leadership	Continue to provide funding for waste minimisation projects. Collaborate and advocate across stakeholders for infrastructure and policy.	Supporting local innovation in priority waste streams. Improving waste diversion.

Considerations

The action plan outlines high-level intentions for actions to meet our obligations under the WMA 2008. In some cases, further research might be required to work out the costs and feasibility of some projects. This might change how, when, or if they are implemented.

Completing some other actions might depend on changing contractual arrangements with providers, or setting up new contracts. These type of contracts can be unpredictable, and this might impact the nature, timing, or costs of these projects.

Council's intended role

We intend to oversee, facilitate and manage a range of programmes and interventions to achieve effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within the district. We will do this through our internal structures responsible for waste management. We are responsible for a range of contracts, facilities and programmes to provide waste management and minimisation services to the residents and ratepayers of Matamata Piako District.

ACTION PLAN



Regulation				
Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
R1	Implement the provisions in the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024 in full - as part of this, introduce operator licensing and licensing fees. Act on conditions requiring that operators provide ongoing reporting on quantities and types of waste	Large quantities of organic waste and some recyclables still going to landfill. Poor understanding of rural waste streams, construction and demolition waste. Increase monitoring and reporting required by central government	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Regulator
R2	Require construction and event Waste Minimisation Management Plans and related data reporting as per the provisions in the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024	Poor understanding of construction and demolition waste Poor understanding and control of event related waste	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Regulator
R3	Continue to take action against illegal dumping and littering, using relevant legislation	Waste is dumped and enters the environment	Reduce the amount of waste being dumped illegally or littered	Regulator



Measuring and Monitoring

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
M1	Undertake regular waste composition audits and reviews of waste flows to better understand opportunities for waste management and minimisation	Poor understanding of some waste streams and total quantities and composition of waste going through the district year-round	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Provider, funder
M2	Maintain current monitoring levels; monitoring waste at kerbside, transfer stations, and to landfill	Understanding of current council waste streams provides some information for performance	Maintain status quo	Provider
M3	Monitor non-council waste flows through waste operator licensing with associated data collection requirements (linked to option R1)	Poor understanding of some waste streams and total quantities and composition of waste	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Provider, funder

Education and Engagement

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
E1	Provide community-wide waste minimisation education and awareness raising, including to continue to educate households on the importance of food waste collections and participation in kerbside food waste collection services	Support action on many other waste issues. Need for additional waste minimisation education. Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill	Need for education/engagement (i.e. demand) is proactively identified and addressed. Increased responsibility taken by various sectors for waste management within the community. Better understanding across the board of non-household waste management and opportunities to move up the hierarchy	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
E2	Monitor and survey to identify areas that are not performing as well (e.g. higher contamination, lower recycling, problematic waste streams) and undertake targeted education campaigns	Specific education and engagement activities are undertaken in areas where particular issues have been identified, improving the community's understanding of the issues and the opportunities to improve waste management and minimisation	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
E3	Work in partnership with private waste companies to educate wheeled bin users about preferred behaviour, e.g. encouraging organic collections	Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill Support action on many other waste issues	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Facilitator, Funder
E4	Undertake targeted communication campaigns as required to support service changes, e.g. new/altered services, regulatory changes, legislative changes	Specific education and engagement activities are undertaken to ensure services are used appropriately. Contamination and usage levels addressed	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
E5	Develop community-based behaviour change interventions, identifying appropriate community groups and working with them to develop and deliver behaviour change campaigns. Including, but not limited to, the Para Kore programme	Education and engagement activities are undertaken with a consistent behaviour change approach, and are delivered where possible through community groups	Education and engagement is extended into behaviour change campaigns, delivered within the communities	Facilitator, Funder



Waste Services

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
S1	Continue to provide current council kerbside collection services as present. Continue to deliver and optimise household recycling services to urban ratepayers	Large amounts of divertable materials going to landfill	Additional material is diverted from landfill for reuse or recycling	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
S2	Work with the commercial waste sector to identify and facilitate improvements to collection services	More material is collected for diversion outside Council's kerbside collections	Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling	Facilitator

Waste Infrastructure

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
WI1	Upgrade the existing RTS network by retaining all three sites and improving each site where affordable and practicable, to maximise waste diversion and resource recovery opportunities	Ageing infrastructure limits operational efficiency and the ability to divert recoverable materials from landfill	Maintains local service levels, improves waste diversion where reasonably practicable, and supports affordable, staged investment	Provider, Funder
WI2	Investigate a greenfield community resource recovery park or regional supersite with neighbouring councils, where practical and affordable	Ageing RTS infrastructure may limit future service delivery, resource recovery opportunities, and regional waste diversion options	Assesses whether a resource recovery park or regional supersite could improve diversion, recovery, efficiency and affordability for the district or region	Provider, Funder
WI3	Provide storage space at an RTS for increased diversion, e.g. Space for storing reuse items, covered space for textile sorting or e-waste storage	Large quantities of divertible waste going to landfill.	Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling and additional services are available in the district	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
WI4	Develop or procure organic waste processing, appropriate for the types/quantities of organic wastes to be processed (i.e. food waste only or mixed food and garden etc)	Large quantities of organic waste still going to landfill	Additional organic waste can be diverted from landfill	Provider, Funder
WI5	Work with product stewardship scheme providers to identify infrastructure needs and consider provision/facilitation locally (such as collecting batteries at the RTS)	Limited local infrastructure to support product stewardship schemes, particularly for e-waste, batteries, and farm plastics.	Additional material is diverted from landfill through product stewardship; district residents have improved access to scheme drop-off points	Facilitator, Funder, Provider.
WI6	Investigate and where feasible, develop region-wide relationships to increase resource recovery, including with social enterprise, to extract value from waste and to provide employment	Fragmented regional infrastructure; limited economies of scale for processing and recovery	Improved regional resource recovery outcomes; potential for social and employment benefits through enterprise partnerships	Facilitator, Funder

Leadership

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
L1	Continue to provide a local fund for waste minimisation projects (the Resource Recovery Fund)	Community and business capacity to develop and implement local waste minimisation initiatives	Local innovation and waste minimisation activity is supported and sustained; community-led projects receive funding to develop	Funder
L2	Undertake targeted funding rounds to encourage specific outcomes e.g. construction and demolition recovery, textiles recovery	Specific waste streams, including construction and demolition waste and textiles, remain largely unaddressed	Focused funding drives activity in priority waste streams; additional material is diverted from landfill in areas where market-led solutions have not yet emerged	Funder
L3	Continue involvement in the development of a national approach to disaster waste management, and prepares a local disaster waste management plan	Growing risk of disaster waste events	The district is better prepared to manage disaster waste efficiently	Provider, Facilitator
L4	Collaborate with the commercial waste sector to proactively identify and facilitate opportunities for improved waste management services and infrastructure	Limited visibility of commercial and industrial waste flows. Large quantities of waste going to landfill	Improved commercial waste diversion; better alignment between Council strategy and private sector service delivery across the district	Facilitator
L5	Advocate to central Government for increased action on issues such as product stewardship and extended producer responsibility	Councils bear disproportionate responsibility for managing waste streams, that are better addressed through centrally led schemes	Central government action on product stewardship reduces the burden on local ratepayers and improves management of difficult waste streams at a national scale	Facilitator
L6	Continue with regular Mana Whenua Forum, where updates can be provided on key projects and progress towards targets, and partnership working options are identified and pursued	Need to ensure waste minimisation strategies reflect tikanga Māori and fulfil te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations; importance of mana whenua partnership in waste planning and delivery	Stronger relationships with mana whenua support culturally appropriate service design and community engagement; partnership opportunities are identified and progressed	Facilitator
L7	Adopt a circular economy approach during procurement by specifying products with recycled content where possible, while balancing project costs. This will help reduce emissions associated with raw material extraction and production and support the circular economy	Large amounts of divertable materials going to landfill	Procurement decisions reinforce the district's broader waste minimisation goals	Provider, Funder, Facilitator

FUNDING THE PLAN

The WMA 2008 (s43) requires that councils include information about how the implementation of this WMMP will be funded, as well as information about any grants made and expenditure of waste levy funds.

Funding local actions

There is a range of options available to local councils to fund the activities set out in this plan. These include:

- **Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)** - a charge that is paid by all ratepayers
- **User Charges** - includes charges for user-pays collections as well as transfer station gate fees
- **Targeted rates** - a charge applied to those properties receiving a particular council service
- **Waste levy funding** - The Government redistributes funds from the \$10 per tonne waste levy to local authorities on a per capita basis. By law, 50% of the money collected through the levy must be returned to councils. This money must be applied to waste minimisation and wider environmental activities
- **Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF)** - Most of the remaining 50% of the levy money collected is redistributed to specific projects approved by the Ministry for the Environment. Anyone can apply to the WMF for funding for projects
- **Private sector funding** - The private sector may undertake to fund/supply certain waste minimisation activities, for example in order to look to generate income from the sale of recovered materials etc. Council may work with private sector service providers where this will assist in achieving the WMMP goals.

Funding considerations take into account a number of factors including:

- Prioritising harmful wastes;
- Waste minimisation and reduction of residual waste to landfill;
- Full-cost pricing - 'polluter pays';
- Public good vs. private good component of a particular service;
- That the environmental effects of production, distribution, consumption and disposal of goods and services should be consistently costed, and charged as closely as possible to the point they occur to ensure that price incentives cover all costs;
- Protection of public health;
- Affordability; and
- Cost effectiveness.

The potential sources of funding for each of the actions are noted in the tables in Part B of the WMMP. Budgets to deliver the activities set out in this plan will be carefully developed through our Annual Plan and Long Term Plan processes. The approach taken will be to implement as many of the activities as possible while controlling costs and, where possible, taking advantage of cost savings and efficiencies. It is anticipated that by setting appropriate user charges, reducing costs through avoided disposal, more efficient service delivery from joint working, and targeted application of waste levy money, the increased levels of waste minimisation as set out in this WMMP will be able to be achieved without overall additional increases to the average household cost.



Territorial Authorities waste levy funding

Council receives, based on population, a share of national waste levy funds from the Ministry for the Environment. It is estimated that at the current rates (ranging from \$15 to \$70 per tonne) our council's total share of waste levy funding will be approximately \$240k per annum.

The WMA requires that all waste levy funding received by councils must be "spent on matters to promote waste minimisation and in accordance with their WMMP".

Waste levy funds can be spent on ongoing waste minimisation services, new services, or an expansion of existing services. The funding can be used for education and communication, policy research and reporting, to provide grants, or as infrastructure capital, and other activities in our WMMP.

We intend to use our waste levy funds for a range of waste minimisation activities and services as set out in the action plan.

In addition, we may make an application for contestable waste levy funds from the WMF, either separately, with other councils, or with another party. The WMF provides additional waste levy funds for waste minimisation activities.

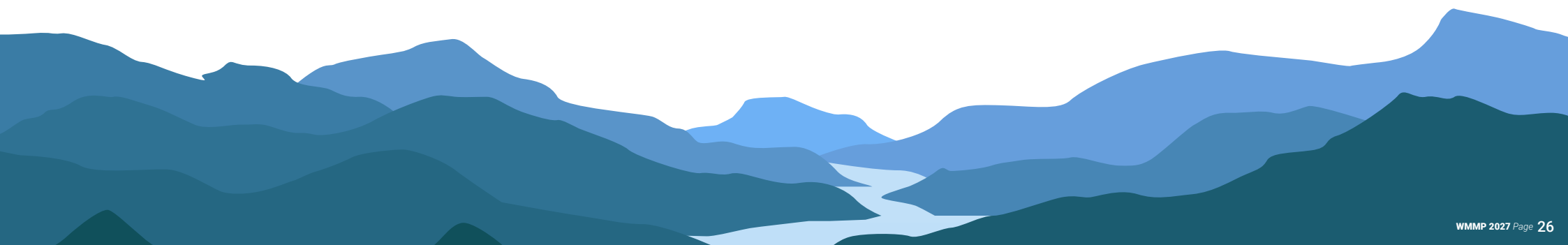
Funding business and community actions

Councils have the ability under the WMA (s47) to provide grants and advances of money to any person, organisation or group for the purposes of promoting or achieving waste management and minimisation, as long as this is authorised by the WMMP.

Council will investigate the development of a grants programme where Matamata Piako District businesses, community groups, and other organisations can apply for funding from council for projects which align with, and further, the objectives of this WMMP on an annual basis.

MONITORING EVALUATING AND REPORTING PROGRESS

This WMMP contains a number of actions with timeframes (refer to Part B), as well as a set of waste minimisation targets. Progress on each of these actions and targets will be reported annually to Council.



GLOSSARY

Bulky items	Large and small household appliances, furniture, carpets, mattresses, bric-a-brac etc
Circular Economy	A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.
CRRC	Community Resource Recovery Centre
E-waste	E-waste (electronic waste) refers to any item with a plug, battery or cord that is no longer working or wanted.
Food waste	Any food scraps – from preparing meals, leftovers, scraps, tea bags, coffee grounds.
Green waste	Waste largely from the garden – including hedge and/or tree clippings, and/or lawn clippings.
Household hazardous waste	Waste that can cause harm or damage to people or the environment like strong chemicals.
Kaitiakitanga	Kaitiakitanga means guardianship and protection. It is a way of managing the environment, based on the Māori world view
Mana whenua	Territorial rights, power from the land, authority over land or territory, jurisdiction over land or territory - power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land.
Mātauranga Maori	Mātauranga Māori is about a Māori way of being and engaging in the world – in its simplest form, it uses kawa (cultural practices) and tikanga (cultural principles) to critique, examine, analyse and understand the world.
New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy	The Government's priorities for minimising waste and improving waste management, see environment.govt.nz/news/waste-strategy/ It replaces Te Rautaki Para New Zealand waste strategy adopted by the previous Government in March 2023.
Organic waste	Plant-based material and other bio-degradable material that can be recovered through composting, digestion or other similar processes.
Para Kore	A call to action that aims to end the current take, make, and dispose mentality of human society.
Polluter pays	The commonly accepted practice that those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment
Product stewardship	Product stewardship is the responsible management of the environmental impact of a product including the cost. It aims to reduce the impact of manufactured products at all stages of the product life cycle.
RTS	Refuse Transfer Station
Rural waste	In rural areas, examples of solid waste include wastes from kitchens, gardens, cattle sheds, agriculture, and materials such as metal, paper, plastic, cloth, and so on. They are organic and inorganic materials with no remaining economic value to the owner produced by homes, commercial and industrial establishments.

Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024

Council's solid waste bylaw which can be viewed at: www.mpdcc.govt.nz/policies-a-bylaws/consolidated-bylaw-2008

SWAP	Solid Waste Analysis Protocol
WMA 2008	The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 Act (the Act) encourages a reduction in the amount of waste we generate and dispose of in New Zealand. The aim is to reduce the environmental harm of waste and provide economic, social and cultural benefits for New Zealand.
WMF	Waste Minimisation Fund
WMMP	A Waste Management and Minimisation Plan as defined by s43 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.



te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

WASTE MANAGEMENT & **MINIMISATION PLAN**

REDUCING WASTE AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

