



SUMMARY OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Whakatane District Council's underlying vision for waste management is that of "Zero Waste". The wellbeing of the community as a whole will remain the focus of the waste management philosophies of the Council.

This is effectively reducing production of waste materials at source and maximising the recovery of materials through recycling and reprocessing. This progressively works to reduce residual waste requiring disposal to a minimum and eventually near zero. This vision provides the framework upon which to plan and implement the waste management activities included within this plan.

Achievement of these goals will help to ensure sustainable development within the District.

The Council has, with the adoption of the revised Whakatane District Council Waste Management Plan (April 2002) integrated the principles of the New Zealand Waste Strategy in its waste management policies. The plan now incorporates objectives for the management of trade, sewer, stormwater and gaseous waste.

The Waste Management Plan sets out steps necessary for the Council to achieve goals identified in the plan. Included are measurable targets which critically evaluate both the effectiveness and community benefits of the policies.

Through the use of services and facilities it controls, the Council provides mechanisms for achieving goals identified in the Waste Management Plan.

The year 2006 saw several key actions undertaken by the Council in support of the Waste Management Plan. The Recycling Park opened at Te Tahi Street in April 2006. The Recycling Park operates in parallel with the Whakatane landfill to provide facilities to sort the waste stream and extract increasing quantities of materials for re-use and recycling.

Ongoing development of both the Te Tahi Street facility and the Murupara resource recovery centre site which opened in April 2006 will provide improved efficiency in waste management and maximise the ability to achieve Council's zero waste goals. Introduction of the kerbside 60 litre crate recycling service and the 240litre fortnightly greenwaste collection in June 2006 greatly increased the quantities of materials being diverted from landfill.

Stormwater, sewerage and trade waste services shall be monitored, assessed and modified as necessary, in line with community needs and legislative requirements.

Education has been recognised as an essential element in the success of the Waste Management Plan and the Council shall promote through education:

- waste avoidance and reduction,
- recycling,
- re-use,
- composting,
- vermiculture.

The Council actively supports education and waste audit programmes targeting schools and local businesses.

Passage of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA) and the pending revision of the targets in the New Zealand Waste Strategy will provide further impetus to the Council's waste reduction programmes.

Introduction of the waste levy under the WMA will increase the cost of disposal and also make funds available specifically for waste minimisation initiatives. Introduction of product stewardship schemes under the WMA will increase the range and quantities of materials able to be diverted. A consequence will be increased pressure for the Council to provide space at its resource recovery centres.

While the WMA does not require the Waste Management Plan to be revised until 2012, the Council will undertake a revision of the plan by April 2009. This will be done to firstly document the substantial changes made since 2002 and also to position the Council to take full advantage of the waste levy revenue. Policy amendments, if any, will incorporate central government legislation, community needs and aspirations (identified through consultation), environmental outcomes and economic sustainability.

The Waste Management Plan sets out targets for the Council to achieve its Zero Waste objectives by June 2015. These targets are reflected in the Council's levels of service for solid waste and the associated budgets. As such, there is no significant variation between the Waste Management Plan and the costs for the solid waste activity included in this plan.