Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy

Te Rautaki Whakataaharahara Para

2024 - 2030

Hamilton City Council
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

Whakatauki (proverb)

Kei too mai te manawa tahi ki a para kore ka mate te manawa o Taiao.

Unless we take action to minimise waste our planet dies.

Contents

1.0 Foreward

Our waste is increasing, and the impact of how we manage this will continue to grow unless we do something about it now.

Our 2023 Hamilton City Council Waste Assessment estimates the amount of waste we sent to landfill in Hamilton has increased by approximately 28.5% since 2017. If we don't take immediate action, the amount of waste will continue to increase as our population grows. Actions we can all take include simple measures like rethinking what we are about to purchase at the checkout, right through to how we recycle or dispose of items once they are at the end of their life. We can, and we should do better.

Our vision for the Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy is Hamilton Kirikiriroa is leading the way towards a low-waste city. Our Strategy outlines the direction for the next six years (2024-2030) and sets out how Council and the community can work together to minimise the impact of waste on our environment.

With Council only managing 13% of all Hamilton's waste, The Strategy also includes a focus on working with businesses and industries so they can do more to to reduce what they send to landfill. Construction and demolition makes up for 50% of all landfill waste across New Zealand. This industry is committed to reducing waste and we are excited to work alongside them in this space.

Our Strategy and the supporting waste assessment, tells the story of where we are now and the challenges we face both locally and nationally. It provides Council with the direction of where we want to be and how our attitudes towards waste need to change. It really is quite a simple story - if we reduce the amount of waste produced, the better it is now and for future generations.

This Strategy aligns with other Hamilton City Council strategies, including He Pou Manawa Ora and our Climate Change Strategy. It reflects Te Ao Maaori and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the relationship to our land.

As Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Infrastructure and Transport Committee, I am proud to have provided guidance and support in developing this Strategy, along with the guidance and involvement of Elected Members. I also congratulate the staff involved in developing this Strategy and for their ongoing dedication to achieving Council's purpose of improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians.

Angela O'Leary,

Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Infrastructure and Transport Committee.

2.0 Our strategy

Our vision

"Hamilton Kirikiriroa is leading the way towards a low-waste city"

Kei taumata te ara para kore a Hamilton Kirikiriroa.

Guiding principles

Enriched by Te Ao Maaori

Kua Maaori nei te haere

Inclusive and Accessible

Maa taatou e uru

Collective Action

Maa tatou tahi e tutuki

Acting for the future

Moo te aapoopo te mahi

Best practice

Tohunga te haere

At the forefront of change

Kei taumata te panonitanga

Outcomes

Outcome one

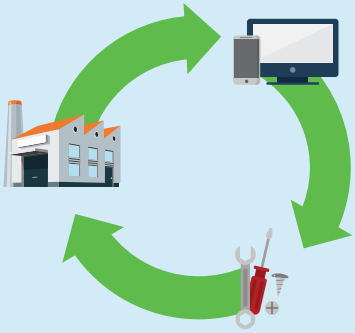
Low-waste solutions are easy, and Council and the Hamilton community are using them.

Mama te whakatika me te whakatutuki i te ara whakaitinga para kore.

Outcome two

By working together, we are all sending less to landfill.

Maa te mahinga tahi ka iti iho te unga ki ngaa ruapara.



Outcome Three

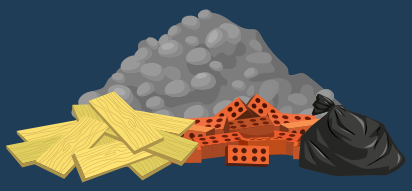
Our economy keeps resources in use for as long as possible.

Ko te oohanga ka puumau I ngaa rauemi moo te waa roa.

Focus areas

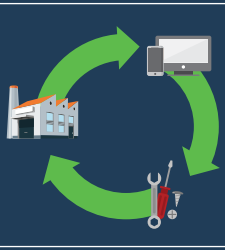
Further reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill

Ka iti iho te pararopi e haere ana ki te ruapara



Ongoing efforts to reduce construction and demolition waste

Ka ngana te whakaiti iho ngaa para hanganga me te turakanga



Support the move to a circular economy

Tautoko rawa te nekehanga oohanga huri haere

Recover more from waste streams

Ka whai ora tuaruatia te para

Adapt to changing lifestyles and ways of living

Ka urutau ki ngaa aahua noho o te waa

Shape national direction on waste and resource recovery

Ahungia te ara-aa-motu para kore

Regulatory and council management

Ture me te whakahaere-aa-kaunihera

3.0 Painting the picture

Our purpose is to improve the wellbeing of Hamiltonians. Effectively managing and minimising our waste is one of the things we must do to keep the city running the way it should. With people at the heart of everything we do, we also make choices about how to make Hamilton an even better place to be.

Shaping a green city

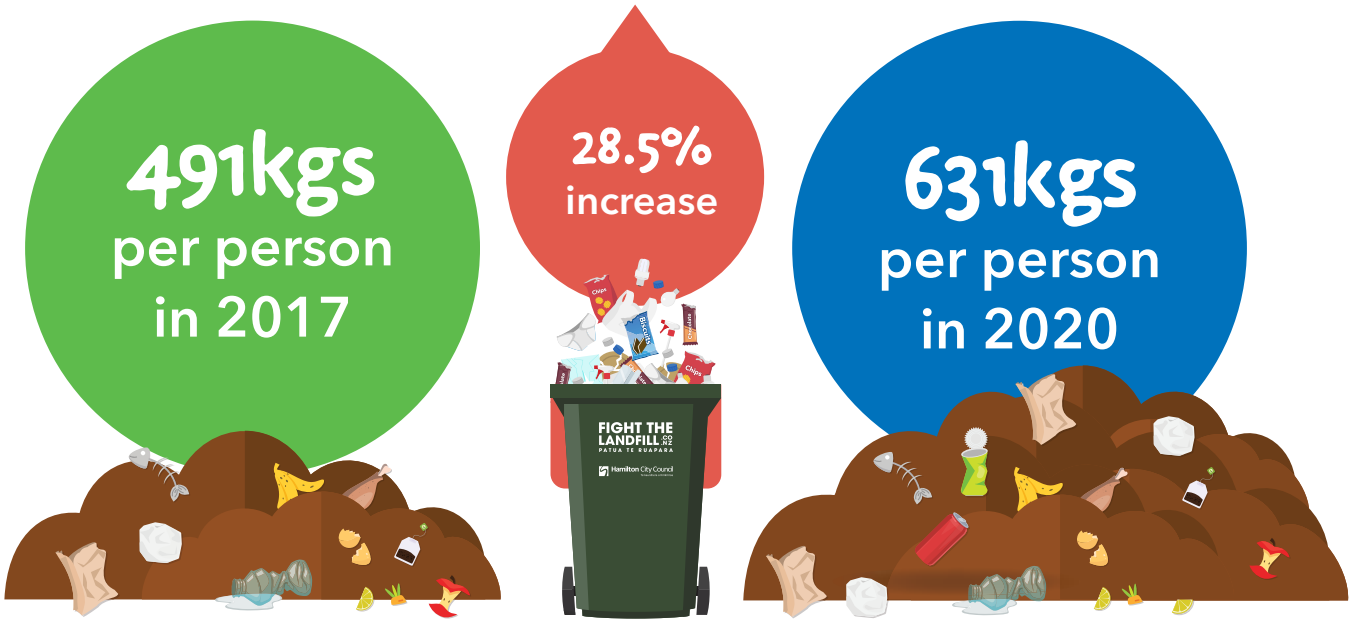
One of Council's five priorities[1] is to become a sustainable city by challenging the way we grow our city and how we live within our city. We love our environment and we're all committed to protecting it for future generations.

With a vision of 'Hamilton Kirikiriroa is leading the way towards a low-waste city', our Waste Management and Minimsation Strategy Rautaki Whakataaharahara Para 2024 – 2030 (The Strategy) outlines the things we will do to shape a more sustainable future for our city.

We're calling it a strategy because it shapes our vision and priorities for the next six years, but our previous versions have been called a plan.

4.0 Introduction

As a society, we are creating more waste than ever before. Between 2017 and 2020, we estimate the amount of waste Hamiltonians send to landfill has increased by approximately 28.5%.[2] If we don't take action we expect this amount of waste will only continue to increase as our population grows.



The challenges we are facing

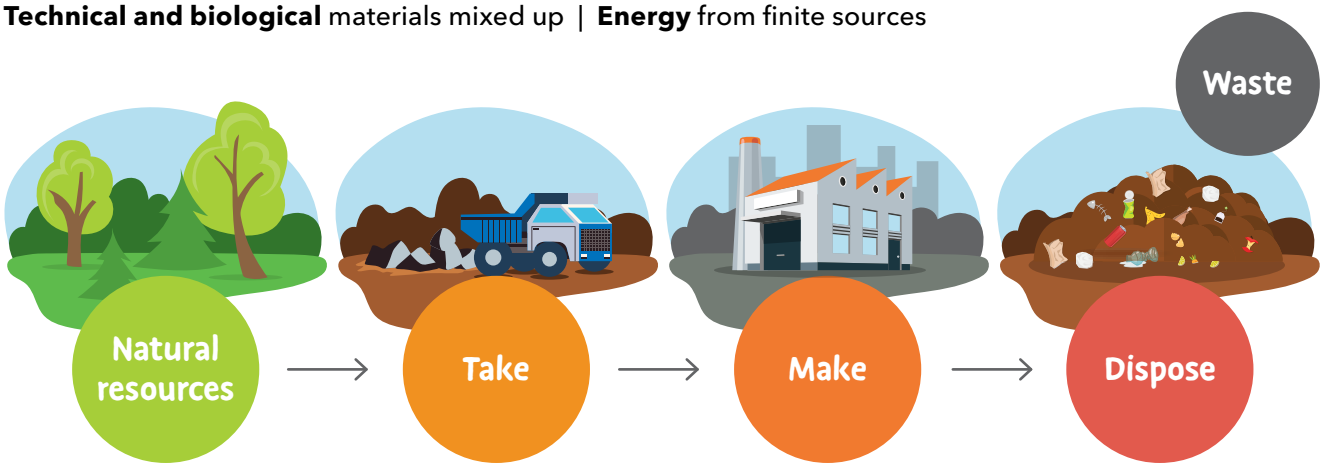
Our growing waste problem is a result of our disposable approach to the way we consume. This is often referred to as the 'linear economy' when we take finite natural resources, make them into something (which we tend to use for a short amount of time) and then dispose of it.

When we throw things away, the impact is not only what we see, but also all the resources and emissions that went into creating that item in the first place. It's estimated 45% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from the way we make and use things.[3]

When items make their way to a landfill, it's not only a huge waste of resources, but burying our waste in a big hole in the ground has ongoing environmental impacts and risks. When organic materials like food scraps, paper and wood breakdown in landfills, they create emissions, including methane, a toxic greenhouse gas. In Hamilton 3% of our emissions come from landfills[4] and this doesn't even include all of the emissions that went into making the things that we are throwing away. Keeping products and materials out of landfill, and in use for as long as possible, will reduce these emissions.

Linear economy

Technical and biological materials mixed up | **Energy** from finite sources



The opportunities we have

It doesn't make sense to continue using up our planet's limited resources and throwing them in a hole in the ground. We need to move to a circular economy where we rethink the way we consume and keep materials out of landfill, and in use, for longer.

Moving to a circular economy approach that supports the priorities of the waste hierarchy could include:

- designing out waste during construction and development
- influencing how we consume things (through behaviour change)
- keeping products and materials in use through a local network of resource recovery centres
- reusing or using recycled materials
- using more of our organic waste as a resource to support nature e.g. composting food scraps to enrich soil.

Circular economy

Energy from renewable sources

Our Strategy

The Strategy builds on our previous plan (Hamilton City Council Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2018 – 2024). It sets out our strategy for managing and minimising waste in Hamilton, along with the actions that we need to take to make it possible.

Through our kerbside service, we directly manage less than 13%[5] of the waste generated in Hamilton. We need to work together with various stakeholders including iwi, Mana Whenua, Mataawaka, community, business, manufacturers, and government to influence what happens with the rest of the waste.

Why do we need a strategy?

Our purpose is 'to improve the wellbeing of Hamiltonians'. Our Strategy helps deliver on this.

Our Strategy sets our vision for Hamilton to lead the way towards a low-waste city and gives us a roadmap for what we need to do to get there. While it's the right thing to do, there are a few other reasons why we need a strategy.

Our obligations: The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 places an obligation on all councils to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within their district. It requires councils to prepare a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and review it every six years.

Councils also have obligations under various acts, including the Health Act 1956, to ensure waste management and systems protect public health. A full list of relevant legislation is listed in the Waste Assessment 2023[6].

Resourcing: The Waste Minimisation Strategy ensures we will have the infrastructure and services in place to appropriately manage waste and support Hamilton to become a low-waste city, especially as our city grows.

The actions set out in The Strategy will be included in the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan processes to support the resourcing needed to deliver the Strategy's outcomes.

What types of waste are included?

The Strategy includes all solid waste and diverted material in the city, whether we manage them or not. Liquid and gas waste are not included, except where they interact with solid waste systems. This does not necessarily mean we are going to have direct involvement in the management of all waste. We have a responsibility to consider all waste in the city, and to suggest areas where other groups, such as businesses or households, could take action themselves.

What informs The Strategy?

Our Strategy is informed by a range of existing council strategies as well as local, national, and international data, knowledge, and best practice.

Strategy map

Research: we investigated other international and local government approaches to waste.

Our waste assessment: all councils are required to complete a waste assessment as part of the waste management and minimisation plan process. This document informs the planning foundations for The Strategy by understanding the current waste situation, setting the vision, outcomes, guiding principles and targets for the city, and creating options for meeting future demand. We developed a waste assessment in mid 2023 in collaboration with a representative working group of Council's Elected Members. You can read the full document here[7].

Stakeholder engagement: we engaged with a wide range of stakeholders and our broader community to gather feedback and help us shape The Strategy.

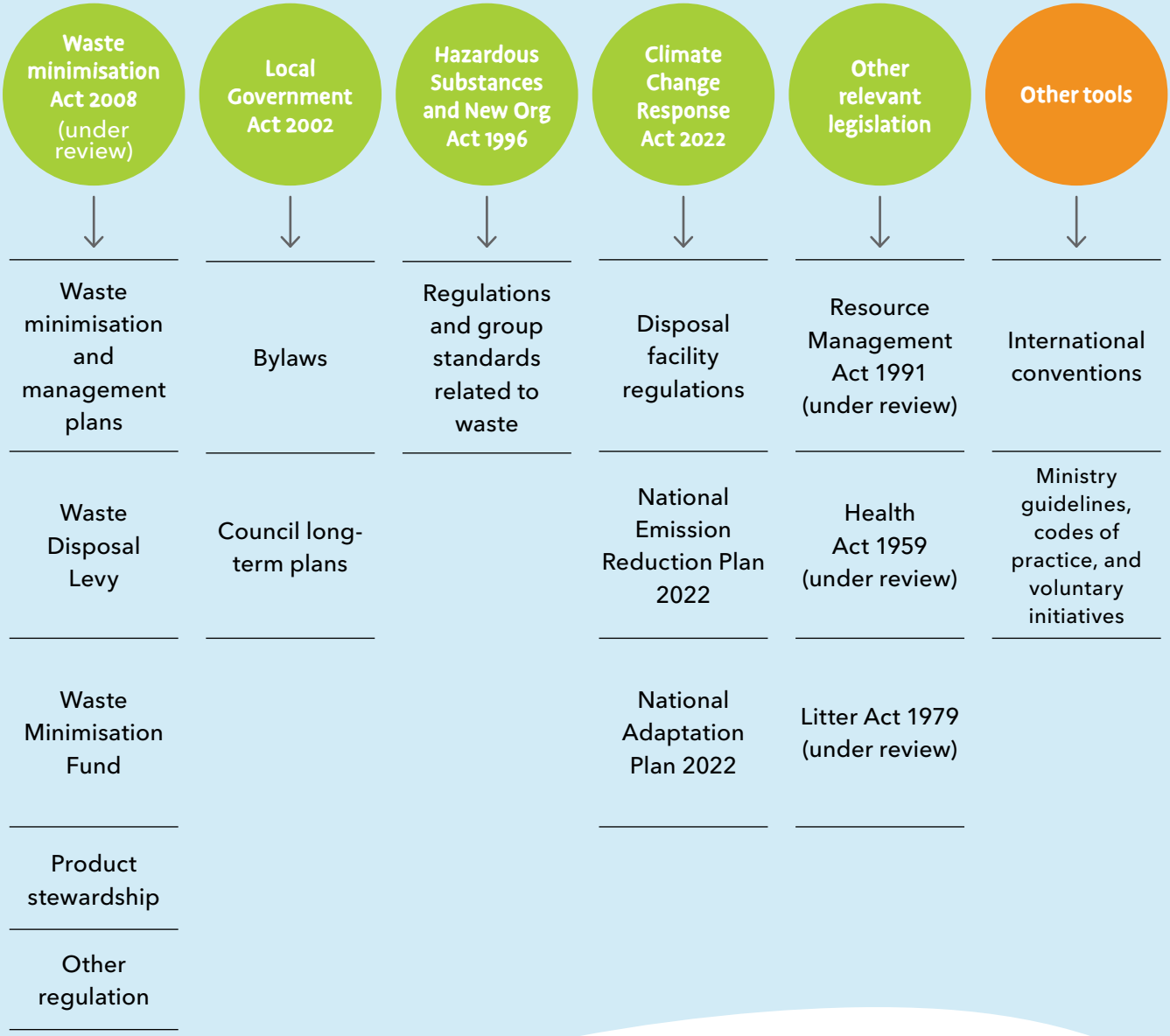
The waste hierarchy: the hierarchy is, a globally recognised tool that prioritises approaches to reducing and managing waste.

Waste hierarchy

- **Circular economy:** the principles of the circular economy (make - use - return - remake) influence the focus areas and actions in The Strategy.
- **Existing Hamilton City Council strategies:** such as Our Climate Future - He Pou Manawa Ora, Access Hamilton- Ara Kootuitui Kirikiriroa and Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy.
- **National strategies:** The Aotearoa New Zealand Waste Strategy (Te rautaki para – Waste Strategy)[9] has a vision of "by 2050, Aotearoa New Zealand is a low-emissions, low-waste society, built upon a circular economy." The Aotearoa New Zealand Waste Strategy details the goals, guiding principles and work priorities for achieving this vision. The key strategy priorities include:
  - diversion of organics away from landfill
  - reducing landfill emissions
  - lifting recycling rates
  - standardisation of kerbside collections
  - promoting a circular economy.

The Strategy is influenced by the priorities of the Aotearoa New Zealand Waste Strategy as per section 44 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

New Zealand Waste Strategy Legislative Framework



A range of other national, regional and local plans and strategies can be found in section 2 of the 2023 Waste Assessment[10].

For more information

Further information on the development of Our Strategy and updates on progress can be found at **fightthelandfill.co.nz**

5.0 Hamilton's waste situation

Our city's waste

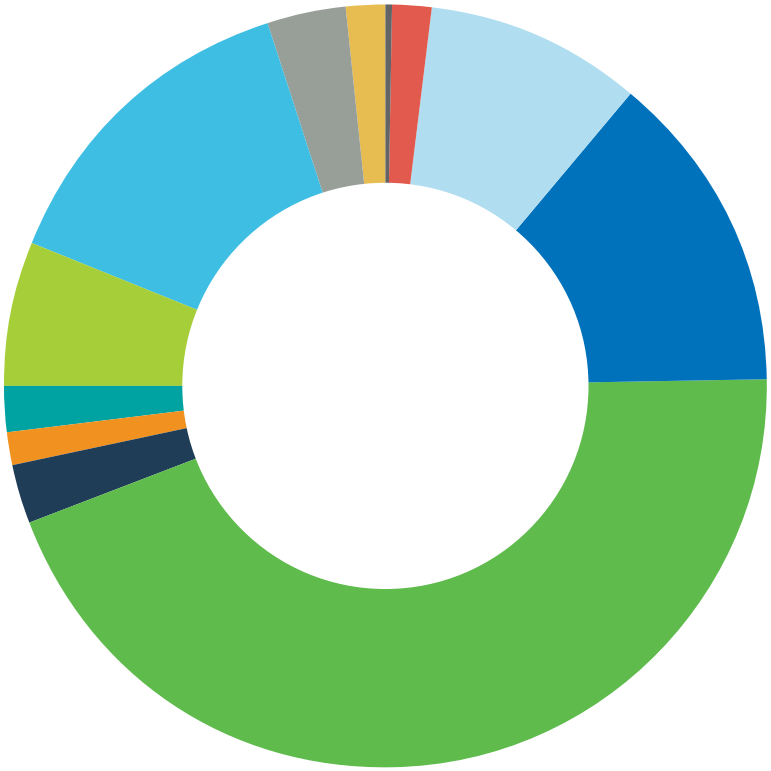
We provide a kerbside recycling and rubbish collection service to Hamilton households. We estimate this makes up around 13%[11] of the waste generated in Hamilton.

Kerbside waste

Total waste and recycling collected at kerbside.

As part of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 – 2024, we introduced a new kerbside service in 2020. It resulted in a decrease of around 40% in the amount of kerbside waste going landfill and a 67% increase in recycling[12]. This was a huge win, but we know 54% of what is still going in our red lidded kerbside rubbish bins doesn't need to be going to landfill.

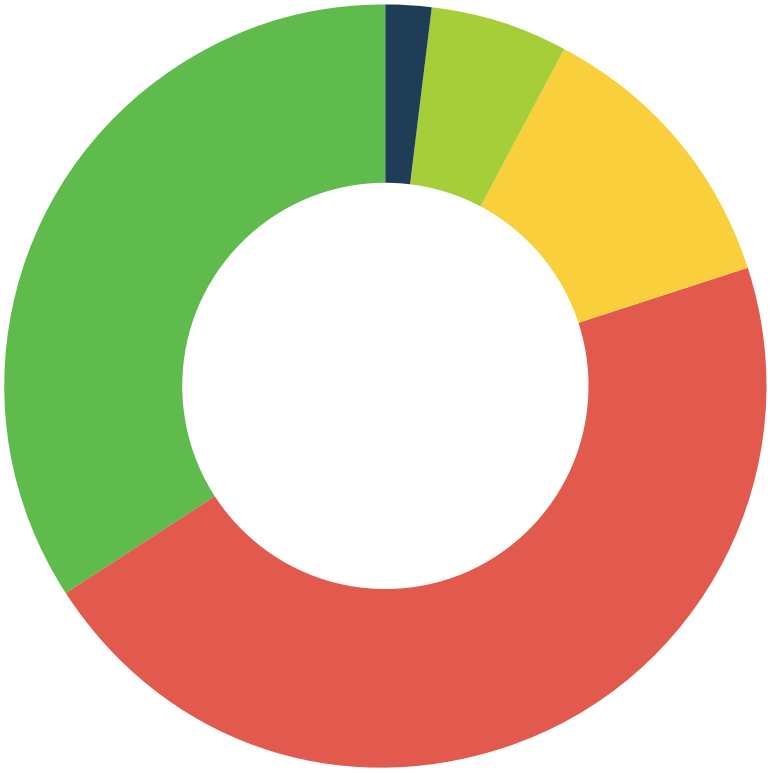
Primary composition of Council's 120-litre rubbish wheelie bins – 2022[13]



0.50%	Rubber
1.50%	Potentially hazardous
9.20%	Paper
13.60%	Plastics
44.60%	Organics
2.60%	Ferrous metals
1.30%	Non-ferrous metals
1.90%	Glass
6.30%	Textiles
13.90%	Sanitary paper
3.40%	Rubble
1.40%	Timber

We're not always putting the right things in our yellow lidded kerbside recycling bins. This leads to contamination (unwashed recycling or unrecyclable items and liquids) and resulting in an increase of unnecessary recycling ending up in the landfill.

Diversion potential of Council's 120-litre rubbish wheelie bins – 2022[14]



2% Other compostable

6% Greenwaste

12% Recyclable

34% Kitchen waste

(could all be diverted away from landfill)

46% Rubbish

6.1% Paper
1.1% Steel
0.7% Aluminium
1.4% Glass
2.0% Plastics(#1, 2, 5)
1.2%% Plastic (others)

The big picture

It's difficult to estimate what's happening with the rest of Hamilton's waste. The majority of waste in Hamilton is managed privately or by commercial providers and we don't currently have data on these waste volumes. We can look to national data from the Ministry for the Environment, however, the data is currently limited. The good news is this will change as the Aotearoa New Zealand Waste Strategy 2023 has identified data and licensing as a priority area.

In the meantime, we can only make estimates and assumptions based on the information that we do have.

What we know

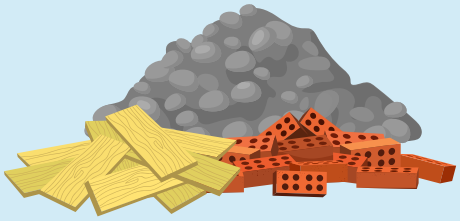
Waste to landfill is increasing

Since 2017 the amount of waste per person to Class-1 landfills in the Waikato has increased by approximately 28.5%*.[15]

Our population is growing

Which will increase waste and put pressure on our systems and infrastructure. Hamilton's population is projected to grow from 185,677 in 2024 to more than 203,421 in 2030 (9.6%).[16]

For more detailed data please refer to our 2023 Waste Assessment.



Construction and demolition waste is significant

Construction and demolition waste is recognised as the largest waste stream in New Zealand making up to 50% of waste that goes to landfill.[17]

Organic waste and food scraps are a big deal

More than 30 million kg of food scraps are sent to New Zealand landfills from houses and businesses every year. Food scraps produce around 22% of the emissions from municipal landfills as they decompose.[18]

We are exposed to an increasing number of extreme events

Unforeseen events, such as natural and human caused disasters and pandemics, apply a different pressure upon waste services and other inter-related services. They potentially create a significant volume of waste in a short time frame, which may be contaminated.[19]

6.0 Wellbeing and Waste

The Local Government Act 2002 states the core aim of local government is to advance the current and future social, economic, environmental, and cultural prosperity of communities.

In accordance with this, we characterise "wellbeing" as:

Focusing on effective waste management and minimisation can play a significant role in enhancing the well-being of our community.

Developing a network of resource recovery centres that focuses on reusing, repairing and repurposing, over sending things to landfill, can have a positive economic impact. The Emissions Reduction Plan states "as an average across a range of studies, for every five jobs in landfilling, 15 to 20 jobs could be created in resource recovery".[20]

As the Ministry for the Environment states 'Redistributing good quality, surplus food to those who need it can have a positive impact on food security and community resilience'.[21]

8.0 Our Strategy
Our vision for the future

9.0 Our approach

We have three key elements that provide the foundation for the way we approach waste management and minimisation.

Policy and drivers

We need the right policies and incentives to drive change. These can be put in place by central, regional or local government and can also be led by industry.

Examples: our Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (2019) and the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

Infrastructure

We need the appropriate infrastructure to manage our waste and to support diversion from landfill. Without it, diversion is difficult and costly.

Examples: kerbside rubbish, recycling and food scraps collection, the Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre and the Education room at the Materials Recovery Facility.

Education and behaviour change

To create the change required, we need to ensure we are all informed about the actions we should and shouldn't be taking.

Examples: our Waste Minimisation Fund and supporting national waste reduction and recycling campaigns.

How will we work together?

To achieve the vision and outcomes of our The Strategy, we will work together with:

10 Guiding principles

These principles guide our actions and decision-making and have influenced the development of The Strategy and actions.

Enriched by Te Ao Maaori: Kua Maaori nei te haere

Te Ao Maaori acknowledges the value and significance of Maaori culture and traditions. We use it to inform and enhance the work we do.

Inclusive and accessible: Maa taatou e uru

We make it easy for our diverse city to do the right thing. We provide equal opportunities for everyone to contribute to a low-waste city.

Collective action: Maa tatou tahi e tutuki

We work together with iwi, Mana Whenua, Mataawaka, community, business, government, and other key stakeholders to create change.

Acting for the future: Moo te aapoopo te mahi

We are innovative and take action for the long-term wellbeing of our people and planet.

Best practice: Tohunga te haere

We are guided by evidence, data and knowledge

At the forefront of change: Kei taumata te panonitanga

We lead by example and advocate for change. We are recognised as the go-to Council for action and expertise.

11 Te ao Maaori and Waste

Using Te Ao Maaori as a frame of reference is integral to The Waste Strategy and aligns with our He Pou Manawa Ora – Pillars of Wellbeing Strategy[22].

He Pou Manawa Ora outlines our vision for a city that celebrates its whole history, including its unique Maaori heritage. It ensures everyone has a voice in developing its future. The Strategy recognises Maaori as key partners in determining Hamilton's future and aims to achieve better outcomes for Maaori and all Hamiltonians. The four pillars or 'pou' are history, unity, prosperity and restoration.

Within Te Ao Maaori, the relationships between land and humans are inseparable through whakapapa. Whakapapa links people to all other living things, to the Earth, our mother Papatuuaanuku and the sky, our father Ranginui. It traces the universe back to its origins, to te kore, the time of nothingness.

Whakapapa creates a deep responsibility towards and respect for the natural world. Kaitiakitanga (custodianship) is passed down through generations, and the relationship is reciprocal: you look after the land; the land looks after you.

From the perspective of Te Ao Maaori, all packaging, all materials, all waste has whakapapa to the natural world. Designing out waste and emissions by focusing on the highest parts of the waste hierarchy, will enable us to regenerate and restore Papatuuaanuku and our relatives of the natural world, and ultimately ourselves.

Te Ao Maaori and the Principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi (Partnership, Protection, Participation and Prosperity) will help guide The Strategy on its journey towards creating a more socially, economically and environmentally diverse city for future generations to be immensely proud of.

Read the complete He Pou Manawa Ora Strategy hamilton.govt.nz/hepoumanawaora

All packaging, all materials, all waste has whakapapa to the natural world.

12 Our outcomes

Outcome one

Low-waste solutions are easy, and we are using them.

Mama te whakatika me te whakatutuki i te ara whakaitinga para kore.

We need to make it as simple as possible to find and use low-waste solutions within our city and our neighbourhoods.

We have a diverse population with a huge range of cultures, economic means, and physical abilities. The way we live is also changing as housing intensification increases and more of us are living in the central city. We need to consider and meet the needs of our diverse city and provide equal opportunities for everyone to access and contribute to a low-waste city.

Outcome two

By working together, we are sending less to landfill.

Maa te mahinga tahi ka iti iho te unga ki ngaa ruapara.

To achieve our vision of becoming a low-waste city we need collective action.

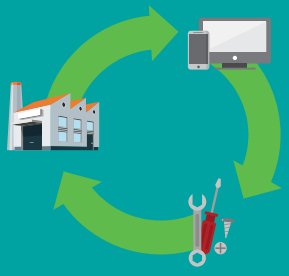
Through the kerbside collection, we only directly manage around 13%[23] of the waste generated in Hamilton. We need to collaborate with iwi, Mana Whenua, Mataawaka, community, business, government, and other key stakeholders and collaborators to find and enhance ways to send less to landfill.

There is already a significant amount of waste reduction knowledge and action happening within our city. By providing additional education, support and advocacy, we can enable our communities to do more.

Outcome three

Our economy keeps resources in use for as long as possible.

Ko te oohanga ka puumau I ngaa rauemi moo te waa roa.



Prioritising circular economy outcomes within our city will keep resources in use, reduce waste to landfill, and enhance resilience.

The circular economy is an economic system that focuses on keeping resources in use for as long as possible. It aims to realise the full value of resources and minimise waste. It can include approaches such as recycling, repairing, reusing, and re-manufacturing.

Circular economy outcomes reduce waste and environmental impact, and with increasing resource scarcity, it can also create economic opportunities and increased resilience for our local communities and businesses.

We will focus on building community and industry capability and supporting action around the circular economy, as well as focusing on our own organisation to make decisions that minimise waste and incorporate circular economy principles.

13 Our focus areas

Further reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill **Ka iti iho te pararopi e haere ana ki te ruapara**	Globally an estimated one third of all the food we produce is lost or wasted. In New Zealand, organic waste makes up 4%[24] of our national emissions. There is a significant opportunity to increase awareness and expand initiatives to divert and reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfills in Hamilton.
Ongoing efforts to reduce construction and demolition waste **Ka ngana te whakaiti iho ngaa para hanganga me te turakanga**	Construction and demolition waste is estimated to be[25] the largest waste stream in New Zealand. An opportunity exists to continue supporting the construction and demolition industry to minimise waste from design through to construction.
Support the move to a circular economy **Tautoko rawa te nekehanga oohanga huri haere**	A circular economy, in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible is an alternative to the traditional linear economy. An opportunity exists to raise awareness and accelerate the implementation of circular principles and create Hamilton as a leader in this space.
Recover more from waste streams **Ka whai ora tuaruatia te para**	The waste hierarchy is a priority order of how to manage our waste. We need to continue our focus on increasing resource recovery by moving up the waste hierarchy.
Adapt to changing lifestyles and ways of living **Ka urutau ki ngaa aahua noho o te waa**	With disposable consumption habits and increasing housing intensification in Hamilton, we need to support the move to low-waste and low-carbon ways of living.
Shape national direction on waste and resource recovery **Ahungia te ara-aa-motu para kore**	We have the opportunity to help shape the future of resource recovery and waste in New Zealand.
Regulatory and council management **Ture me te whakahaere-aa-kaunihera**	Our staff will ensure we are meeting all of our waste management and minimisation obligations.

14 How we will measure success

The Strategy is focused on the waste hierarchy and reducing the amount of waste produced in our city.

Ultimately our measure of success aligns with Our Climate Future Target of 'the quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing'. To measure the success of The Strategy, we have set four key waste reduction targets for Hamilton to measure over the next six years.

These targets have been chosen because:

- they will help us understand how we are progressing towards our vision
- we have access to robust data to measure them
- they align with our overarching goals, strategies and obligations.

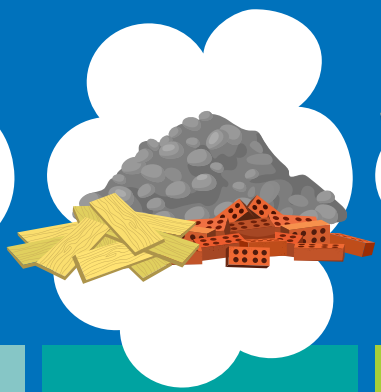
We will regularly monitor and report on our progress against these targets.

45%+ diversion

At least 45% of the waste collected via the council kerbside rubbish and recycling service will be diverted from landfill.

40%+ diversion

At least 40% of the waste collected at our facilities, such as libraries and event venues, will be diverted from landfill.



14% + diversion

At least 14% of total volumes of construction and demolition materials is diverted from landfill at our Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre. This benchmark was set in 2023[26].

16 million + kg

Each year we will divert a minimum of 16 million kg of waste from going to landfill at Council operated waste sorting and processing facilities

Measuring our action plan

Along with reporting on our four targets, we will also gather other sources of data and information to track the progress of our actions and identify further waste reduction opportunities.

Indicative measures for each of the actions are presented with the action plan on the following pages.

15 Our action plan

The detailed plan below, sets out all the actions we may take under each of the key focus areas. While the action plan forms part of The Strategy, it is intended to be a living document that can be updated as required.[27]

Indicative timeframes have been suggested in the action plan below. However, these will be influenced by the Ministry for the Environment and its timeframes.

If an action has been classified as 'ongoing' it means work is expected to continue beyond the lifetime of The Strategy.

Focus area one

Further reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill

Globally an estimated one third of all the food we produce is lost or wasted. In New Zealand organic waste makes up 4%[28] of our national emissions. There is a significant opportunity to increase awareness and expand initiatives to divert and reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfills in Hamilton.

What we will do

	Funding Source	Timeframe
Collaborating with businesses and organisations to reduce food waste by providing education, grants and other forms of support (min of one project per year).		
Enable community and local composting initiatives by providing education, grants and other forms of support. (minimum of one project per year).		
Implement and incentivise initiatives to encourage household food waste reduction, composting, and use of the kerbside food scraps service.		

Measuring success

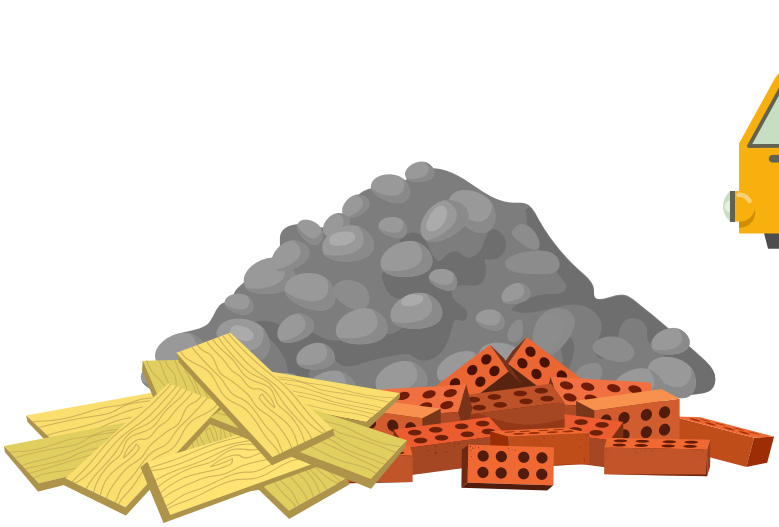
Performance measure	Baseline data and source	How we will know we are successful
Diversion rate of food waste from landfill.	Kerbside food waste data. Source: Kerbside waste audit data, waste service provider data.	Year on year increase in kerbside food scraps diversion.

Key: Waste levy Ongoing Years 1-3

Focus area two

Ongoing efforts to reduce construction and demolition waste

Construction and demolition is estimated to be the largest waste stream in New Zealand. An opportunity exists to continue supporting the construction and demolition industry to minimise waste from design through to construction and end of life/deconstruction.



Construction and demolition is estimated to be the largest waste stream in New Zealand.

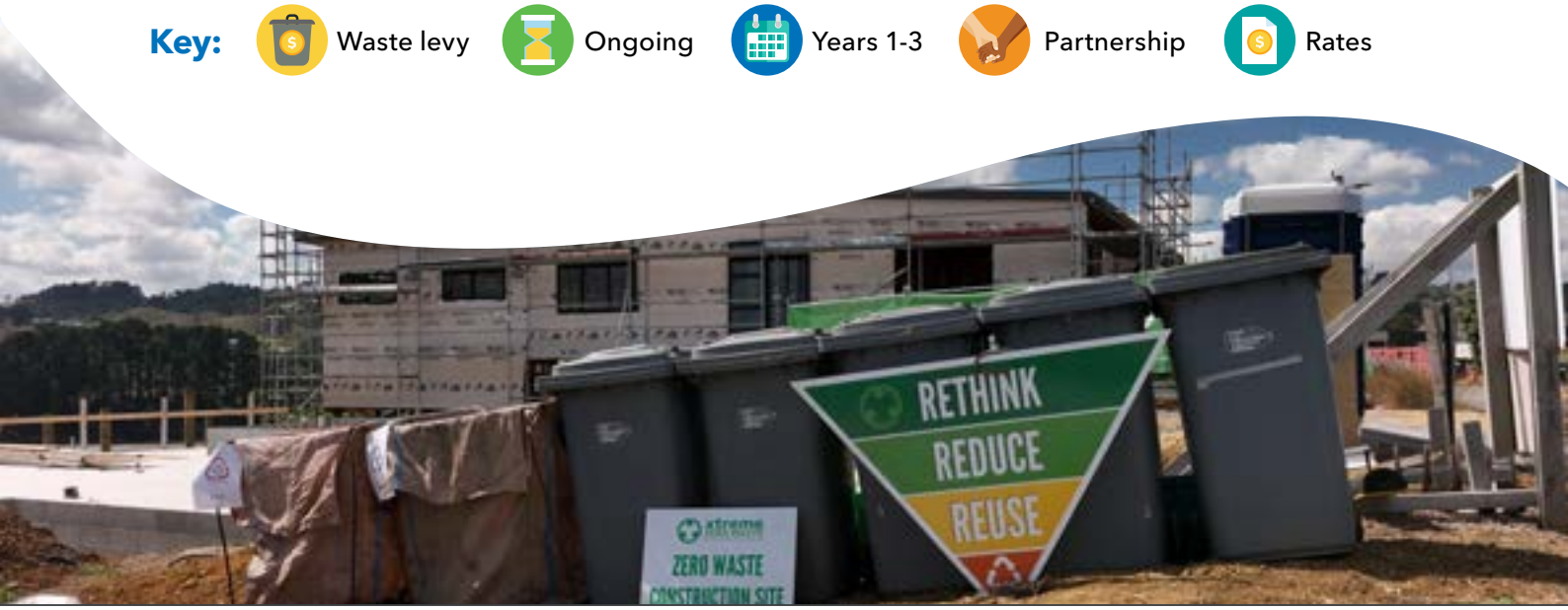
What we will do

	Funding Source	Timeframe
Continue to work internally and with industry to reduce construction and demolition waste through the supply chain, from design through to deconstruction (minimum of one project per year).		
Council educates on, and enforces, the existing Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (2019) to ensure site waste plans are implemented and reported on, and that waste reduction is a consideration of design.		
Increase construction and demolition waste recovery by completing a feasibility study to understand the flow of materials in the city and implement identified local opportunities and solutions.		

Measuring success

Performance measure	Baseline data and source	How we will measure success
Diversion rate of construction and demolition from landfill.	Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre construction and demolition waste data. Source: Waste service provider data, Waste audit data.	Year on year increase in construction and demolition waste diversion from Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre.

Key: Waste levy | Ongoing | Years 1-3 | Partnership | Rates



Focus area three

Support the move to a circular economy

A circular economy is an alternative to the traditional linear economy in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible. An opportunity exists to raise awareness and accelerate the implementation of circular principles and create Hamilton as a leader in this space.

A circular economy is an alternative to the traditional linear economy in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible.

What we will do

What we will do	Funding Source	Timeframe
Develop a circular economy plan for Hamilton that maps material flows for the city, identifies best practice, engages local industry, identifies gaps, and builds capability.		
Provide grants, education or other kinds of support to foster circular economy innovation and initiatives. (minimum of one project per year).		
Include waste reduction and circular economy priorities in Council procurement processes and contracts.		

Measuring success

Performance measure	Baseline data and source	How we will measure success
The quantity of material entering the waste stream is decreasing.	No baseline currently exists. This may change with proposed national licensing and data requirements.	Year on year decrease in the quantity of material entering the waste stream.

Key: Waste levy | Ongoing | Years 1-3 | Years 3 - 6 | Rates

Focus area four

Recover more from waste streams

The waste hierarchy is a priority order of how to manage our waste. We will continue our focus on increasing resource recovery by moving up the waste hierarchy.

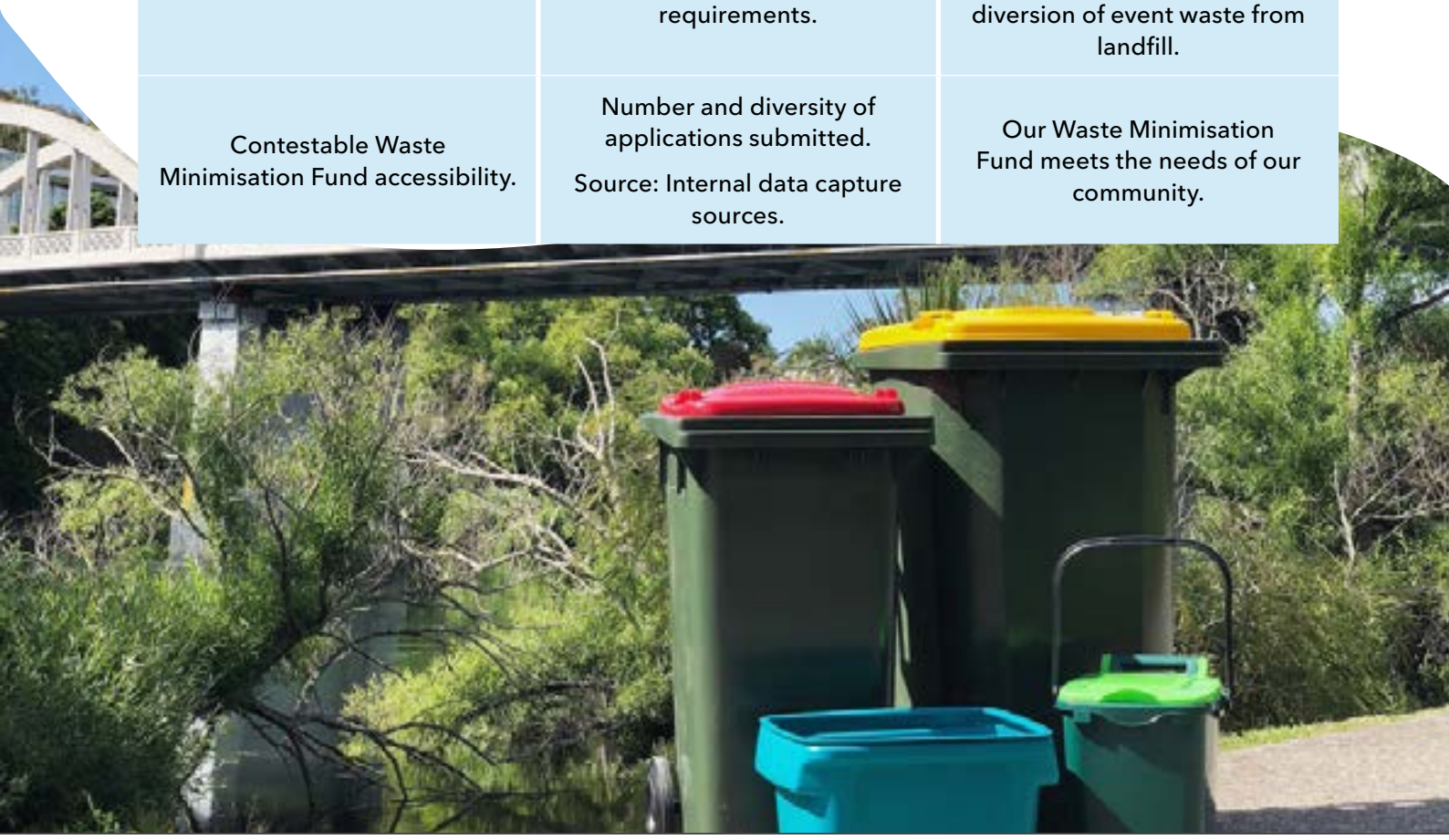
	Funding Source	Timeframe
Council engages and educates our people. We are role models to other organisations in reducing waste across our facilities and our council run events.		
Enable the growth of an accessible and easy to use network of community resource recovery hubs and circular projects for reusing, repairing, repurposing, recycling, the sharing economy and avoiding waste.		
Review our current education and behaviour change activities and develop an accessible and effective programme that meets the needs of our diverse city and is delivered in collaboration with others.		
Educate our community on the correct use of kerbside rubbish and recycling services, including any national legislative requirements e.g. standardisation of accepted materials.		
Support event organisers to implement waste reduction at events and waste plans (as required by the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (2019)).		
Effective management and increased diversion of targeted waste streams in Hamilton. E.g. hazardous waste, electronic waste, batteries, tyres, textile waste, medical waste, nappies, construction and demolition.		
Continue with our current contestable Waste Minimisation Fund and investigate options to develop and enhance.		

Key:  Waste levy  Ongoing  Years 1-3  Years 1 - 6  Rates

 Partnerships  User pays

Measuring success

Performance measure	Baseline data and source	How we will measure success
Council facilities and council run event waste.	Council facilities and council run event waste data. Source: Waste service provider data.	Year on year increase in waste diversion from council facilities and events.
Effectiveness of our education programme.	Education room visitation numbers and follow up surveys. Source: Internal data capture sources, surveys.	Year on year increase of education visits. Year on year improvement of survey results.
Kerbside recycling contamination rates.	Number of kerbside recycling bins contaminated and the type of contamination. Source: Internal data capture sources.	Year on year decrease in contamination rates.
Community event waste.	No baseline currently exists. This will change as we begin to implement event waste plan requirements.	Year on year increase in the number of events submitting event waste plans. Year on year increase in diversion of event waste from landfill.
Contestable Waste Minimisation Fund accessibility.	Number and diversity of applications submitted. Source: Internal data capture sources.	Our Waste Minimisation Fund meets the needs of our community.



Focus area five

Adapt to changing lifestyles and ways of living

With our disposable and wasteful consumption habits and increasing housing intensification in Hamilton, we need to support the move to low-waste and low-carbon ways of living.

What we will do

What we will do	Funding Source	Timeframe
Work within Council and with relevant developers, designers, planners and consultants to incorporate effective and efficient waste reduction approaches into the design, and use of commercial and residential developments.		
Improve the accessibility of waste reduction options in the central city and areas of increased housing intensification.		
Influence and empower Hamiltonians to understand the impacts of their disposable consumption and take responsibility for their choices.		

Measuring success

Performance measure	Baseline data and source	How we will measure success
Diversion rate of construction and demolition from landfill.	Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre construction and demolition waste data. Source: Waste service provider data, Waste audit data.	Year on year increase in construction and demolition waste diversion from the Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre.
Central city waste reduction options.	No baseline currently exists. Central City waste reduction audit. Source: Council Sustainable resource recovery team audit.	Year on year increase in the number of waste reduction options available in the central city.

Key:  Waste levy  Ongoing  Years 1-3  User pays  Rates

Focus area six

Shaping national direction on waste and resource recovery

Council has the opportunity to help shape the future of resource recovery and waste in New Zealand.

What we will do

	Funding Source	Timeframe
Advocate for and engage in national change that reduces waste and supports a circular economy. E.g. product stewardship and the Container Deposit Scheme.		
Consider and respond to Government legislative changes, guidelines or policies. This includes the outcome of the review of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and Litter Act 1979, and any relevant data and licensing requirements.		
Support relevant regional and national initiatives such as Love Food Hate Waste and Ministry for Environment Circular Construction Programme.		

Measuring success

Performance measure	Baseline data and source	How we will measure success
Respond to legislative requirements.	Central Government mandates.	We respond to relevant changes in legislation as required and on time.

Key: Waste levy Ongoing Rates

Focus area seven

Regulatory and council management

Council staff will ensure that we are meeting all of our waste management and minimisation obligations.

What we will do

	Funding Source	Timeframe
Investigate and implement the most relevant approach for disaster waste management in Hamilton.		
Conduct kerbside rubbish and recycling audits and community surveys as required.		
Review the Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy 2024 – 2030.		
Conduct a review of the current Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (2019) within the statutory time frame, to ensure it remains fit for purpose.		
Monitor and report on our contracted waste services including rubbish and recycling collection data from the kerbside.		
Undertake enforcement actions under the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (2019) and other appropriate legislation as required.		
Consider and respond to Government legislative changes associated with closed landfills.		
Effectively manage illegal dumping and littering with education and enforcement.		
Regularly review the effectiveness of waste related programmes including site waste plans and event waste plans.		

Measuring success

Performance measure	Baseline data and source	How we will measure success
Waste service provider key performance indicators.	Waste service provider contract key performance indicators measurements. Source: Waste Service Provider Contract Requirements.	Waste Service Provider consistently delivers on their key performance indicators.
Waste audits	Waste audit data. Source: Solid Waste Analysis Protocol data.	Waste audits carried out as required.
Illegal dumping	Reported instance of illegal dumping. Source: Internal data capture sources.	No year-on-year increase in the number of reported instances of illegal dumping.
Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (2019) requirements.	Number of site waste plans and event waste plans submitted. Source: Internal data capture sources.	Year on year increase in the number of projects meeting the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (2019) requirements.

Key: Waste levy | Ongoing | Rates | Years 3-6

16 How will we fund the action plan

We have a range of options available to fund the actions in The Strategy. These include:

General rates

A rate that is paid by all ratepayers.

Targeted rates

A rate that is set to fund a particular activity or group of activities.

General and targeted rates are used for a range of waste management and minimisation services. The residential kerbside rubbish and recycling service is funded through general residential rates, as is the clearing of litter, illegal dumping and closed landfill management. Any changes to the services funded through general or targeted rates will happen through the Long-Term Plan planning process.

User pays charges

Paying for services you use, e.g. Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre gate fees.

National Waste Minimisation Fund

Ministry for the Environment also use levy money to fund projects through their contestable Waste Minimisation Fund. This is a national contestable fund anyone (who meet relevant criteria) can apply to. We could look to apply either separately, with other councils, or with another party.

Other external funding sources

We may also look to apply to other external funds where relevant. Examples could include the Climate Emergency Response Fund.

Waste Levy funding

We receive a share of national waste levy funds from the Ministry for the Environment. This levy has been through a series of changes and increases since July 2021 and details can be seen in the table below. This levy money must be applied to waste minimisation activities outlined in The Strategy. Along with funding our action plan, this funding resources our people.

Timeline for the increase and expansion of the waste levy

Landfill Class	Waste Types	1 July 21	1 July 22	1 July 23	1 July 24
Municipal landfill (class 1).	Mixed municipal wastes from residential, commercial and industrial sources.	$20	$30	$50	$60
Construction and demolition fill (class 2).	Accepts solid waste from construction and demolition activities, including rubble, plasterboard, timber, and other materials.		$20	$20	$30
Managed or controlled fill facility (class 3 and 4).	One or more of: • contaminated but non-hazardous soils and other inert materials (e.g. rubble). • soils and other inert materials.	$20	$30	$50	$60

Private sector funding

The private sector may undertake to fund/supply certain waste minimisation activities, e.g. in order to look to generate income from the sale of recovered materials, etc. We may look to work with private sector service providers where this will assist in achieving the outcomes of The Strategy.

The potential sources of funding for each of the actions are noted in the action plan (chapter 15). Budgets to deliver the activities set out in The Strategy 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.

17 Glossary of terms

Circular economy	A system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. In a circular economy, products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting. The circular economy tackles climate change and other global challenges, like biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution, by decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources.
Composting	The activity of creating decaying organic matter from green and brown organic waste and/or food waste into compost (can be domestic or commercial).
Construction and demolition waste	Waste generated from any building work (including construction, renovation, repair or demolition), and includes, but is not limited to, concrete, plasterboard, insulation, nails, wood, steel, brick, paper, roofing materials, wool/textiles, cardboard, metals, plastic or glass. Also included is any waste originating from site preparation, such as dredging materials, tree stumps, asphalt and rubble.
Disaster waste	Any solid waste and debris generated as a result of, or in connection with, any significant storm or other severe weather occurrence, natural or human-made disaster, war, act of terrorism, or other similar occurrence or event.
Diverted material	Anything no longer required for its original purpose but for commercial or other waste minimisation activities, would be disposed of or discarded.
Electronic waste	Discarded electrical or electronic devices and equipment. Commonly referred to as e-waste.
Foods scraps	Parts of food items typically discarded rather than eaten, e.g. peels, cores, eggshells, bones, coffee grounds etc.
Food waste	Food not eaten. The causes of food waste are numerous and occur throughout the food system, during production, processing, distribution, retail and food service sales and consumption.
Hazardous waste	Waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment.
Illegal dumping	The dumping of waste illegally instead of using an authorised method for example kerbside collection, appropriate disposal site or a landfill. Also known as fly tipping.
Litter	Includes any refuse, rubbish, animal remains, glass, metal, debris, dirt, stones, waste matter, or anything of a like nature.
Linear economy	Sometimes referred to as the take-make-waste economy, is a system where resources are extracted to make products that eventually end up as waste and are thrown away. Products and materials are generally not used to their full potential in a linear economy and, as the name suggests, always move in one direction – from raw material to waste. It is a polluting system that degrades natural systems and is the driver of global challenges, including climate change and biodiversity loss.

Medical waste	Waste generated as a result of any patient diagnosis, treatment and immunisation of both human beings and animals.
Organic	Anything derived from living matter, or food produced, or involving production without the use of chemical or other artificial chemicals.
Recycling	The reprocessing of waste or diverted material to produce new materials.
Reduction	The lessening of waste generation, including by using products more efficiently or by redesigning products.
Resource recovery	The extraction of materials or energy from waste or diverted material for further use or processing, and includes making waste or diverted material into compost.
Resource recovery centre	A resource recovery centre, or transfer station, is where waste is taken to be repurposed, reused, recovered, and recycled – all in the effort to reduce what is sent to landfill.
Reuse	The further use of waste or diverted material in its existing form, for the original purpose of the materials or products that constitute the waste or diverted materials, or for similar purpose.
Rubbish	Waste, with little other management options other than disposal to landfill.
Textile waste	The material that becomes unusable or worthless after the end of the production process of any textile product. It also includes textile waste generated by over consumption of clothing that end up in landfills.
Waste **Waste stream**	Means, according to the Waste Minimisation Act 2008: • anything disposed of or discarded • includes a type of waste that is defined by its composition or source (for example, organic waste, electronic waste, medical waste or construction and demolition waste) • to avoid doubt, includes any component or element of diverted material, if the component or element is disposed or discarded.
Waste assessment	A document required under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, summarising the current situation of waste management in a locality, with facts and figures. A Waste Assessment must be completed whenever a waste management and minimisation plan is reviewed.
Waste diversion	Diverting waste from landfill and accessing the economic opportunity from the resource.
Waste hierarchy	A list of waste management options with decreasing priority, usually shown as 'reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery, treat, dispose'.
Waste minimisation	Means the reduction of waste and the reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and diverted material.
Waste service provider	Any service provider providing a service with regards to the treatment, separation, collection, removal, transportation, recycling and/or disposal of waste.

18 References and all footnotes

1 hamilton.govt.nz/your-council/news/community-environment/community-aspirations-guide-councils-long-term-plan

2 HCC Waste Assessment 2023

3 Fix the economy to fix climate change: the role of food and mobility ellenmacarthurfoundation.org

4 hamilton.govt.nz/your-city/data-and-statistics/understanding-our-city/emissions-profile/

5 HCC Waste Assessment 2023

6 HCC Waste Assessment 2023

7 HCC Waste Assessment 2023

8 The Aotearoa New Zealand Waste Strategy Fig 2, page 15. environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/Te-rautaki-para-Waste-strategy.pdf

9 environment.govt.nz/publications/te-rautaki-para-waste-strategy/

10 HCC Waste Assessment 2023

11 Hamilton City Council Kerbside data, year ending June 2023.

12 HCC Waste Assessment 2023

13 Source: Composition of kerbside rubbish and composition of waste to Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre, Waste Not Consulting, November 2022.

14 Source: Composition of kerbside rubbish and composition of waste to Lincoln Street Resource Recovery Centre, Waste Not Consulting, November 2022.

15 Waste Assessment and Table 15 from the Wai BoP Regional Stocktake waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets/WRC/TR202211-Waikato-and-Bay-of-Plenty-region-waste-and-recycling-stocktake-2021.pdf

16 (Stats NZ Population Estimates and NIDEA High Population Projection)

17 environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/stories/saving-construction-waste/

18 Standard kerbside recycling part of new era for waste system | Beehive.govt.nz

19 environment.govt.nz/news/the-science-linking-extreme-weather-and-climate-change/

20 Aotearoa New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/Aotearoa-New-Zealands-first-emissions-reduction-plan.pdf (Page 303)

21 Reducing food waste | Ministry for the Environment environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/reducing-food-waste/

22 hamilton.govt.nz/strategies-plans-and-projects/strategies/he-pou-manawa-ora/

23 HCC Waste Assessment 2023

24 Reducing food waste | Ministry for the Environment environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/reducing-food-waste/

25 environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/stories/saving-construction-waste/

26 Materials include wood; plasterboard; concrete; steel and cleanfill.

27 Under the WMA 2008, "waste action plans can be updated without triggering the need for a formal review of the Waste Strategy as long as the changes are not significant and do not alter the direction and intent of the WMMP")

28 Reducing food waste | Ministry for the Environment environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/reducing-food-waste/

Acknowledgments

We are extremely grateful to have been able to look to various other strategies, plans and resources to inform and inspire the development of this Strategy.

We would particularly like to acknowledge:

New Plymouth District Council – draft Waste Mangement and Minimisation Plan 2023

Waipā District Council – draft 2023 – 2039 Waste Mangement and Minimisation Plan

Tauranga City Council – Waste Mangement and Minimisation Plan 2022 – 2028

Morrison Low

Para Kore

Industry and community targeted stakeholders

Further information

Information on the development of The Waste Minimisation Strategy, and updates on the implementation and other associated work, can be found at fightthelandfill.co.nz

Hamilton City Council
Garden Place, Private Bag 3010,
Hamilton

/Hamiltoncitycouncil

@hamilton_city_nz

07 838 6699

hamilton.govt.nz