



PAPAIOEA
PALMERSTON
NORTH
CITY

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

9:00 AM, WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR
CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

MEMBERS

Brent Barrett (Chair)
Kaydee Zabelin (Deputy Chair)
Grant Smith (The Mayor)

Roly Fitzgerald	Lorna Johnson
Patrick Handcock	Debi Marshall-Lobb
(ONZM)	
Leonie Hapeta	Karen Naylor

AGENDA ITEMS, IF NOT ATTACHED, CAN BE VIEWED AT

pncc.govt.nz | Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square
City Library | Ashhurst Community Library | Linton Library

Waid Crockett

Chief Executive | PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Te Marae o Hine | 32 The Square
Private Bag 11034 | Palmerston North 4442 | New Zealand
pncc.govt.nz

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SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

13 March 2024

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Karakia Timatanga

2. Apologies

3. Notification of Additional Items

Pursuant to Sections 46A(7) and 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to receive the Chairperson's explanation that specified item(s), which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded, will be discussed.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7) must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7A) may be received or referred to a subsequent meeting for further discussion. No resolution, decision or recommendation can be made in respect of a minor item.

4. Declarations of Interest (if any)

Members are reminded of their duty to give a general notice of any interest of items to be considered on this agenda and the need to declare these interests.

5. Public Comment

To receive comments from members of the public on matters specified on this Agenda or, if time permits, on other Committee matters.

(NOTE: If the Committee wishes to consider or discuss any issue raised that is not specified on the Agenda, other than to receive the comment made or refer it to the Chief Executive, then a resolution will need to be made.)

6. Confirmation of Minutes

Page 7

"That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 29 November 2023 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record."

7. Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawātū

Page 11

Memorandum, presented by Amy Viles, Community Development Advisor.

8. Wastewater Treatment Plant - Nature Calls: Quarterly Update

Page 37

Memorandum, presented by Mike Monaghan, Group Manager Three Waters.

9. Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan - approval for consultation

Page 43

Memorandum, presented by Peter Ridge, Senior Policy Analyst and Natasha Hickmott, Activities Manager - Resource Recovery and Sustainability Infrastructure.

10. Update on the Low Carbon Fund 2023/24

Page 85

Memorandum, presented by David Watson, Senior Climate Change Advisor.

11. Palmerston North City Council Carbon Neutral Feasibility Study Update

Page 91

Memorandum, presented by Adam Jarvis, Principal Climate Change Advisor.

12. Committee Work Schedule

Page 99

13. Karakia Whakamutunga

14. Exclusion of Public

To be moved:

"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting listed in the table below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

Also that the persons listed below be permitted to remain after the public has been excluded for the reasons stated.

[Add Third Parties], because of their knowledge and ability to assist the meeting in speaking to their report/s [or other matters as specified] and answering questions, noting that such person/s will be present at the meeting only for the items that relate to their respective report/s [or matters as specified].

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Sustainability Committee Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 29 November 2023, commencing at 9.06am

Members Present: Councillor Brent Barrett (in the Chair), The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb and Karen Naylor.

Non Members: Councillor Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

The Mayor (Grant Smith) left the meeting at 10.00am during consideration of clause 37. He entered the meeting again at 10.31am after consideration of clause 39. He was not present for clauses 37 to 39 inclusive.

Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Patrick Handcock opened the meeting with karakia.

34-23 Presentation - Mercury Developments with Community Work

Presentation, by Katy Scoullar, Community Engagement Manager, and Ryan Piddington, Strategic Consents Manager, and Todd Baldwin, Environmental Compliance and Monitoring Manager.

Katy, Ryan and Todd provided an update regarding Mercury's achievements (including the community liaison work) and the local/national impact in terms of environmental, cultural, social and economic well-being, as attached to these Minutes.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Patrick Handcock.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive the presentation for information.

Clause 34-23 above was carried 12 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

35-23 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 11 October 2023 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 35-23 above was carried 10 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

Abstained:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillor Leonie Hapeta.

36-23 Progress Update - Resource Recovery Plan and Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024

Memorandum, presented by Peter Ridge, Senior Policy Analyst.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Brent Barrett.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee agree Option 2 - compile a draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) for consultation concurrent with the consultation or as part of the consultation on the Resource Recovery Plan/Long Term Plan.

Clause 36-23 above was carried 12 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

37-23 Amendment to the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw Administration Manual (standardised recycling collections)

Memorandum, presented by Peter Ridge, Senior Policy Analyst.

The Mayor (Grant Smith) left the meeting at 10.00am.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That Council adopt the proposed changes to the Palmerston North Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2016 Administration Manual as shown in Attachment 1.

Clause 37-23 above was carried 11 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

38-23 Progress Update 2023 - Palmerston North City Council Low Carbon Roadmap

Memorandum, presented by Adam Jarvis, Principal Advisor - Climate Change and David Watson, Senior Climate Change Advisor.

After discussion Elected Members noted Council's good progress on reducing its corporate emissions and monitoring citywide emissions, and requested an additional recommendation to prepare a plan to support community climate change action to help drive reductions to citywide emissions.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Progress Update 2023 - Palmerston North City Council Low Carbon Roadmap' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 29 November 2023.
2. That the draft Climate Change & Sustainability Plan in the draft 2024/34 Long-Term Plan include a new action 'to co-develop a community-focused city-wide Climate Action Plan, including the articulation of local co-benefits and the identification of projects that may attract co-funding'.

Clause 38-23 above was carried 11 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

39-23 Committee Work Schedule

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Kaydee Zabelin.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive its Work Schedule dated November 2023.

Clause 39-23 above was carried 11 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Karen Naylor, Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay and Orphée Mickalad.

The Mayor (Grant Smith) entered the meeting again at 10.31am.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Councillor Patrick Handcock closed the meeting with karakia.

The meeting finished at 10.32am

Confirmed 13 March 2024

Chair

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 13 March 2024

TITLE: Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawātū

PRESENTED BY: Amy Viles, Community Development Advisor

APPROVED BY: Kerry-Lee Probert, Acting Chief Customer Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawātū (January-December 2023) (Attachments 1, 2 and 3).
-

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 Environment Network Manawātū (ENM) is delivering its second annual report (January–December 2023) as a Sector Lead organisation, which is appended to this memorandum in Attachments 1, 2 and 3.
- 1.2 Reporting to Council is required under the Sector Lead Partnership Agreement structure.
- 1.3 Analysis of the performance of ENM against agreed activities and outcomes is included in this memorandum.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 8 June 2022, Council resolved to engage Environment Network Manawātū (ENM) as a Sector Lead organisation.
- 2.2 The Sector Lead Partnership model was trialled from 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023, and was approved to continue, as per Council's resolution of 18 December 2023:

'That Council approve the continuation of the Sector Leads Partnership model in principle, as per the Support and Funding Policy 2022, and note that appropriate budget will be established for Sector Lead partners within the draft 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan.'

- 2.3 A three-year Partnership Agreement commenced between ENM and Council in July 2022. The Agreement stipulates that activities funded contribute to the achievement of priorities 1-3 within the Council's Goal 4 Eco City strategic direction.

- 2.4 Reporting requirements within the Agreement include an annual report to Council covering the activities delivered and outcomes achieved in the preceding period.

3. ANNUAL REPORT ANALYSIS

- 3.1 ENM are the central environment member-led organisation in the Manawatū. They provide vital leadership, capability and capacity building opportunities for the Palmerston North environmental community and the public, with a particular focus on collective community action with environmental groups. ENM also provide advice, information, advocacy and human resources for the environmental sector within the wider Manawatū.
- 3.2 ENM have 68 member groups across two key lead initiatives: Manawatū Food Action Network and Manawatū River Source to Sea. Manawatū Food Action Network (MFAN) leads and supports community-led initiatives to address food resilience building in the Manawatū. Manawatū River Source to Sea (S2S) incorporates a network of initiatives focused on the biodiversity of the Manawatū River catchment community. Key initiatives include the Ruahine Kiwi Project, the Plastic Pollution Challenge and the Palmerston North Repair Café.
- 3.3 The organisation also administers the Environmental Initiatives Fund and delivers active transport and climate change initiatives. The Environmental Initiatives Fund is administered by ENM to support Palmerston North based community initiatives that improve environmental outcomes. Small grants (up to \$1,000) and large grants (between \$1,000 to \$12,000) are available for projects that align with Council's Eco-City Strategy.
- 3.4 Additional to Council funding, ENM receives multiple and diverse sources of funding across their initiatives, including funding from the Department of Internal Affairs (Lotteries), Ministry for the Environment, Environment Hubs Aotearoa, Eastern and Central Community Trust (ECCT) and income from the Ruahine Kiwi Project. ENM works towards meeting several different investment outcomes through its activities and, therefore, their report includes activities that are not solely funded by Council.
- 3.5 While the Sector Lead agreement specifically covers initiatives that focus on the city of Palmerston North, staff acknowledge that work completed by ENM initiatives have far broader impacts on the wider Manawatū Region. ENM provide sector leadership in both a citywide and regional capacity.
- 3.6 The amount of funding ENM receives through this Sector Lead Partnership Agreement is \$165,000 per annum (plus GST and adjusted for inflation in years two and three). Funding for the current financial year totals \$172,590.

Assessment of agreed activities

Strategic Alignment	Activity	Comment	Assessment (Not met; developing; or met)
Eco City Activities			
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Facilitate a membership network of environmental groups and deliver environment related education initiatives.	ENM are performing well in this area. ENM have grown their membership base and their reach into the community. The MFAN membership base, in particular, has grown exponentially in response to their work in the food resilience space.	Met
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Umbrella two collective action networks: Manawatu River Source to Sea and Manawatū Food Action Network.	ENM are performing well in this area. They have delivered a range of high-quality activities and programmes in this reporting period. Staff consider there is further opportunity for ENM to expand both networks to pursue new collaborative initiatives and ideas generated from community, however securing and maintaining sufficient funding to ensure ENM can deliver on all outcomes is an ongoing challenge.	Met
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Administer the Environment Initiatives Fund in support of community-led environment initiatives.	ENM are performing well in this area. In the 2022-2023 year, 17 applications were received with \$49,000 awarded to 7 organisations.	Met
Sector Leadership activities			
Priority 1, 2 & 3	Provide capacity-building and support for other community organisations to develop and connect;	ENM are performing well in this area. ENM work with other environmental organisations in Palmerston North, across neighbouring regions and nationally through the EHA (Environment Hubs Aotearoa) network and other national networks to support the development and promotion of environmental initiatives. An example of the collaborative work	Met

		of ENM is in the delivery of seasonal quarterly MFAN hui as an opportunity for food organisations to gather and work collaboratively.	
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Deliver the highest level of expertise and highest quality service;	ENM are performing well in this area. Contributor to the case study for an Inspiring Communities report to the Western Bay of Plenty District Council, the delivery of the Future Living Skills programme and De-escalation Training provided for food security services in Palmerston North.	Met
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Think, work and advocate strategically;	ENM are performing well in this area. Key contributor to PN City Council piece of work on food resilience in 2023. Subject matter expert/technical advice provided to Council on a regular basis (i.e. Featherston Street cycleway).	Met
Priorities 1, 2 & 3	Have robust strategic and business plans in place.	ENM are performing well in this area. Development of a Strategic Framework in 2023, in collaboration with member groups, has formed the foundation of an Action Plan to guide the organisation now and in the future, with a focus on Sector Leadership, building capacity and capability and creating community. Financials have been provided and staff have no concerns regarding the financial viability of ENM. ENM as an organisation are financially sound, however, their ability to secure long-term funding for future projects has the potential to impact on future service delivery in some key areas.	Met

- 3.7 Alongside an annual report which provides information on the agreed activities, Sector Lead organisations are required to provide six-monthly performance measure data for a range of indicators related to their activities.

- 3.8 The measures are based on a Results Based Accountability approach, where impact of effort is demonstrated by measurement of who is 'better off' as a result of the activities or services, as well as 'how much' of the activity or service was delivered and 'how well' it was delivered. This performance measure data provides an evidence base to support the information in the annual report. Performance measure data for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 is appended to this memorandum as Attachment 4.
- 3.9 Staff note that the number of respondents to the ENM surveys is insufficient to allow for adequate data analysis for many of the 'How well' and 'Better off' measures. This was a concern raised last year with ENM. Staff will work with ENM going forward to support improved data collection for the next reporting period.
- 3.10 The data does demonstrate, however, that the last reporting period has seen a significant positive rise in connections made in growing the sector in the community, event participation, social media presence, collaboration and engagement. Overall, ENM continue to go from strength to strength in the delivery of their Strategic Framework.
- 3.11 Concern for securing long-term funding for key initiatives, such as the funding of the core role of MFAN Co-ordinator and the Ruahine Kiwi Project, has been a challenge for ENM in the last year. There has been a significant increase in MFAN membership and the number of potential projects MFAN can deliver on will be impacted in the future by the ability of the organisation to find a long-term funding solution for this vital role. Additionally, as the funding from the Department of Conservation 'Jobs for Nature' initiative nears completion, there is uncertainty as to how this valuable programme will continue to be funded in the future. The uncertainty of future funding for these additional projects is likely to have a wider impact on the achievement of the environmental wellbeing goals Council has for the city in the proposed Long-Term Plan.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This memorandum has provided background to and comment on the annual report of Environment Network Manawātū (ENM) for 2023.
- 4.2 Staff have assessed that ENM are performing well against their agreed activities across the board. The organisation continues to demonstrate significant growth in response to community demand, provide strong advocacy on environmental issues, and has demonstrated that building collaboration across environmental initiatives is a core strength. A risk has been noted that ENM may be limited in their future service delivery if unable to secure ongoing funding for key roles and initiatives.

5. NEXT STEPS





- 5.1 Staff will continue to support ENM to deliver the wide-ranging activities and initiatives covered by the Sector Lead Partnership Agreement.

- 5.2 ENM will present its next Annual Report, covering year three of the agreement, in the first quarter of 2025. Further staff commentary on progress will also be provided at that time.

6. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City	
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Environmental Sustainability	
The action is: Administer grants in line with the community funding policy; Monitor for-purpose organisations contracted or funded by Council against agreed outcomes.	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	Sector Lead Organisations contribute to the achievement of Council's strategic direction, particularly Goals 2, 3 and 4, which seeks to enhance the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Annual Sector Lead Report ENM 2024 [↓](#) 
2. ENM Revised End of Year Forecast Profit and Loss 31 Dec 2023 [↓](#) 
3. ENM Balance Sheet 31 Dec 2023 [↓](#) 
4. ENM Performance Measure Data for period 1 January 2023 to Dec 2023 [↓](#) 



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Environment Sector Lead Report

For PNCC, February 2024

About ENM

ENM exists to connect and inspire communities for environmental action. We are the environment hub for the Manawātū region providing sector leadership, building capacity and capability, and creating community.

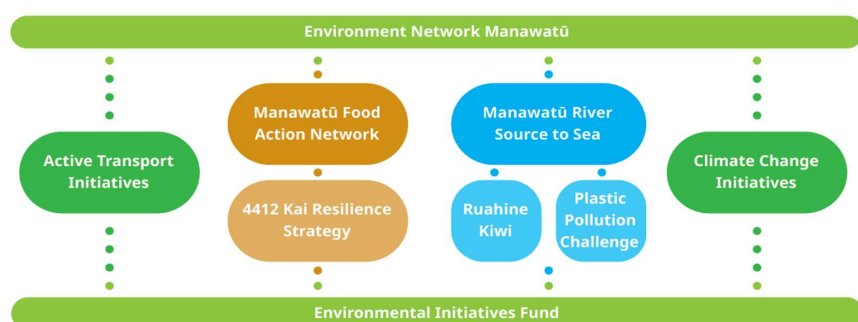
Understanding that all life is part of a thriving, self-sustaining ecosystem our vision is that the ecological and human communities in the Manawātū River catchment are living in harmony.

We work strategically to demonstrate best-practice as a member-led environmental organisation. We promote environmental activities and advocate for positive environmental outcomes. We connect volunteers, support organisational sustainability, provide educational opportunities, and seek to increase the stream of funding to the sector. We support and enable our membership through meeting needs, holding space and creating opportunities for increased connections.

We celebrate the diverse passions of our 65+ member groups, that include biodiversity regeneration, freshwater quality, food resilience, waste reduction, sustainable living, alternative energies, climate change and active transport. The network is organised into two collectives: Manawātū Food Action Network and Manawātū River Source to Sea.



Supporting and celebrating the work of 60+ member groups



ENM's Sector Lead Partnership with PNCC

ENM provides significant services and projects, that underpin our place as a sector lead organisation in Palmerston North:

1. The core communication, coordination and collaboration service that ENM provides to our member groups and the public.
2. The coordination of collective action towards the improvement of biodiversity in the entire Manawatū River catchment through Manawatū River Source to Sea (S2S). This collective is comprised of ENM member groups working together with the vision of engaging the community in collective action to enhance biodiversity and the mauri of the river in the Manawatū River catchment, and to build community wellbeing. The projects undertaken by S2S include Ruahine Kiwi and the Plastic Pollution Challenge.
3. The coordination of cross-sectoral, collective collaboration, support of grassroots initiatives, and practical on the ground garden and orchard work through Manawatū Food Action Network (MFAN). MFAN is a collective of social service and environmental organisations working together to increase collaboration, education and awareness around issues of food security, food resilience and food localisation.
4. The coordination of Palmerston North Repair Café which is a place for community to meet, connect and fix broken items, thus reducing waste going to landfill. The café works toward the overall goal of improving accessibility to and understanding of repair, repurpose and recycling opportunities within the city as a means of reducing waste and engendering local resilience, connection, and cohesion.
5. The distribution of the Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF) to support the development of community-led environmental projects in Palmerston North that align with PNCC's Eco-city Strategy.

ENM's activities and services have a positive impact on the following priorities within PNCC's Eco-City goal:

- Priority 1: Respect and enhance the mauri of the Manawatū River.
- Priority 2: Work with the community to reduce carbon emissions.
- Priority 3: Regenerate native biodiversity.
- Priority 6: Educate the community, in particular property owners, on the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings.

Under our partnership agreement as a sector lead, we work towards ensuring:

1. Residents of Palmerston North are informed of, involved with, or connected to ENM or at least one of its member groups.
2. Palmerston North City Council regularly seeks input into policy development from the environmental sector whether through ENM or directly through member groups.
3. Residents can easily access information about local environmental projects and initiatives and are welcomed into opportunities to engage in community environmental activities.
4. The environmental sector is well informed, well connected and well resourced, with a committed volunteer base.
5. Engaged individuals of ENM and its member groups enjoy positive wellbeing, social connectivity, and a sense of purpose and relevancy through volunteering.
6. Palmerston North local government and its eclectic and diverse communities become more environmentally sustainable as the result of collective action, whether it be "on the ground" or through education, awareness raising and/or advocacy.
7. That we sustain bioregional and/or national connections that serve our region and increase our own knowledge and impact. We are a member of Environment Hubs Aotearoa and have

positive working relationships with the Zero Waste Network, Para Kore and Repair Cafe New Zealand.

8. Whanaungatanga between ENM and local iwi and hapū authorities is maintained through ongoing communications, consultation, and mutual support. Iwi and hapū are aware of and engaged in relevant activities.

The coordination of S2S maintains a strong focus on biodiversity improvement, and ensures:

1. Environmental groups working toward improving biodiversity in Palmerston North are well supported, connected and resourced to reach their aspirations.
2. Conversations and relationships between members are developed and effective collective action is encouraged, supported, and resourced.
3. Environmental groups in Palmerston North are well connected and collaborate with groups outside the city boundaries to ensure alignment of efforts in delivering positive environmental outcomes for the whole Manawatū River catchment.
4. Palmerston North citizens are aware of, and actively participate in environmental volunteering opportunities to improve biodiversity outcomes.
5. Palmerston North and the Manawatū catchment will be a showcase for what grassroots action can achieve, attracting sector-wide and national interest.
6. Increased community wellbeing by fostering a city environment community that is welcoming to all, while new activities and initiatives encourage visitors to the region.

The coordination of the MFAN collective prioritises food security, resilience, and localisation and ensures:

1. Organisations involved in community food resilience and security are well-connected and work collaboratively.
2. Palmerston North residents support and participate in community food activities, community connections and resilience.
3. Palmerston North residents in the 4412 and beyond have adequate access to nourishing, healthy, quality food without the need for food banks. They are not worrying about the source of their next meal. They have the knowledge, skills and resources to grow food, minimise food waste, cook using seasonal produce and share their surplus.



Achievements linked to our partnership agreement

Sector Leadership

Working Strategically

ENM Strategic Framework

In order to continue working strategically for our network, 2023 saw us go through a robust process to develop a simple but comprehensive strategic framework that forms a foundation for developing a strategic action plan to guide us in the coming years.

We took a close look at our constitution, and previous strategic work, surveyed our membership to investigate the key Roles and Priorities of ENM in January and July 2023, and held a two-day strategy hui for staff and Management Committee. The resulting strategic framework was accepted wholeheartedly by the membership at the AGM.

ENM Strategic Framework Approved at 2023 AGM	
Why do we exist?	Connecting and inspiring communities for environmental action
Our vision	All life is part of a thriving, self-sustaining ecosystem. Our vision is that the ecological and human communities in the Manawatū River catchment are living in harmony.
What motivates us?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our responsibility to care for the earth and each other - Becoming better Te Tiriti partners - Collaboration and inclusivity - A belief that small actions can have a big impact
Our roles	Sector leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic focus - Member support and enablement - Communication and promotion - Advocacy/representation - Demonstrating best-practice as a member-led environmental organisation Building capacity and capability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer coordination - Ensuring organisational sustainability - Unlocking funding for the sector - Education Creating community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating connections - Supporting - Meeting needs/holding space

Ruahine Kiwi

Strategic planning and future proofing have been at the fore for Ruahine Kiwi in as the project nears the end of funding linked to the DOC 'Jobs for Nature' initiative, and the current government gives no indication of future funding. There is a firm understanding that this is a forever project, not something that neatly fits a three-year funding timespan. Though on track to release kiwi in 2026, there is much mahi necessary to keep current traps monitored and get the area kiwi ready beyond mid-2024. The work undertaken to control predator pests has a huge effect on other species of flora and fauna resulting in a rich, vibrant ecosystem supporting a plethora of life. It's exciting, impactful, necessary work that we do in collaboration with other incredible predator control projects in the region working with other species such as Whio. Our challenge is securing and maintaining sufficient funding to ensure that we can deliver these outcomes.

One of the steps we're taking toward this is telling our story and inviting community support through the media: [Funding needed to give kiwi project wings | Stuff](#)



Connecting and celebrating

A sector demonstrating significant growth

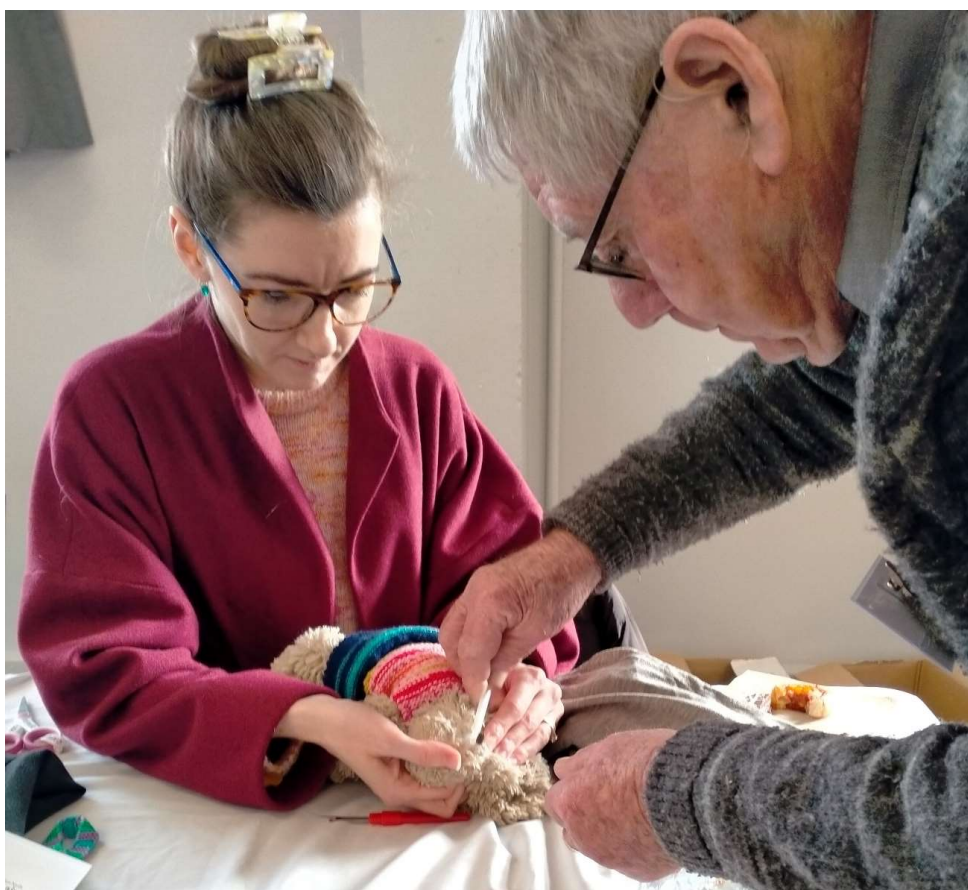
Our statistics for 2022/23 showed a considerable rise in the connections we are making, the relationships we are forming and the growth of the sector. Followers on our social media forums increased by 76%, event participation almost doubled, items on our calendar, which are events and opportunities held by member groups increased by 37% and media exposure increased by 52%. All of this is indicative of a sector that is growing and thriving as the public engage with pressing questions around the environment, sustainability, and our future.

'I've really appreciated the initiatives ENM does. ... I have followed ENM on social media and have learned a lot about little changes I can make to reduce my footprint on the environment. I appreciate being able to easily access recycling of different things at the office, having things repaired at the repair cafe and I thoroughly enjoyed the Future Living Skills workshops. Although I haven't implemented everything I have learned I now have the know-how and the drive to do them.' Survey Respondent

Collaborating effectively

Palmerston North Repair Café; partnerships with Menzshed and Supergrans Manawatū.

Palmerston North Repair Café attracts almost 20 volunteers per café who enjoy using their skills to help repair people's broken, often precious goods and belongings. Volunteers come from many spaces and places, but Menzshed Manawatū and Supergrans Manawatū volunteers make up over half of our skilled contingent. These volunteers, who are often retired, enjoy the camaraderie and the social connections the event brings, and the fact that the event is a joyful one, where people invariably go away with a smile on their faces. Our café is quite unique in its makeup, and we are deeply appreciative for the collaborative impact it has.



Community Voice

PNCC Food Policy and Regional Food Strategy

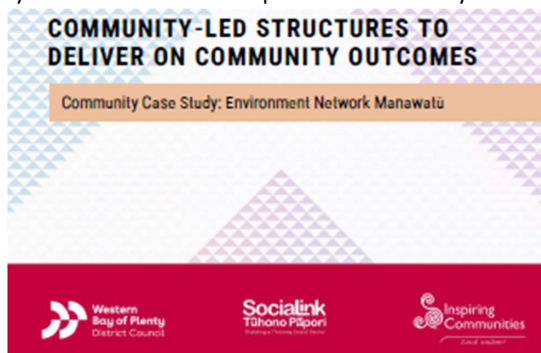
Ongoing conversations, submissions and presentations to PNCC have resulted in stakeholder consultation around the development of city-wide Food Resilience Policy that aims to mitigate food insecurity. If adopted, this would allow widespread recognition of food resilience as a pertinent, pressing issue and will enable corresponding actions and initiatives linked to MFAN and other food resilience focused organisations to be executed with speed and ease.

In alignment with engaging in the city's food policy conversations, ENM provided an environment and community focused voice to the Technical Advisory Group for the CEDA-led development of a Regional Food Strategy. We continue to be involved in collaborative discussions in how to implement this strategy.

Best Practice Environmental Community work

Case Study for Inspiring Communities report to WBOPDC

ENM was one of 7 initiatives nationally that Powerdigm (the consulting arm of Inspiring Communities) interviewed to provide case study material to inform a report to Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) that provided 'generative thinking about community structures that work best to ensure ongoing, sustainable local implementation of services and action to improve local wellbeing'. In their invitation to participate, they noted ENM's "...collaborative work has such breadth and depth in bringing a wide range of groups together to support initiatives and collaborative action."



'I am in awe of all the mahi you are doing and how impactful this is throughout your region...you are a taonga! It really is incredible your advocacy and ability to weave organisations and challenges to find solutions with very little funding.'

Moko Morris, Powerdigm Community Changemakers

The final report has potential to inform and provoke new thinking in local government across the country, and PNCC is held up as a strong supporter, with ENM's relationship and Sector Lead Partnership highlighted.

Building Capacity and Capability

Understanding our role as tangata Tiriti

Training and support

ENM staff, management committee and member groups engaged in two days of valuable and insightful Te Tiriti o Waitangi Training facilitated by Project Waitangi. On the second day, presentations were made by Paul Horton and Terry Hapi of Te Ao Turoa Environmental Centre, Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Incorporated, Rangitāne o Manawatū linking to the history of Rangitāne whenua. The training provoked interesting reflections and conversations, and a deepened understanding of what moving towards being tangata te tiriti means.

'Attending the Project Waitangi training has given me the confidence to make changes and step outside my comfort zone. Already changes to my working practice have occurred and genuine partnership relationships are being forged, a specific initiative was activated, and now Community Led Development ... in a way that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi is starting up - very exciting!' ENM Survey Respondent

Resourcing and enabling

The Environmental Initiatives Fund

2022-2023 was the third year of distribution for the EIF which received its highest number of applications at 17, awarding a total of \$49,000 to 7 organisations. Applications were highly diverse in their scope and focus, a testament to the passion of community groups, schools, and people in preserving our native flora and fauna, upcycling and recycling, and ensuring food resilience is increased in our rohe.

In an auspicious 'first', support was awarded to Hokozoo productions for their recent orchestral production, 'The Legends of Okatia' which tells the story of how the Manawatū Gorge was formed. One of the educational kaupapa of this production was planting new life around the awa, with EIF support enabling the distribution of seeds to all members of the audience to grow their own native trees.

Listening and responding

Meeting the needs of our membership.

Mid 2023 we became keenly aware that kaimahi linked to local foodbanks, free food stores and pātaka kai who were experiencing frustration, anger and violence from clients feeling stress, hunger and uncertainty linked to food insecurity. With funding support, we were able to coordinate training which invested in 26 community kaimahi to participate in a targeted situational safety (de-escalation) training facilitated by Opsec. Several organisations sent more than one person which they noted to be very beneficial. Many organisations were Highbury based and had been deeply affected by the outbreaks of violence there. They were vociferously grateful for the timing of and availability of this training to help them create more solid safety plans.

'The Situational Safety workshop was extremely valuable, and we have been able to identify and rectify gaps in our volunteer safety plans as well as pass information onto other volunteer groups - thank you for opportunity to participate.' Workshop Participant

Educating and informing

Future Living Skills

Future Living Skills is an eight-week series of interactive workshops developed collaboratively by local government in NZ and published by independent charity Sustainable Living Education Trust. In 2023, ENM ran three programmes with 20 sessions offered and 237 attendances.

Participants hear from council and community experts on a range of sustainability-based topics, each with their own learning guide, and share their own ideas, challenges, and tips.

'I feel more confident about my practises around my home and minimising my footprint. I am also encouraging those in my circle to do the same.' Future Living Skills Participant.

Installing gardens and trees

The continued partnership between MFAN and Growing Gardens and Communities has resulted in support for over 100 households installing gardens and planting fruit trees. Each installation typically consists of two volunteers from the GGAC team and one or more residents of the homes the gardens are installed at. Material donations are kindly given from Awapuni Nurseries, Oderings Garden Centre, Vesta Wind Turbines and kind locals. Over the next year the aim is to provide more follow-up support and gathering of data on the impact this work is having on the whānau.



'I love the positive change my whānau and I are experiencing since Larnz and Beth installed our māra kai. Larnz also kindly offered to come and install a smaller māra kai to add into our food sovereignty journey. The crop swaps I find are so helpful as well. Everyone there is there for the same purpose and reasons. I find it easier now when I buy vegetable plants and know that my excess can be used by someone else within our community. Keep up the amazing mahi team.' Survey Respondent

Unlocking funding for the sector

Wide support for ENM-led activities

ENM continues to receive favourable responses to funding applications, which, along with PNCC's ongoing significant support enables all the above and more. This year we have enjoyed the support of:

- Environment Hubs Aotearoa for ongoing capacity and capability building, and for a new food waste prevention project we have been invited to help develop alongside 3 other hubs (Every Bite). They also provide excellent training and networking opportunities for our team to connect with other environment centres around the country.
- Kaingā Ora's community development team, who have contracted us to provide community education opportunities related to food resilience and sustainability.
- Horizons Regional Council through their Community Climate Response fund, which provides labour, compost, and other basic resources to ensure the ongoing success of this project. We also received funding through their Freshwater Community Fund, which allows coordination for Plastic Pollution Challenge to continue.
- Lotteries Community, which supports our core work, allowed us to develop increased relationships with business community to increase surplus food diversion to community groups. Funding from this source has also allowed the purchase of an electric van and trailer for shared use by members of MFAN organisations.
- DOC J4N funding for the development of Ruahine Kiwi to this point.
- Eastern and Central Community Trust(ECCT), who have provided grassroots support for MFAN coordination. This part of our work continues to be in huge demand, and our we are grateful to ECCT's support in resourcing for the need. The challenge will be finding long-term solutions to continue to meet community need in this space.

Creating Community

Bringing People Together

Our 2023 AGM

ENM held its AGM on 26th of October, celebrating the many achievements of our now 67 member groups throughout the year and the growth of our projects and initiatives by, for and about our environment and our people. The event, providing an opportunity for networking and connection building was attended by 50 people including 15 of our member groups, 7 representatives from both PNCC and Horizons Regional Council, and 11 people linked to us through an interest and passion in kai security.

'I thoroughly enjoyed meeting people that have a heart for sharing their passions, strengths, ideas, various materials and helpful tips, to support the wider community.' Survey Respondent

Manawatū Food Action Network Hui

Bringing likeminded organisations and volunteers together to connect, plan and take ideas forward is key to our role, especially within the food resilience space.

The first Manawatū Community Gardener's hui took place mid-2023 with over 60 people from all over the region attendance. These represented ten established community gardens and many more in the planning stages. MFAN's Dave Mollard spoke of his experience as kaitiaki of Awapuni

Community Gardens, and Amy Viles presented PNCC's new Community Garden Guide. The feeling of connectivity, support and purpose that resulted from this first hui will be the foundation for more and better community gardens in our future.

'Attending the December MFAN Hui has been hugely invaluable to the work I am undertaking in the food security / resilience space. I am grateful for the connections I have made and the support I have received.' Survey Respondent

Keeping conversations about our catchment current

Manawatū River Source to Sea marked an auspicious 75th monthly meeting in late 2023, making it ENM's longest running and most deeply connected collective. At any one time there have been 10–15 member group representatives present at the monthly hui. The connections made and information shared during these times has meant an increased awareness and support for the work happening in the Manawatū River Catchment, and the continuation of a strong collective, local biodiversity voice.

S2S 'provides strong networking to allow flow of information and ability to collaborate as issues or needs arise. Having great communication is also of great value.' Survey Respondent

The next 12 months; insights, challenges, and opportunities ahead

Sector Leadership

Working Strategically

With our new strategic framework approved by the membership in October, the committee is currently working through identifying and prioritising an action plan to help guide future decisions and direction. In undertaking this process, we aim to ensure our staff are not over-stretched as they seek to meet the ever-growing demands of the work.

Advocacy

LTP season and other important

We anticipate early-mid 2024 to involve a high level of engagement with all local and regional councils in our catchment as Long Term Plans open for consultation. ENM submits to these plans in full collaboration with our 65+ member groups to ensure that our collective voice is captured. It is no small endeavour to facilitate this process, which we view as one of our core advocacy functions.

By the time we present this report, we will have submitted supporting the Bill Brown Community Garden and over the space of the year there will be a wide assortment of other relevant consultations we submit to.

ENM helps with 'connecting and collectivizing community organisations/people to increase the coherence, effectiveness and profile of this voice to local and central govt.' They go to say we 'help the community sector be more efficient and effective in environmental advocacy and action.' Survey Respondent

Local development and its effect on Green Spaces.

The countrywide housing crisis has precipitated an increased focus on land development and building. Our member groups and members of the public have voiced concerns around this frequently, more recently linked to work in Aokautere. There is a threatened orchid in this area, and concerns about escarpment run-off in spaces where considerable conservation efforts have taken place. We will continue to listen to these concerns and advocate when necessary, in the understanding that a balance needs to be achieved.

Environment Centre

During 2023 ENM further cemented its physical presence as the City's Environment Centre, through the installation of Terracycle Bins, which are attracting several people per day who wish to dispose of hard to recycle items. Along with our recent rebrand and implementation of our showstopping mural, we now have a clear and active inner-city presence. However, as stressed in our report last year more could be achieved with a well-designed and appointed property to support the community and city in environmental aspirations. Again, we strongly advocate for the development of a fully functioning, inspirational Environment Centre.

First steps to this would be to resource an investigation into what this space could look like, and what function it would have. While we have lots of ideas, and past conversations to draw on, the coordination of a full-scale study into what an Environment Centre can offer, and how it can best run is beyond our current capacity. In the stark understanding of current climate change events and the devastating, heart-breaking impact on many of our regions, a space that can model change, innovation and offer support and information to people to guide them through the vital adaptation to a more sustainable climate friendly lifestyle is immensely important.

Building Capacity and Capability

Every Bite

Every Bite is a new food waste prevention project that aims to work with communities of Aotearoa New Zealand to contribute to a 10% reduction in household food waste. The project is being developed by the Zero Waste Network and Environment Hubs Aotearoa, in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment. MFAN has been selected to be a key partner in its initial development and pilot over the next year. At the heart of the project is the desire to reconnect with each other around the value of food. We will be working with a predicted 250 local families, each who will take part in a four-week guided course as part of this project during 2024 to help them achieve this goal. If the pilot is successful, there is the potential for this to continue and expand for a further two years.

Community Composting

MFAN is currently rolling out a 10-week community composting pilot at different spaces around the city, with the aim of encouraging people to compost their food waste locally. Up to 100 food waste bins will be distributed to interested families who fill their bin and take it to one of five collection points where it will either be composted on-site or nearby and used in local community gardens. The initial results are encouraging, with eight families at one site having already diverted 66kg of food waste from landfill in a two-week period. As well as turning a waste product into a valuable resource, the pilot by proxy is increasing social cohesion, as participants take their waste to the composting sites and make new connections. We are training a local composter at each site with the aim of increased community education and ability to continue operating beyond the scope of the initial pilot.

Helping diversify local recycling options

Housing Terracycle recycling bins made possible through funding from the Waste Minimisation Fund has increased foot traffic to our hub, and changed how we engage with people around waste and recycling. We now have several conversations a day giving us direct information about what people want to recycle and areas they struggle with. What regularly emerges is that people want to be able to recycle more of their waste. They are frustrated that items can't be re-used and want to be able to do the right thing with items they no longer need. Many people are willing to go out of their way, and to several sites around the city to do this. There is a strong public demand for the blister pack recycling bin we offer, and we are in conversations with PNCC staff about how this could be managed on a wider scale. The issue of medication packaging probably needs to be dealt with on a national level, with the conversation needing to be taken up by the industry itself. There is also strong public demand for there to be a local option to recycle soft plastic and plastic lids. The Terracycle Bins are a short-term and expensive solution to a major waste problem. We hope to be able to decrease the cost and improve the outcomes by engaging local solutions where possible.



Cyclone Gabrielle

When our last report was penned Cyclone Gabrielle had just hit. We wrote to our concern about the the very clear impact that climate change can and will have on our people and our rohe and anticipated more conversation, advocacy, and collective action within this space. What unfolded throughout the following months was that the disaster had a significant impact on ENM's capacity whilst we addressed the consequences for our community and our projects. For our projects such as Ruahine Kiwi, and for member groups on the coast or within our local green corridors clean-up took considerable time and effort.

ENM and our member groups are increasing their presence and voice in the climate change space as we understand how this not so slow-moving emergency necessitates radical action.

Funding

We now find ourselves in a significantly less stable funding environment which puts pressure on capacity and the outcomes we can achieve. Since 2020, ENM has received funding from the Government's COVID stimulus packages such as the Department of Conservation Jobs for Nature (J4N) fund for Ruahine Kiwi, and Lottery COVID-19 Community Wellbeing Funding for Manawātū Food Action Network projects, as well as support from MSD through relationship with Te Tihi and Ora Kōnnect. Lotteries and MSD Covid funding has already ceased, and J4N funding will come to an end on 30 June 2024. Seeking new funding options places substantial pressure on ENM's operations and projects. Unless we can secure alternative funding, some of our projects and activities may need to be adjusted or reduced in the future.

Creating Community

Our commitment to collaboration and inclusivity as we undertake our responsibility to care for the earth and others ensure we continue to support community building activity. This is what ENM is all about, and we will continue undertaking this core activity for many years to come through supporting collectives, developing networks, encouraging emerging actions, meeting needs and holding space for conversation and connection.

Our Thanks

2023 was a year of change, growth, and deep learning as we continued to connect and inspire communities for environmental action.

Our staff and volunteers consistently prove their passion and professionalism through hard work, innovation, simple kindness and care as they oversee the collectives and projects that we offer.

Taking on the role of PNCC's Sector Lead for the Environment has had significant advantages for us. It has meant increased recognition of who we are and what we do and has allowed the flourishing of new conversations and ideas both with council and the wider community.

We remain exceptionally proud of the fine mahi we do in firm partnership with member groups, stakeholders, and the public. We are proud advocates for te taiao, our environment. We have true gratitude for the commitment, drive, and passion of our remarkable staff and volunteers. We are deeply committed to building and operating a strong, sustainable, responsive environment sector with a voice for the benefit of all life in our rohe.



Profit and Loss Report (Revised Forecast)

Environment Network Manawatu Inc
For the month ended 31 December 2023

	APPROVED BUDGET 2023/24	YTD ACTUAL	FORECAST FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR	FORECAST TO YEAR END
Income				
PNCC	199,728	113,782	86,296	200,078
COGS	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
ECCT	50,000	25,000	-	25,000
EHA	45,087	28,305	22,543	50,848
Lotteries	100,310	100,310	-	100,310
Other Revenue	85,900	2,038	-	2,038
Horizons	29,200	15,090	16,608	31,698
Ruahine Kiwi Project Income	287,263	257,263	30,000	287,263
Kainga Ora	23,000	23,000	-	23,000
Lion Foundation	12,000	8,000	-	8,000
Mainland Foundation Income	6,000	-	-	-
Sargood Bequest	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
Zero Waste Network	-	12,571	37,712	50,283
Other Income	9,400	21,992	4,251	26,243
Business Membership Fees	1,000	-	200	200
Total Income	858,888	617,351	197,610	814,961
ENM Expenses				
Administration and Office Expenses	42,210	22,023	23,739	45,762
Admin Recoveries (Project-related)	(3,720)	(1,904)	(4,360)	(6,264)
Depreciation	10,220	2,514	6,160	8,674
Design, Printing and Promotional	6,560	3,809	2,750	6,559
Meetings/Events	3,200	848	2,352	3,200
Miscellaneous	2,100	883	1,286	2,169
Professional Services	10,000	720	9,280	10,000
Recruitment	1,000	199	801	1,000
Salaries Related - ENM	361,496	148,878	165,369	314,247
Salary Recoveries - ENM	(113,550)	(57,328)	(65,860)	(123,188)
Training and Supervision	6,100	1,956	4,245	6,201
Travel - ENM	2,800	2,393	861	3,254
Volunteer Expenses	3,000	10	3,000	3,010
Website development	6,000	-	6,000	6,000
Wellbeing & Team Building Expenses	1,500	526	974	1,500
Project Expenses ENM - Repair Cafe	9,000	6,609	2,392	9,001
Project Expenses ENM - Future Living Skills Workshops	5,000	4,190	1,809	5,999
Project Expenses ENM - Small Projects	7,300	8,405	-	8,405
Vehicle Operating Costs - Van	7,610	2,059	5,551	7,610
Vehicle Operating Costs - Trailer	-	108	32	140
Total ENM Expenses	367,826	146,897	166,381	313,278

Profit and Loss Report (Revised Forecast)

	APPROVED BUDGET 2023/24	YTD ACTUAL	FORECAST FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR	FORECAST TO YEAR END
S2S Expenses				
Ruahine Kiwi Project Expenses	287,263	181,482	105,785	287,267
Project Expenses S2S - PPC	12,000	364	14,636	15,000
Project Expenses S2S - Small Projects	4,728	5,315	4,852	10,167
Total S2S Expenses	303,991	187,160	125,273	312,433
MFAN Expenses				
Meetings and Events	2,000	1,393	607	2,000
Project Expenses MFAN - Every Bite	-	24,218	26,064	50,282
Project Expenses MFAN - Growing Gardens and Communities	17,200	10,020	6,680	16,700
Project Expenses MFAN - Community Education Programme	23,000	9,338	13,662	23,000
Project Expenses MFAN - Food Resilience (Kai Security Strategy)	68,000	12,500	12,500	25,000
Project Expenses MFAN - Small Projects	-	1,014	5,487	6,501
Total MFAN Expenses	110,200	58,484	65,000	123,484
Environmental Initiatives Fund				
Environmental Initiatives Fund Grants	50,000	4,116	45,885	50,001
Total Expenses	832,017	396,657	402,539	799,196
Total Surplus/Deficit	26,871	220,694	(204,929)	15,765

Balance Sheet

Environment Network Manawatu Inc
As at 31 December 2023

31 DEC 2023

Assets

Bank	
90 Day Notice Saver Account	157,516.48
Business Edge	84,980.37
Debit Card	1,284.16
Noticesaver	103,629.61
Online Call	4,993.58
Total Bank	352,404.20

Current Assets

Cash held in office	87.90
Prepayments	5,968.91
Revenue accruals	2,495.00
Total Current Assets	8,551.81

Fixed Assets

Furniture & fittings	1,272.48
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Furniture & fittings	(706.98)
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment & computers	(9,732.29)
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Trailers	(981.52)
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Vehicles	(1,430.03)
Office Equipment & computers	11,953.96
Trailers	3,365.22
Van	21,450.43
Total Fixed Assets	25,191.27

Total Assets	386,147.28
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	1,198.63
Accruals	225.17
GST	(1,924.08)
KiwiSaver payable	1,652.03
PAYE Payable	7,166.11
Provision for Annual Leave	23,299.49
Rounding	0.34
Salaries related payable	16,684.83
Wages Deductions Payable	370.68
Total Current Liabilities	48,673.20

Total Liabilities	48,673.20
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Net Assets	337,474.08
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Balance Sheet

		31 DEC 2023
Equity		
Current Year Earnings		220,694.20
Retained Earnings		116,779.88
Total Equity		337,474.08

ENM Performance Measure Data for period July 2022 to Dec 2023

RBA	Performance Measure	1 July 2022-31 Dec 2022	1 Jan 2023 – 30 June 2023	1 July 2023 – 31 Dec 2023
'How much'	Total number of members of ENM.	65	66	68
	Total number of events and/or activities delivered for members of ENM.	9	9	12
	Total number of Manawatū Food Action Network Network (MFAN) members.	45	267	352
	Total number of projects supported by MFAN.	12	16	24
	Total number of Manawatū River Source to Sea (S2S) members	34	34	34
	Total number of projects supported by S2S.	20	10	16
	Total number of Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF) grants allocated (current new funds)	3	16	5
	Total number of ENM volunteers across the organisation.	171	277	142
'How well'	Percentage of ENM members who report they were highly satisfied/satisfied with ENM activities	86.4% (19 of 22 respondents)	90.9% (10 of 11 respondents)	91.6% (11 of 12 respondents)
	Percentage of members who report they are highly satisfied/satisfied with S2S activities.	87.5% (7 of 8 respondents)	83.3% (5 of 6 respondents)	80% (4 of 5 respondents)
	Percentage of members who report they are highly satisfied/satisfied with MFAN activities.	86.2% (25 of 29 respondents)	82.1% (23 of 28 respondents)	85% (17 of 20 respondents)
	Percentage of participants at ENM events who report beign highly satisfied/satisfied with the event.	92.1% (35 of 38 respondents)	95.1% (39 of 41 respondents)	97.2% (35 of 36 respondents)
'Better off'	Percentage of participants who report they learnt something new as a result of attending an ENM event.	100% (37 of 37 respondents)	87.8% (36 of 41 respondents)	85.3% (35 of 41 respondents)
	Percentage of ENM members who report they feel better connected to other environmental groups as a result of ENM.	91.3% (21 of 23 respondents)	90.9% (10 of 11 respondents)	91.6% (11 of 12 respondents)
	S2S: Percentage of members who report they are better connected to other river action groups as a result of S2S.	75% (6 of 8 respondents)	66.6% (4 of 6 respondents)	80% (4 of 5 respondents)
	MFAN: Percentage of members who report they are better connected to other food resilience groups as a result of MFAN.	86.2% (25 of 29 respondents)	78.5% (22 of 28 respondents)	86.2 (19 of 25 respondents)
	Percentage of EIF recipients who report they were able to successfully deliver their initiative as a result of the grant (reporting on previously administered grants).	100% (5 of 5 recipients)	10 recipients (100% of recipients)	100% (5 of 5 recipients)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 13 March 2024

TITLE: Wastewater Treatment Plant - Nature Calls: Quarterly Update

PRESENTED BY: Mike Monaghan, Group Manager Three Waters

APPROVED BY: Chris Dyhrberg, Chief Infrastructure Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the report titled 'Wastewater Treatment Plant – Nature Calls: Quarterly Update' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 13 March 2024.
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1. ISSUE

- 1.1 The Nature Calls Project Team completed the concept design and development of the resource consent application to Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) in late 2022. This was the culmination of four years of work developing the Best Practicable Option (BPO) which comprises highly treated wastewater being discharged to the Manawatū river or to land.
- 1.2 Quarterly updates for the project were requested by Council. This report provides an update on the project for the period from October to December 2023.

2. BACKGROUND

Application not accepted by Horizons – 31 March 2023

- 2.1 On 31 March 2023, Horizons informed Council that the consent application had been rejected under Section 88 of the RMA. Horizons cited in their correspondence to Council that the application did not include sufficient information.

Objection by Council to Horizons' Section 88 decision

- 2.2 Following discussions with the Project Team, Council Officers and external legal advisors - a decision was made to formally object to Horizons' Section 88 decision. The objection was made under the RMA on the basis that the applicant (Council) disagreed with the decision of the regulator (Horizons).

The objection was deemed necessary for Council to assert the position that the consent application was sufficient to be accepted under Section 88. The Project Team continued to work constructively with Horizons on the consent application despite the objection.

3. RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION

Application accepted by Horizons – 1 August 2023

- 3.1 Following the rejection of the application on 31 March 2023, the Project Team continued to work to address the matters raised by Horizons. With the various discussions with technical personnel an agreement was established on the best way forward and it was agreed with Horizons that Council resubmit its response. Council resubmitted this to Horizons on 20 July 2023.
- 3.2 It was noted in the response to Horizons that Council remained of the opinion that the original application was sufficient to have been accepted by Horizons on 19 December 2022.
- 3.3 Horizons informed Council on 1 August 2023 that the application had been formally 'accepted' as complete. This was a significant milestone for Council and the Project Team.
- 3.4 Following the receipt of the acceptance notification from Horizons, Council formally withdrew its objection to Horizons' original decision. It was deemed that following the work undertaken by both parties there was no need to continue with the objection.

Horizons request further Information (Section 92) – 17 August 2023

- 3.5 On 17 August 2023, Council received Horizons' request for further information regarding the consent application (also known as a Section 92 request for further information of the RMA).
- 3.6 This request contained over 200 questions - additional information requests are not unusual to receive on consent applications, and extensive information requests are normal to receive on applications of this magnitude.
- 3.7 Due to the complexity and anticipated duration required to formulate answers to the Section 92 request the Project Team advised Horizons that Council anticipated being able to respond to the Section 92 request on 26 June 2024.
- 3.8 The Project Team have scoped the work required to respond to these questions and are now developing the technical work to support these responses.
- 3.9 Having informed Horizons of the length of time needed to respond to the further information request, the statutory processing time stops until these are responded to. Horizons will not start the statutory clock again until they are

confident that the additional information has been provided, or unless Council provide an alternative response to the outstanding questions.

- 3.10 Following receipt of the information requested by Horizons further questions may be raised and Council would need to either continue to answer these or provide an alternative response. Once all of the outstanding matters are closed out, or we have notified that we will not respond to the matters further, the processing clock restarts, and the application moves towards the notification process.

4. NATURE CALLS STEERING GROUP

- 4.1 The inaugural Nature Calls Steering Group met on 19 December 2023. The Terms of Reference (ToR) that were presented to Council on 1 November were pre-circulated to the group prior to the meeting for discussion at the initial meeting. Comments were requested and received from Steering Group members on the ToR and will be finalised and agreed upon at the next meeting.
- 4.2 The Steering Group meet on 27 February 2024. This meeting will be held at the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Totara Road, where as well as the ToR being finalised, a project update will be presented, and a tour of the current treatment plant will take place.
- 4.3 The finalised ToR for the Nature Calls Steering Group will be presented to Council on 1 May 2024 for adoption.

5. SECTION 92 REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WORKSTREAM

- 5.1 The Project Team is working through the numerous additional information requests. Technical workstreams that are being finalised in this initial tranche include:
- Plant design and output
 - River discharge structure
 - Groundwater at WWTP
 - Groundwater Mounding
 - Draft Land Management Plan
 - Draft Groundwater Seepage Monitoring Plan
- 5.2 Further information on site work/sampling is provided below. Once this tranche of work is completed the next tranche will commence. Due to the interrelationships between the various technical streams work is programmed so that areas that are closely linked are developed in parallel.

River Monitoring - Summer flow monitoring and mixing study

- 5.3 The Project Team have been trying to undertake a river mixing study on the Manawatū River since the pre-lodgement phase. This work is required to inform the technical assessments that were submitted with the application. The river discharge mixing was modelled by specialists to provide an indication of how the mixing occurs. The field study will provide additional support to the modelling. Horizons have also requested this study as part of the Section 92 additional information request.
- 5.4 The mixing study required the river levels to be low to allow the study to provide an indication of how mixing occurs in low flow conditions. This is when the river is the most sensitive to discharges as dilution rates are low. Due to the abnormally high unseasonal flows in the Manawatū River last summer this study was unable to be carried out.
- 5.5 The testing occurred in three locations downstream of the current discharge location over several days. This involved releasing red dye (Rhodamine WT commonly used around New Zealand for similar studies) into the river and observing the mixing rate. A drone was used to record the dye release and behaviour.
- 5.6 The results of this study are being collated by the Project Team and all results will be offered to iwi once finalised.

Stream Testing within the Area of Interest

- 5.7 In February 2024 consultants carried out water testing and ecological testing on four streams within the Area of Interest (Aoi). This work is required to support the consent application submitted to Horizons and was also requested by Horizons as part of the Section 92 additional information request.
- 5.8 The testing occurred in streams that were identified as streams that could be impacted by land application and provides baseline information on their ecological health. These streams included Whiskey Creek, Bourkes Drain, Main Drain and Taonui Stream.
- 5.9 An invitation was extended to iwi and Rangitāne staff attended the sites visits with the Project Team.
- 5.10 The results of this work are being collated by the Project Team and all results will be offered to iwi once finalised.

Mangaone Stream Flow Monitoring

- 5.11 A flow monitoring station has been established to monitor flow levels from the Mangaone Stream. This was required to inform the model that has been developed on the Manawatū River. The monitoring station will also collect water quality data to assist and inform the model and develop baseline information on the Mangaone Stream.

Biosolids Strategy

- 5.12 Previous work identified that the Awapuni Landfill has limited capacity for future disposal of biosolids from the WWTP. Additional work has commenced on the Biosolids Strategy to determine opportunities for the use of biosolids going forward, with the focus on matters identified in the Biosolids Strategy Development Report that relate to:
- current biosolids disposal; and
 - progressing future short and medium-term disposal options for biosolids from the treatment plant.
- 5.13 In addition to the work outlined above, strategic conversations are ongoing with other local entities in the region on biosolids disposal as this is a regional challenge for other councils.
- 5.14 The Project Team are completing work to determine the capacity of the existing Awapuni Composting facility. This will be completed in March 2024. Initial discussions with Council are occurring regarding short term steps that can be undertaken.

Property

- 5.15 The Project Team continues to investigate property to receive the land discharge, as this is a fundamental part of the consent application. A specific property team has been identified and meet regularly to progress this workstream. Since the update in October 2023 the team continues to work on the following:
- Continuing to look at suitability of land within the Aol.
 - Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) - is being drafted to support site selection within the Aol. This work will support the Property Strategy.
 - Initial discussions on detailed investigations that are required to address the further information received by Horizons.

6. BUDGET

- 6.1 The 2023/24 capital budget for the Nature Calls project is \$3,000,000. This will allow for the aforementioned work packages to continue throughout this financial year.
- 6.2 At the end of January 2024 \$886,275 has been spent, the bulk of which has been spent on Work Packages focusing on land application, Section 92 responses and monitoring and investigation works. Other areas of spend include the biosolids strategy and investigation work package and further work on adaptive management.
- 6.3 Work will continue at pace responding to Section 92 questions as we have a deadline for response by 26 June 2024.

- 6.4 Officers are currently reviewing the project estimates that have been submitted for the LTP consultation document. A number of workstreams have been identified to challenge and test current assumptions, and it is acknowledged that the current figure includes a high level of contingency, as detailed design cannot be costed at this stage.

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Work continues in parallel workstreams.
- 7.2 We continue to connect and reach out to iwi in relation to the project in anticipation of ongoing conversation and discussion relating to cultural impact.
- 7.3 The finalised ToR for the Nature Calls Steering Group will be presented to Council on 1 May 2024 for adoption.

8. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City	
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Waters The action is: Lodge resource consent application for future discharge of Wastewater Treatment Plant	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	Lodging for resource consent allows Council to continue to provide its wastewater services and allows for future-proofing of the city.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 13 March 2024

TITLE: Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan - approval for consultation

PRESENTED BY: Peter Ridge, Senior Policy Analyst and Natasha Hickmott, Activities Manager - Resource Recovery and Sustainability Infrastructure

APPROVED BY: David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer
Chris Dyhrberg, Chief Infrastructure Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee approve the Statement of Proposal - Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024 (Attachment 1) for public consultation concurrent with and linked to the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan consultation.
-

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 In February 2024, the Council resolved to develop a replacement Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP). This report presents the draft WMMP Statement of Proposal for approval (Attachment 1) for public consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is required by the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to review its WMMP at least once every six years. The Council adopted the current WMMP in 2019, just before the development of the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan.
- 2.2 The timing of this work meant that Council was limited in the decisions it could make through the Long-Term Plan in the resource recovery activity, without also affecting the WMMP (and potentially requiring additional consultation).
- 2.3 As a result, Elected Members agreed to revisit the WMMP early, as part of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, so that the decisions and budgets could be better aligned.
- 2.4 On 29 November 2023, the Sustainability Committee resolved:

"That the Committee agree Option 2 - compile a draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) for consultation concurrent with the

consultation or as part of the consultation on the Resource Recovery Plan/Long Term Plan."

2.5 Before undertaking a review of the WMMP, the Council must prepare a waste assessment in accordance with sections 50 and 51 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. We contracted Eunomia to conduct the waste assessment on our behalf. The period assessed was May – June 2022. The draft report was then used to inform the development of the draft Resource Recovery Plan.

2.6 On 14 February 2024, Council received the Palmerston North Waste Assessment 2023 and made the following resolution:

"That Council confirm it has considered the Palmerston North Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2019 in light of the draft Palmerston North City Council Waste Assessment 2023 and agree to develop a replacement Waste Management and Minimisation Plan."

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE WMMP

3.1 As noted in section 2, following the development of the 2021 Long-Term Plan, the Council decided to review the WMMP early. This was intended to ensure greater alignment between the strategic direction and budgets set by the Council and the actions contained in the WMMP.

3.2 To achieve this alignment, we contracted Eunomia to undertake a waste assessment in 2022, beginning with a SWAP¹ assessment. The results from the SWAP formed the basis of the draft Waste Assessment, which we received in 2023. The Waste Assessment considers waste collected by the Council and by the private sector.²

3.3 The development of Council's strategic direction began in early 2023. This included the development of the draft Resource Recovery Plan. The early drafts of this plan were informed by the findings of the draft Waste Assessment. Through a series of Council workshops, Elected Members refined the strategic direction, including the Resource Recovery Plan.

¹ Solid Waste Analysis Protocol (SWAP) – this is a protocol developed by the Ministry for the Environment for use by local authorities when measuring and analysing the volume and composition of waste.

² Many private providers treat their waste collection services as commercially sensitive. As Council also operates a waste collection service some private providers are reluctant to share their data directly with the Council. The SWAP assessment utilizes a contractor to collect samples of waste from across the waste stream, to provide the best possible picture of the waste sector in Palmerston North. However, some aspects may not be captured – for example, where waste is disposed to a private landfill, composted at home, or burned on private property.

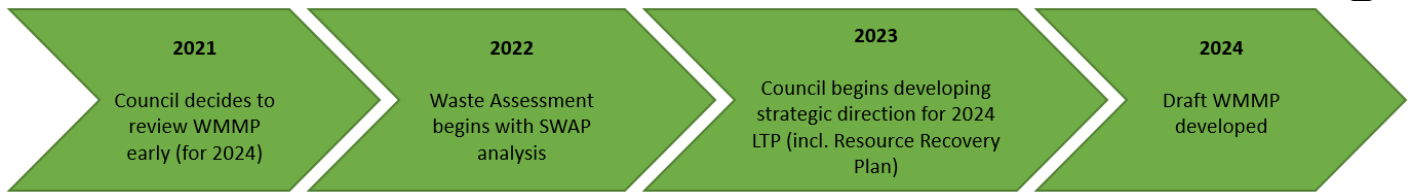


Figure 1: Timeline summary of the development of the Resource Recovery Plan and WMMP.

- 3.4 The draft Resource Recovery Plan includes 23 actions arranged under six objectives, contributing to the purpose of minimising all waste and its impact on the environment. The draft Resource Recovery Plan (as at March 2024) is included for reference as attachment two.
- 3.5 The draft WMMP is based around the Resource Recovery Plan. It incorporates the purpose statement as the WMMP's vision, and the actions are included in full in the WMMP's action plan. It also:
- Sets out the context and background to our waste situation and provides information about the waste stream and the composition of the waste going to landfill.
 - Describes our objectives (proposed in the draft Resource Recovery Plan) and includes as targets the performance standards for waste diversion that the Ministry for the Environment has identified and will be applying to all local authorities from 2024.
 - Sets out how we will fund the activities set out in the WMMP.
- 3.6 The draft WMMP therefore achieves a high degree of alignment with the Resource Recovery Plan, while also meeting the requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.
- 3.7 Figure 2 shows the relationship of the draft WMMP to the Resource Recovery Plan.

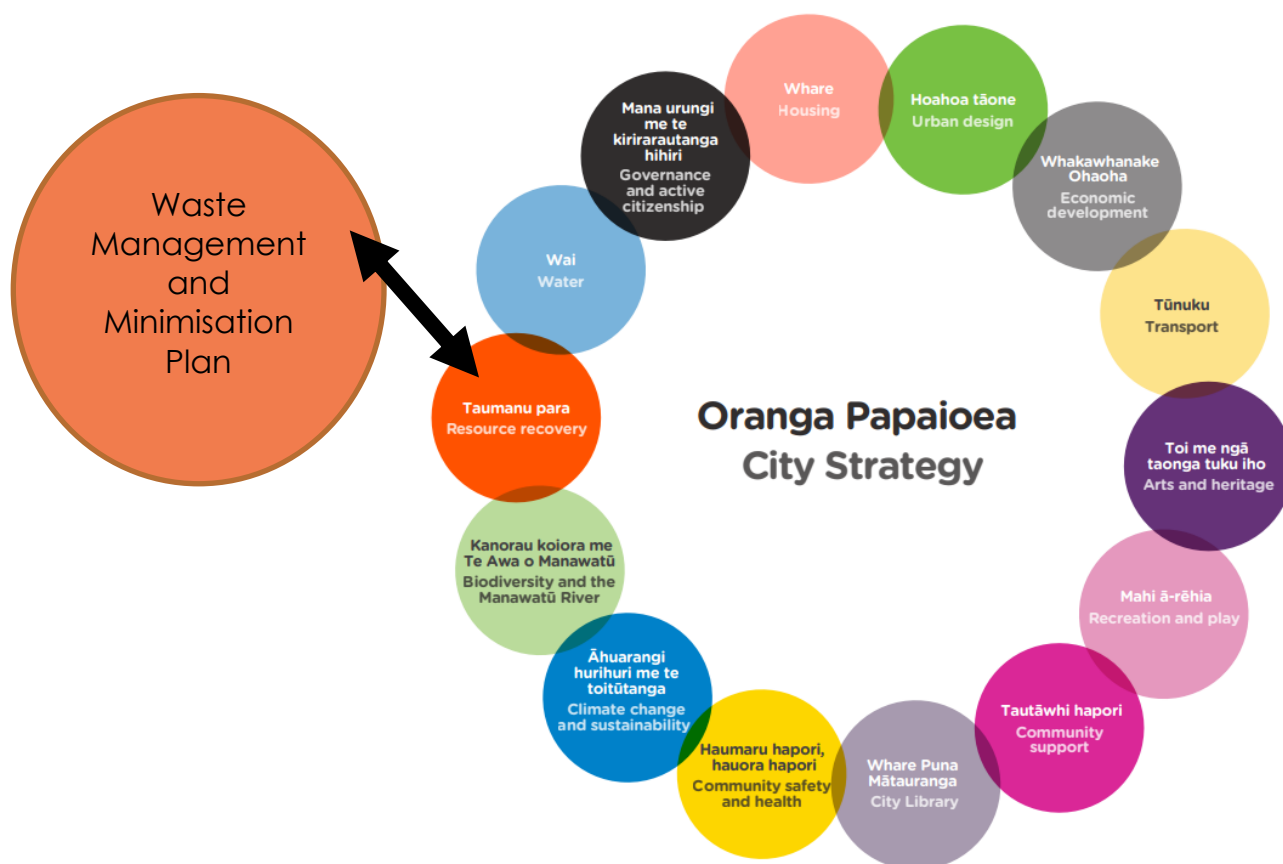


Figure 2: The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan reflects the Resource Recovery Plan within the Oranga Papaioea City Strategy and plans.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF OPTIONS

4.1 There are two options for the Committee to consider:

- Option 1 – approve the draft WMMP for public consultation
- Option 2 – do not approve the draft WMMP for public consultation

Option 1 – approve the draft WMMP for public consultation

- 4.2 If the Committee approves the draft WMMP for public consultation, then we will consult with the community and key stakeholders on the proposals within the draft WMMP. This consultation process will be aligned to the consultation on the draft Long-Term Plan. The community will be able to make submissions on both the Resource Recovery Plan and the WMMP.
- 4.3 Decisions that the Council makes will apply equally to both the Resource Recovery Plan and the draft WMMP. For instance, if the Council decides to make a change to the draft WMMP as a result of consultation, the Council will also need to make a resolution to change the draft Resource Recovery Plan, and importantly, amend any budgets in the draft Long-Term Plan that may be affected.

Option 2 – do not approve the draft WMMP for public consultation

- 4.4 If the Committee does not approve the draft WMMP for public consultation, then we will not begin consultation. The Committee may choose to undertake consultation later.

5. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Option 1 – approve the draft WMMP for public consultation (recommended)

- 5.1 If the Committee approves the draft WMMP for public consultation, then it gives the community and key stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback to the Council and have input into the proposals.
- 5.2 Undertaking consultation at this time ensures ongoing alignment between the draft Resource Recovery Plan (which is being consulted on as part of the draft Long-Term Plan) and the draft WMMP.

Option 2 – do not approve the draft WMMP for public consultation

- 5.3 If the Committee does not approve the draft WMMP for public consultation, then no further work would be undertaken on the draft WMMP. The draft Resource Recovery Plan, however, will still be consulted on through the Long-Term Plan as part of Council's strategic direction.
- 5.4 The current WMMP would remain valid as it is not required to be reviewed until 2025. However, any actions in the Resource Recovery Plan or programmes in the Long-Term Plan, which rely on waste levy funding that are not in the WMMP, will not be able to use the waste levy funding.³ For example, the Resource Recovery Plan includes an action to provide funding to for-purpose groups to undertake innovative recycling and reuse programmes. We are proposing to use funding from the Waste Levy for this action, however our current WMMP does not include this action. If the draft WMMP were not approved for consultation, and we continued to rely on the current WMMP, then this action could not utilise waste levy funding. Budgets in the Long-Term Plan would also need to be amended.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 We recommend that the draft WMMP is approved for public consultation. It has been drafted to align with the Resource Recovery Plan developed by staff and Elected Members and informed by the most recent Waste Assessment. Consultation alongside the Long-Term Plan will allow the community to consider our proposals as part of the larger strategic picture. It will also show how our WMMP sits within the plans for the city over the next 10 years.

³ The waste levy funding can only be used for waste minimisation activities in the Council's WMMP.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 7.1 The timing of consultation on the WMMP is intentional to align with the public consultation planned for the Long-Term Plan. We will work closely with the team leading the consultation on the Long-Term Plan to make the draft WMMP available at all consultation opportunities, and, wherever possible, have staff available to answer questions about the draft WMMP.
- 7.2 In addition to aligning with the Long-Term Plan consultation, we will schedule specific opportunities for the community to engage on the draft WMMP, including the Awapuni Resource Recovery Centre Open Day on Saturday 13 April 2024.
- 7.3 A community drop-in session will also be scheduled where members of the community can attend and learn more about the draft WMMP and ask questions of staff.
- 7.4 Officers will directly contact our partner Rangitāne o Manawatū and identified key stakeholders, provide them with the draft WMMP and encourage them to make a submission. We will also invite them to meet with staff and discuss the draft WMMP. The identified stakeholders include:
 - Environment Network Manawatū.
 - Waste collectors including Low Cost Bins, EnviroNZ, Waste Management, Lucy's Bins, JJ Richards, and Smart Environmental.
 - Midwest Disposal (operator of the Bonny Glen landfill).
 - Recyclers including Fight Plastic, Aotearoa NZ Made, OJI Fibre Solutions, Hawk Packaging, Macaulays Metals, E-Cycle, Phoenix Metal Man, 3R, Visy, SaveBoard, 5R.
 - Large industrial, institutional, or commercial users.
 - Neighbouring local authorities.
 - Horizons Regional Council; and
 - Community groups, such as Ora Kōnnect and Just Zilch.



8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 If the Committee approves the draft WMMP Statement of Proposal document in Attachment one, we will design the document for publication.
- 8.2 We will carry out our consultation plan as outlined in section 7 above.
- 8.3 The hearings for submissions will occur as part of the Long-Term Plan submission hearings. Deliberations on those submissions will be held as part of the Long-Term Plan deliberations, enabling the Council to adopt the draft WMMP by the end of June 2024.

9. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide? If Yes quote relevant clause(s) from Delegations Manual 4.5	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do, they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	Yes
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City	
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Resource Recovery	
The action is: Review the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being	Approving the draft WMMP will enable the community to have input on the proposals for waste minimisation activities across the city.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Statement of Proposal - Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024 [↓](#) 
2. Draft PNCC Resource Recovery Plan (March 2024) [↓](#) 

Statement of Proposal – Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024

Introduction

The Palmerston North City Council Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) sets out how the Council will ensure effective and efficient waste management in our city. It's our six-year plan, providing details of how we will minimise and manage waste in our city.

In this document, you can read about the issues we've identified in our recent waste assessment, the actions we're planning to take, and how we're planning to fund those actions. You can also find out how you can have your say on this draft plan.

The Proposal

We propose to adopt a new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) for Palmerston North, replacing the current plan.

We are required to develop this under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and review it every six years. We last reviewed our WMMP in 2019. We've reviewed our WMMP early so that the actions we are proposing are aligned to the strategic direction and budgets we've set out in our draft Long-Term Plan.

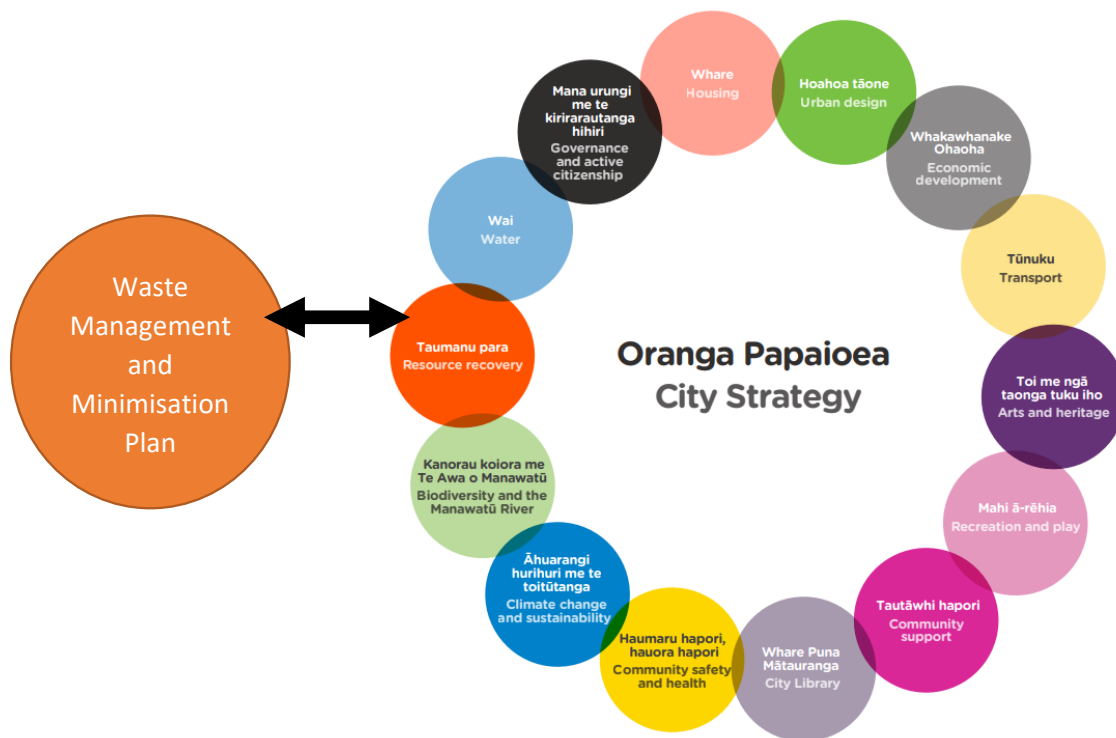


Figure 1 - The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan supports the Resource Recovery Plan within our City Strategy

Key issues

The draft WMMP is based on a waste assessment conducted under section 51 of the Act, where we identified several issues. Here's a summary of the key issues we propose to address in this plan:

- How we will meet the changed Government requirements for kerbside collections, and the new performance standards for waste diversion.

The Government has changed what can be accepted in Council's kerbside recycling collection, to standardise the recycling collections across the country. All councils are also required to introduce a kerbside food scraps collection by 2030. These changes mean we need to re-evaluate the services we offer, and how those services are delivered.

- The large volume of food and other organic material in the waste stream.

Our Waste Assessment¹ shows that over half of all potentially divertible material in our waste stream is food or other organic material such as lawn clippings. Over three-quarters of that food and other organic material is found in our kerbside collections.

- Most households use wheelie bins provided by private companies to dispose of waste, rather than Council rubbish bags.

Only 22% of households are using Council rubbish bags for waste. This means Council currently has little influence over the waste stream. Yet proposed changes to the Waste Minimisation Act, which will be introduced later this year, will hold Council accountable for meeting the performance standards for waste diversion from kerbside household waste collections. Our Waste Assessment shows that households using larger 240L wheelie bins for waste throw out higher proportions of recyclable and food and organic material than households using smaller bins or Council rubbish bags.

Our response to the issues

To address these and other issues, and to also work towards the Resource Recovery Plan's goal to minimise waste and its impact on the environment, the WMMP proposes an Action Plan for the next six years. Here are the key actions we plan to take:

- Investigate models for kerbside waste collection service delivery (2024/25)

Council is a regulator for the waste sector (for instance, our Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw enables us to regulate waste collectors). We propose a service delivery review to determine the most efficient and effective means to achieve our outcomes. In particular, we want to assess whether the Council, acting as a direct provider of waste collection services, is negatively impacting on the operation of the waste sector. This is an opportunity to help us plan for changes over the next six years, including the new Government requirement to introduce a kerbside food scraps collection by 2030.

The service delivery review also offers an opportunity to address the high rates of organic material in larger waste bins offered by private collectors. For instance, the inclusion of a kerbside food scraps collection as part of a wider service delivery review could encourage households to divert more of their organic waste from their waste bin.

¹ The Palmerston North Waste Assessment 2023 is available on our website www.pncc.govt.nz

- Develop a city-wide kerbside food scraps collection service (2024/26)

We have until 2030 to introduce a kerbside food scraps collection. We aim to have this service available in 2028/29, but the planning for this service will begin much sooner. The initial action in 2024/26 is a scoping assessment to identify the requirements of the service, and to prepare a detailed business case to support the service development. For instance, the service will require a food scraps processing facility near Palmerston North, and no such facility exists yet. The assessment will help determine how to create such a facility (coordinated with other local authorities) and what other infrastructure or assets may be required.

- License waste collectors (2025/26)

We expect that the new legislation proposed to replace the Waste Minimisation Act will also introduce new licensing provisions for waste collectors. While the regulations have not yet been released, we anticipate that by 2025/26 there will be a new national system under which private and Council waste collectors will need to be licensed. A licensing system for waste collectors will enable much better data collection about the waste stream. We will be able to use this data to better understand the composition of the waste stream and adjust existing services or introduce new services.

- Replace the Materials Recovery Facility (2025/26)

The current Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) located at the Awapuni Resource Recovery Park is nearing the end of its life. The plant is no longer fit for purpose to handle the volumes and types of materials required to be processed. We plan to replace the MRF and include new technology (such as optical sorting) to improve the speed and efficiency of recycling processing.

The full action plan is included in section 5 of the draft WMMP.

Consultation Process

We're consulting on the draft WMMP at the same time as the draft Long-Term Plan (LTP). You can make a submission on the draft WMMP as part of your submission on the draft LTP, or separately. We'll be considering all the submissions together so that decisions we make are consistent across all of our planning.

We want to know what you think about this draft WMMP. For more information about the issues, refer to the 2023 Waste Assessment which can be found on our website. This Statement of Proposal, the Waste Assessment and the submission form can be found at:

- www.pncc.govt.nz/wasteplan
- Our Customer Service Centre at 32 The Square, Palmerston North;
- Our Central Library, or at any of our community libraries in Ashhurst, Awapuni, Roslyn, Linton and Highbury.

If you want to speak about your submission in front of Council, please let us know on your submission form. We'll be holding hearings for the draft WMMP as part of the draft LTP hearings in May 2024. Council will then make the final decision about the draft WMMP and the draft LTP in June

2024. Details of the hearings will be confirmed in the letter acknowledging your submission and will also be advertised in the Guardian newspaper.

To get your submission to us, either:

Mail it to:

Palmerston North City Council
Attn: Democracy and Governance Manager
Private Bag 11034
PALMERSTON NORTH

Deliver it to: Our Customer Service Centre at 32 The Square, Palmerston North

Email: submission@pncc.govt.nz (write Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in the subject)

Phone: 06 356 8199 and ask for your submission to be written down for you

Fax: 06 355 4115

Fill out the online form at XXXXX. Head to the Waste Management and Minimisation section.

Submissions are open from Thursday 4 April until Sunday 5 May 2024

Please note that all written submissions, including the contact details on the submission, will be made available to the public and media and on our website, unless you specifically request that your contact details are kept private. For further information on this consultation, please phone us on 06 356 8199 or email us at info@pncc.govt.nz.

Draft Palmerston North Waste
Management and Minimisation Plan
2024

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1. Introduction

This is our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), which sets out how we will work towards minimising and managing waste in our city. The WMMP is a document we are required to develop under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and review every six years.

We last reviewed our WMMP in 2019.

We've reviewed our WMMP early so that the actions we are proposing are aligned to the strategic direction and budgets we've set out in our draft Long-Term Plan.

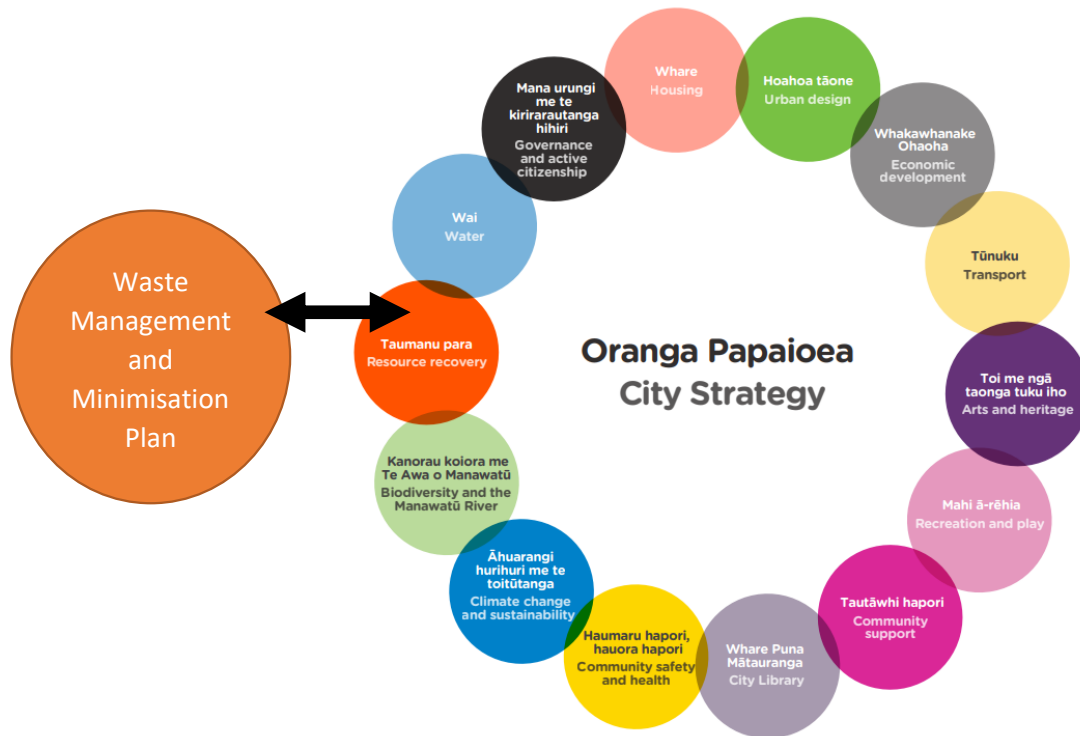


Figure 2 - The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan supports the Resource Recovery Plan within our City Strategy

What's happening with our waste

- We sent nearly 55,000 tonnes of waste to landfill in 2022.
- The amount of waste per capita sent to landfill has increased from 544kgs in 2017 to 607kgs in 2022.
- Nearly 46% of this waste could potentially have been composed, reused or recycled. This has improved, dropping from 66% in 2017.
- Kerbside rubbish accounts for nearly a third of the city's waste, with construction and demolition, industrial and commercial operators accounting for the rest.
- Council provides a user-pays rubbish bag collection service but many households use a private waste collection service with a wheelie bin.

- Residents who use privately-provided 240L wheelie bins send far more material to landfill that could have been reused/repurposed or recycled/composted than those who use bags and/or smaller bins.

Most of the things we do, buy, and consume generate some form of waste. This not only costs money when we throw things away but, if we don't manage the waste properly, it can cause problems with the environment and with people's health.

In the development of our WMMP we have considered all solid waste and diverted material in the city, including hazardous waste like chemicals and the solid waste outputs of our wastewater treatment plant. We have considered the entire waste stream, whether it is collected or managed by us, or by private waste collectors. While the Council may only have direct responsibility for a small part of the overall waste stream, we have an obligation to consider how the city as a whole can minimise its waste. This could include suggesting areas where other groups, such as businesses or householders, could take action themselves.

2. Context

2.1 Strategic context

We have a statutory requirement under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA) to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within Palmerston North. 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.

The WMMP is the plan which sets out how we will deliver waste management and minimisation activities in our city. While it is our local plan, it sits within a wider strategic framework, both locally and nationally.

Local strategic context

This WMMP aligns with our Resource Recovery Plan, which sits under Oranga Papaioea City Strategy. The WMMP will contribute to outcomes we want for our community under at least two of our strategic goals.

Goal 1 of the Oranga Papaioea City Strategy is 'An innovative and growing city', and includes the outcomes:

- an economy that employs innovation and new ideas and uses resources sustainably
- a resilient, low-carbon economy

Goal 4 of this strategy is 'A sustainable and resilient city', and includes the outcomes:

- a sustainable and low-emissions city
- a circular economy with more resource recovery and less waste
- access to relevant information and education to support more sustainable choices

This strategy and the plans which underpin the strategy form the foundation for our Long-Term Plan (LTP). The LTP provides the basis for our planned activities and budgets for the next 10 years.

National strategic context

The WMMP is also aligned with the New Zealand Waste Strategy 2023 *Te Rautaki Para*. The Government strategy for waste provides a substantially different approach to the previous 2002 strategy. The vision of *Te Rautaki Para* is:

"By 2050, Aotearoa New Zealand is a low-emissions, low-waste society, built upon a circular economy."

We cherish our inseparable connection with the natural environment and look after the planet's finite resources with care and responsibility."

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has the responsibility to implement *Te Rautaki Para* and to develop action and investment plans. MfE is in the process of drafting new legislation to replace the current Waste Minimisation Act and the Litter Act.

Under the WMA, our WMMP needs to be reviewed at least every six years. With new waste minimisation legislation likely to be passed before the next scheduled review of the WMMP, we may review this WMMP before it is due to be reviewed in 2030.

2.2 We partner with Rangitāne o Manawātū

We have a strong relationship with our Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner and tangata whenua, Rangitāne o Manawātū. A partnership agreement was signed in 2019, formally acknowledging Rangitāne as mana whenua, and ensures that Rangitāne values and perspectives have significant weight in decision making.

Our staff and management meet regularly with iwi leaders regarding a very broad set of projects and programmes. In particular, a monthly hui called Te Whiri Kōkō is held covering a range of activities that are relevant to iwi. We provide capacity funding to support this engagement and acknowledge the significant contribution that mana whenua bring to the City, including the specific Treaty-based legislative responsibilities that must be led by local government.

2.3 A new approach to waste minimisation

The New Zealand Waste Strategy 2023 *Te Rautaki Para* places a new emphasis on creating a circular economy. A circular economy is one that focusses on reducing waste generation and redesigning or rethinking our approaches to minimise the amount of resources used to produce and package the things we buy and use. By producing less waste at the outset, the need to recycle or recover materials is similarly reduced. This can have a positive impact on our emissions and can generate cost savings throughout the life cycle of a product.

This new emphasis is captured in the revised waste hierarchy (see Figure 3), which prioritises reduce/rethink/redesign at the top, and reuse/repair/repurpose at the second level – representing the circular economy. Subsequent steps identify the order of preference for recovering, with treatment and disposal being the least preferred/last resort.

The waste hierarchy

This hierarchy sets our agenda for reducing waste, and that throwing things out is the last resort.

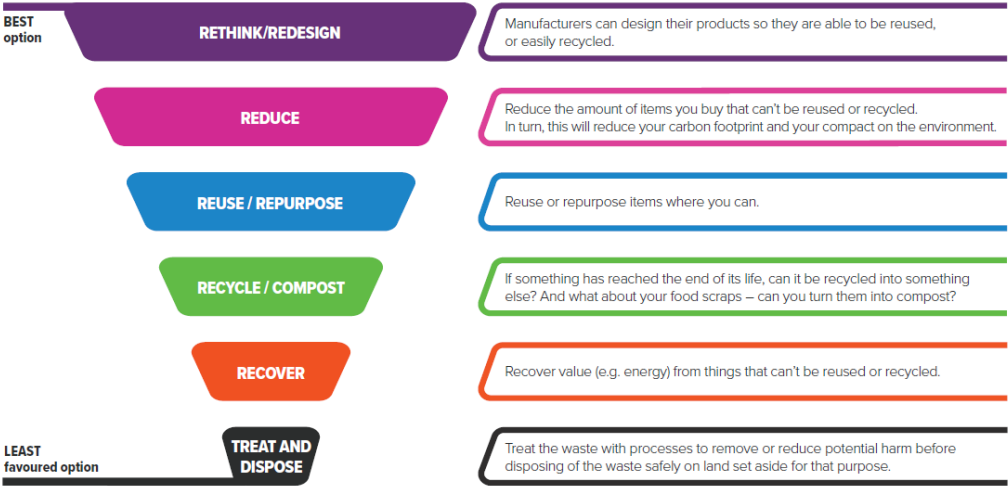


Figure 3 - The revised Waste Hierarchy

3. The waste situation

The past three years has seen significant changes in the waste sector at a national level. The range of plastics which we accept in our kerbside recycling collection was narrowed in 2021, in response to changes in the market for mixed plastics and amendments to the Basel Convention². In 2023, the Government adopted a new NZ Waste Strategy *Te Rautaki Para* which emphasised a shift to a circular economy. Collectively, these and other changes in the resource recovery area have placed additional expectations for how we approach waste minimisation.

3.1 The NZ situation

The NZ Waste Strategy 2023 *Te Rautaki Para* sets out a new direction for waste minimisation, emphasising the need to transition to a circular economy. One of the first steps has been the requirement for all local authorities to offer a standardised kerbside recycling service. We aligned our kerbside recycling collection service with the new requirements on 1 February 2024, removing aerosol cans, and plastic caps and lids from the list of permitted items in our recycling collection.

Under the new strategy, all local authorities will need to offer a food scraps collection service by 2030. This will address the high volume of organic material which is included in rubbish bags and bins. Removing this material from landfill and composting it instead will also contribute to emissions reduction goals and our outcomes under Goal 4 of the Oranga Papaioea City Strategy to become a sustainable and low-emissions city.

3.2 How we manage our waste in Palmy

We have a range of options in our city to manage our waste:



We provide a weekly user-pays kerbside collection for rubbish bags. Private companies offer wheelie bin waste collection services.



We provide a weekly kerbside recycling collection service, alternating between general recycling (wheelie bins) and glass (crates); and also have recycling drop-off points around the city.



We provide a food-scrap collection for commercial customers.

² The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, signed in 1989, governs the international export of plastic waste material.



We provide a drop-off point for green waste and other organic waste.



Along with some private companies, we provide drop-off points for e-waste.



There are also some specialised providers in Palmy who collect and treat medical waste.

Where does our waste come from?

In 2022 we sent just under 55,000 tonnes of waste to landfill. Of this, 46% was potentially divertible – it could have been reused, recovered, recycled or composted. This 55,000 tonnes comes from household kerbside waste collections, the construction and demolition sector, industrial or commercial activities, and residents taking bulk loads to the transfer stations.

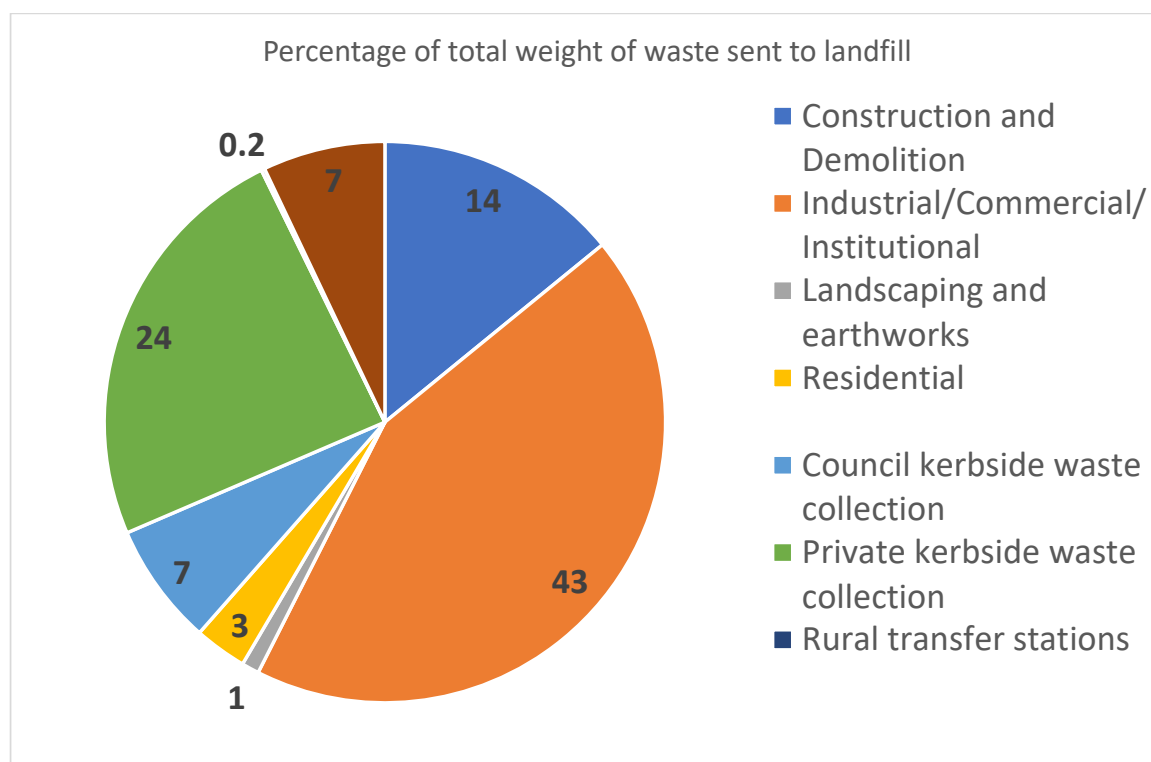


Figure 4 - Proportion of waste sent to landfill by source of the waste

Around 31% (17,000 tonnes) of the waste going to landfill was collected at the kerbside, an increase from 2017 (see Figure 4). Many households use wheeled-bin services provided by private companies for their waste collection. Only around 22% of the city uses the Council's rubbish bag collection.

The remaining 38,000 tonnes of the waste going to landfill includes waste from construction and demolition, industrial and commercial sources, and waste taken to the transfer stations by city residents.

Potential for diversion

A significant proportion of the material in kerbside waste collections (both Council and privately-operated collections) could be diverted from going to landfill – nearly 69% (see figure 5). This is a combination of recyclable materials (such as plastics, cardboard and paper, and recyclable metals like cans), and compostable material such as food scraps or organic waste.

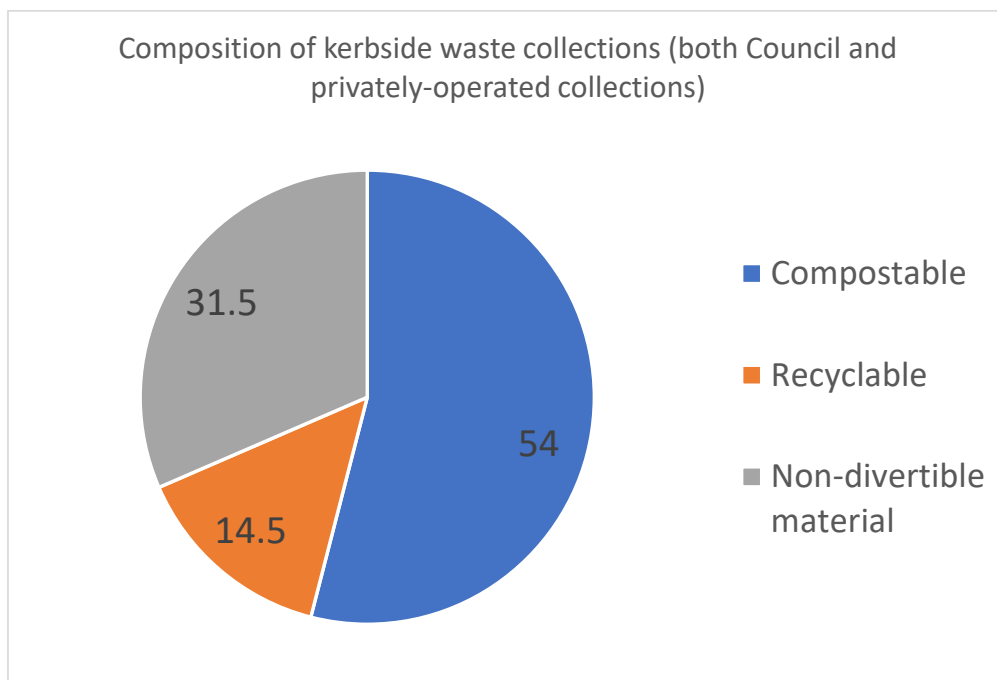


Figure 5 - Percentage of divertible material in kerbside collections

The percentage of divertible material in waste taken directly to transfer stations is lower, making up just under a third of waste (see Figure 6).

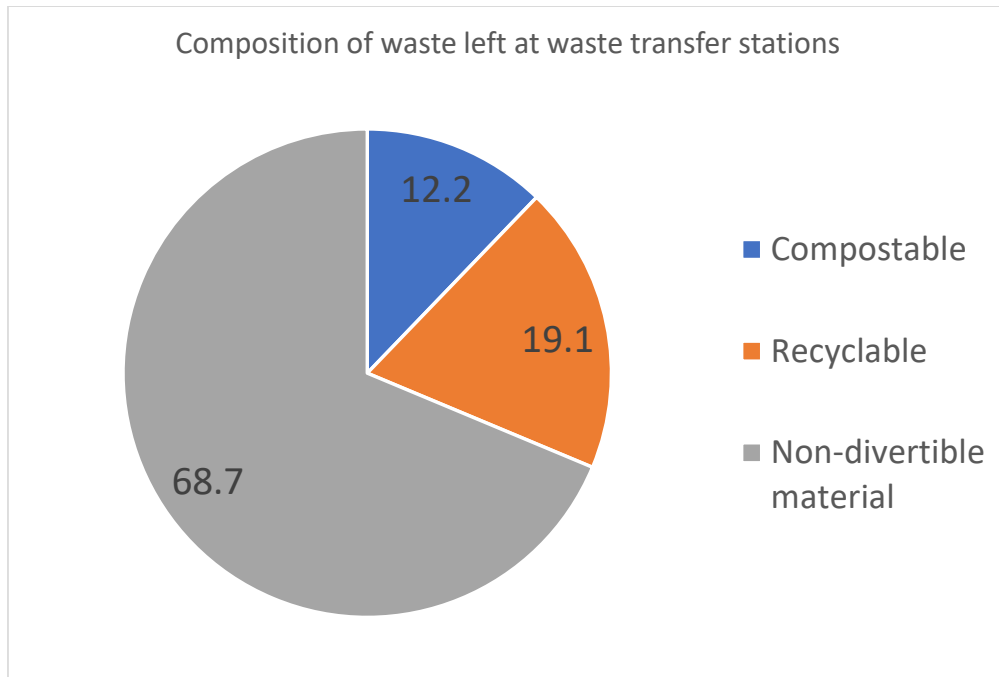


Figure 6 - Percentage of divertible material deposited at transfer stations

The kerbside waste collection represents a significant opportunity for diverting material from landfill, with just under three times as much divertible material in the kerbside collections than deposited at transfer stations every week (see figure 7).

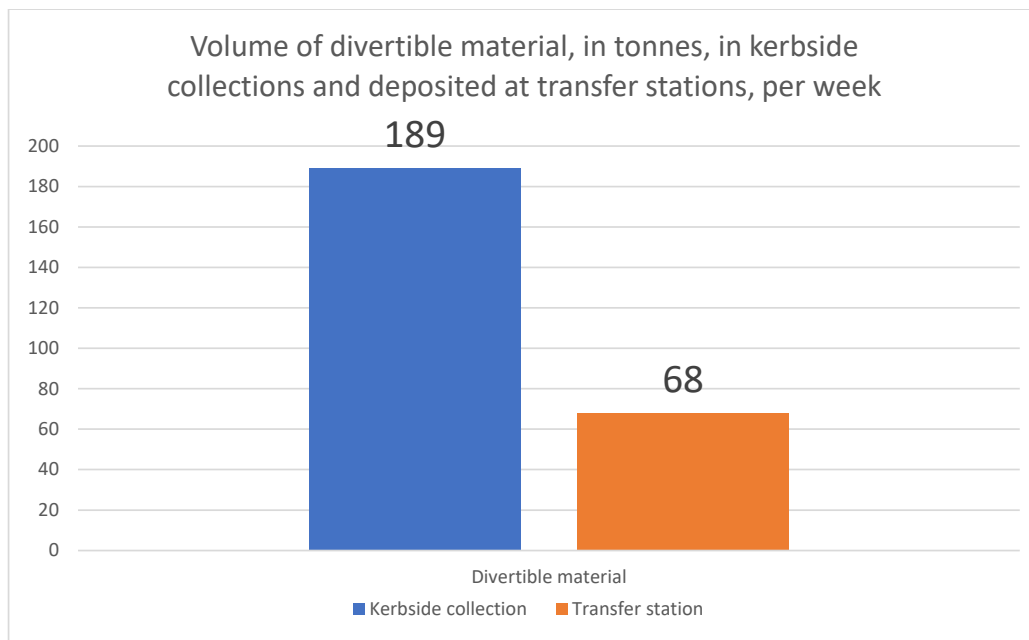


Figure 7 - Volume of divertible material found in kerbside waste collections and waste taken to transfer stations - in tonnes per week

Within the kerbside collections, we found that the proportion of divertible material is significantly higher (71.6%) in larger waste bins than in smaller bins or bags (see figure 8).

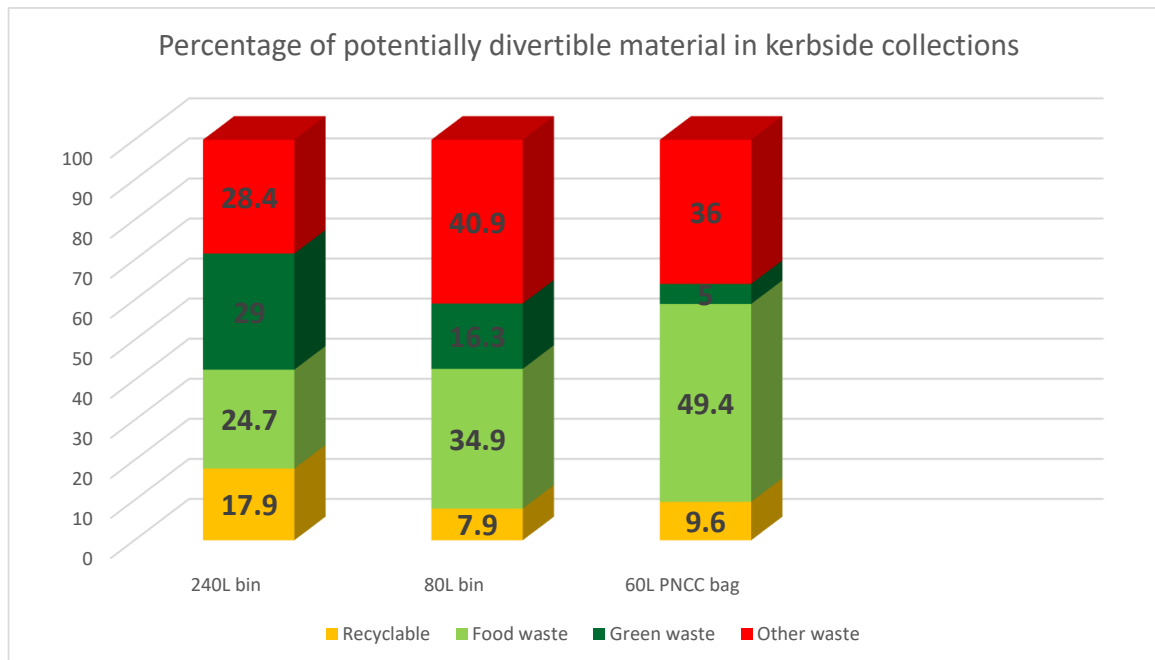


Figure 8 - Proportions of material type in kerbside collections

We found that the volume of food and green waste in particular was significantly higher in larger (240L) wheelie bins than in smaller (80L) bins. Food waste in the 60L PNCC bags was very high, at 3.39kgs per week (see figure 9).

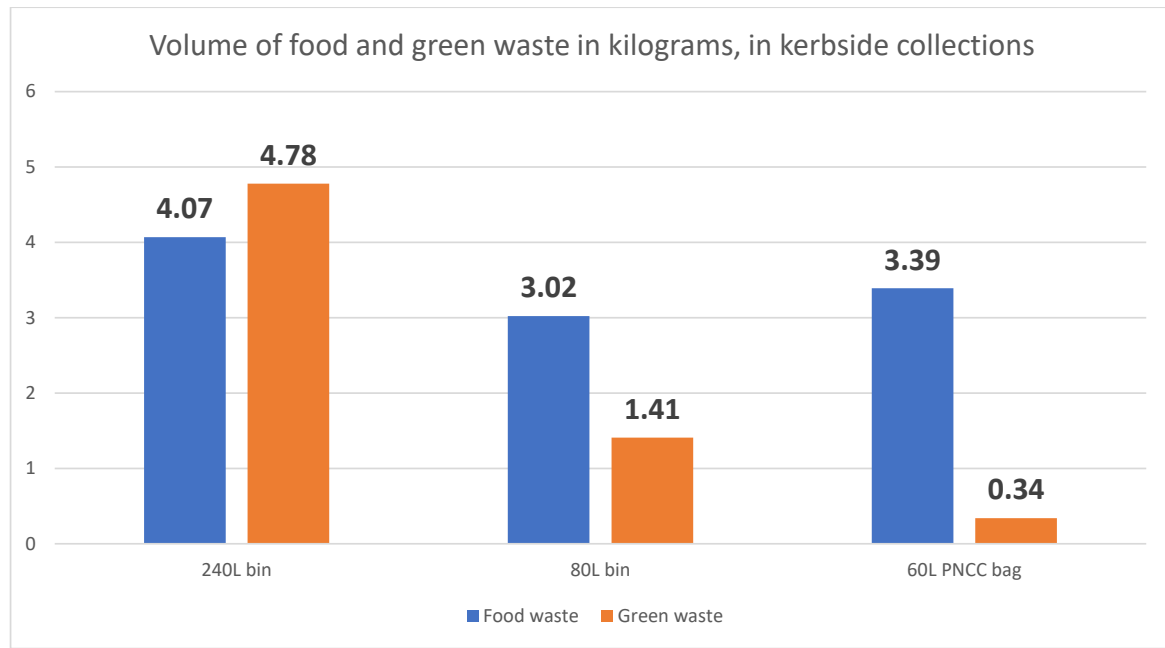


Figure 9 - Total volume of food and green waste in kerbside collections per week

What type of materials are going to landfill that could have been diverted?

When we look at the divertible material going to landfill, we find that more than half of the recoverable materials are food scraps and green waste. Nearly a third is made of material which could be recycled through the kerbside recycling collection (see figure 10). This represents a very high potential for recovering materials that are going to landfill.

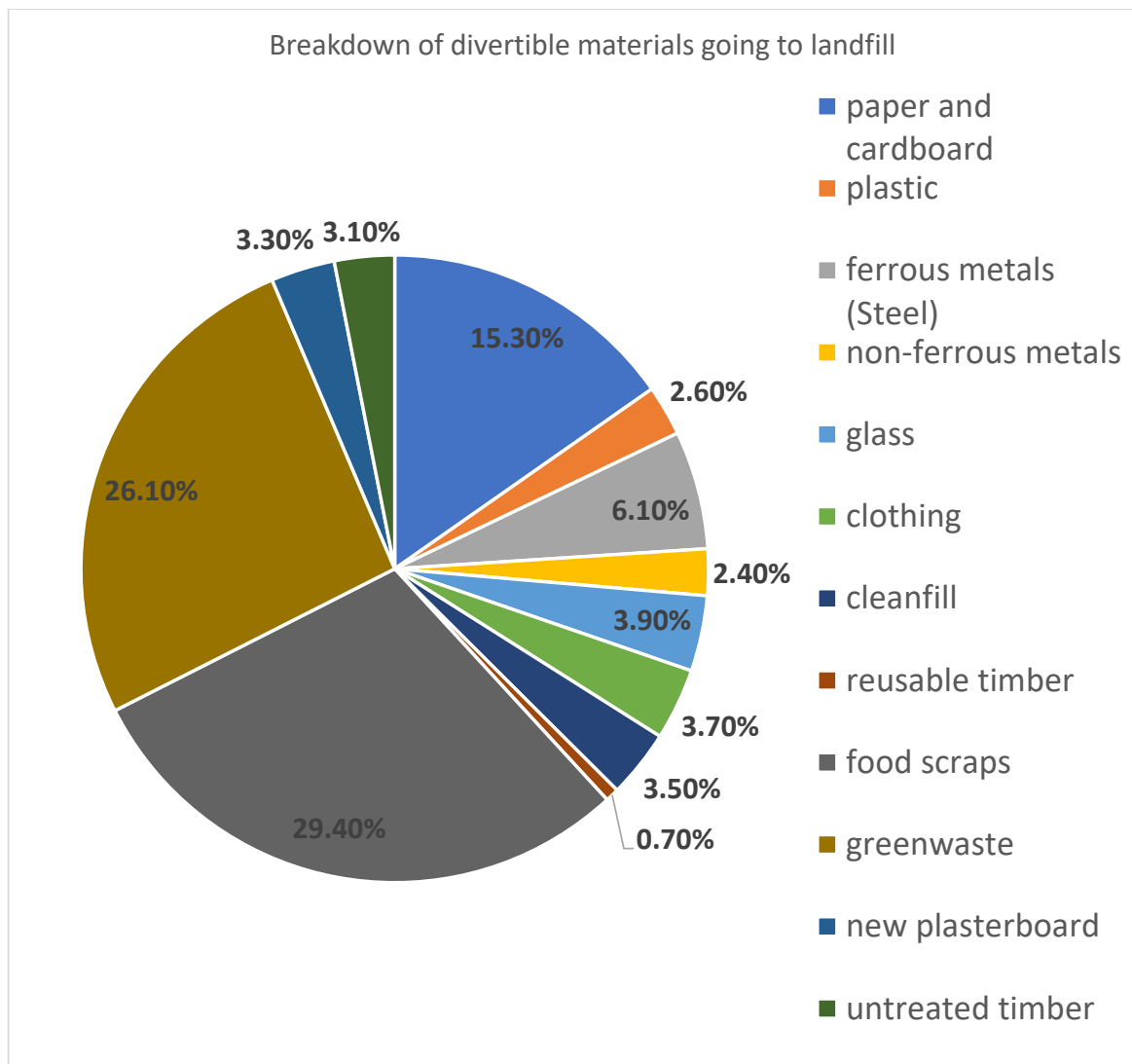


Figure 10 - Proportion of divertible materials sent to landfill

What are the opportunities for improvement?

Based on the evidence in the Waste Assessment, we think the following areas are the best opportunities for achieving our objectives and meeting the targets set in the NZ Waste Strategy 2023:

Food scraps and organic material

Just over half of the potentially divertible material in our waste is food scraps or compostable green waste. Over three-quarters of these food scraps and green waste is found in the kerbside collections.

If all food scraps and green waste were diverted from waste bins and bags into some form of composting service, this would reduce the amount of waste to landfill by around 50%. This approach

is also aligned to the new government requirement to implement a kerbside food scraps collection service by 2030.

We have included actions to work towards this objective, beginning with an in-depth analysis of the current situation including available infrastructure (such as food scraps processing facilities within the wider region). The implementation of the service is forecast for 2028/29.

Reviewing our services and the wider waste management sector in our City

Palmerston North is an outlier within local government, being the only local authority that provides a kerbside waste collection service “in-house”. Other local authorities either contract out the service to a third-party, or leave it to residents to make their own arrangements with private providers.

Despite this, only 22% of households in Palmerston North use our kerbside waste collection. Most households use a private waste collection service, which use larger wheelie bins instead of the 60L plastic bags that we provide. The Waste Assessment shows that the larger wheelie bins provided by private waste collectors contain a significantly higher proportion of recyclable and organic and green waste material.

The variety of waste collection services means there is some duplication of service provision which may be inefficient. Additionally, the competition amongst providers for customers may be driving down the cost for waste disposal, and the convenience of cheap waste disposal may make it more attractive to simply dispose of waste rather than to recycle, reuse or compost material.

Therefore, our action plan includes an action to undertake a comprehensive review of the services available in the city. This will also include analysis of whether the current arrangements are the most effective and efficient for achieving our waste minimisation outcomes. We will use the findings of this analysis to provide advice to the Council on whether we need to make changes to the waste management and minimisation services that we offer.

Improve education about minimising waste

Education about waste minimisation can be a powerful tool to use alongside other options, like service provision, and regulation to reduce the amount of waste generated and sent to landfill. We already undertake a range of education and communication initiatives that support our waste minimisation objectives. We also provide funding support to community groups for waste minimisation projects.

As the Waste Assessment shows, there is a significant proportion of divertible materials in waste – both in the kerbside collections and in the industrial, commercial and institutional sector. While we have included actions that will be working towards a new collection service for food scraps or organic waste, there is an opportunity for education initiatives to drive behavioural change in the short term. We have therefore included actions that use education and funding support to promote waste reduction, and to encourage the recovery, reduce and repurpose of material that would otherwise be sent to landfill.

4. Our response to the issues we’re facing

This section sets out our response to the issues identified through the Waste Assessment. It takes account of the local and national strategic context and has regard to the new emphasis in the NZ Waste Strategy 2023 *Te Rautaki Para* on transitioning to a circular economy.

4.1 Our Waste Minimisation Vision

“We want to minimise all waste and its impact on the environment”

Our Resource Recovery Plan has this outcome statement: “We want to minimise all waste and its impact on the environment.” We have used this outcome statement as the vision for the WMMP to show how our WMMP is working towards achieving the outcome set out in our Resource Recovery Plan. Adopting this vision statement for the WMMP recognises that waste minimisation is not confined to the resource recovery activity but has a wider impact on the environment and therefore needs to be a consideration within all Council activities.

4.2 Our objectives

We will realise our vision by working to achieve the objectives set out below. These objectives are from our Resource Recovery Plan. The Action Plan in section 5 of the WMMP identifies the steps we will take to achieve these objectives.

Objectives	What will this mean?
1. Promote waste reduction	People have easy access to clear information about how to reduce waste and the impact of change.
2. Provide support to for-purpose organisations and local communities to recover, reuse, repurpose or regenerate products	Community groups have access to funding to develop and implement initiatives that divert waste from landfill.
3. Divert waste from landfill	We have high-quality information about waste, and we implement the most effective waste diversion initiatives.
4. Provide waste collection services, including kerbside collection, the Ashhurst transfer station, and public space rubbish bins	There is a weekly kerbside waste collection service for all households in the urban area. There are public space rubbish bins throughout the city.
5. Provide recycling collection services, including kerbside recycling, drop-off centres, and public space recycling bins	There is a weekly kerbside recycling collection service for all households in the urban area, alternating between general recycling (wheelie bins) and glass (crates). There are public space recycling bins throughout the city and recycling drop-off centres in Ashhurst, Awapuni and Terrace End.
6. Monitor and manage the closed landfills	The closed landfills are compliant with regulatory requirements. The adverse environmental effects of the two closed

	landfills are well-understood and effectively managed.
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4.3 Waste minimisation target

In September 2023 the Ministry for the Environment announced policy decisions designed to improve household recycling and food scraps collections. These changes included setting performance standards for local authorities for household kerbside waste diverted from landfill.

While these performance standards are not yet in effect³, we will adopt these performance standards as interim waste minimisation targets. If the performance standards are not brought into effect, or if they are amended or delayed, then we may amend our WMMP to reflect changes to the performance standards.

Our target

“We will increase the percentage of household kerbside waste diverted from landfill over the next six years:

- 30 per cent by July 2026
- 40 percent by July 2028
- 50 percent by July 2030.”

The actions set out in our Action Plan will make a significant contribution towards achieving these targets. However, the methodology and timing for assessing compliance with these targets is still to be confirmed by Ministry for the Environment.

³ Under section 49 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, the Minister for the Environment may set performance standards for territorial authorities, which are published by *Gazette* notice.

5. Our action plan: what are we going to do?

The action plan sets out the specific things that we will do to achieve the objectives in our Resource Recovery Plan and WMMP. We intend to carry out these actions out over the six-year life of the WMMP.

In some cases, further research might be required to work out the costs and feasibility of some projects in this action plan. 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 types of contracts can be unpredictable and this also might impact the nature, timing or costs of these projects.

Action	New or existing action	Timeframe and funding
Objective 1: Promote waste reduction		
1.1 Provide information and education about waste minimisation and recycling	Existing	Ongoing Rates funded
1.2 Enforce litter and illegal dumping regulations	Existing	Ongoing Rates and income from infringement notices
Objective 2: provide support to for-purpose organisations and local communities		
2.1 Provide funding to for-purpose groups to undertake innovative recycling and reuse programmes through the Resource Recovery Fund	Existing	Annually Waste Levy
2.2 Provide informal support for community initiatives (e.g. Repair Café and community clean-up events)	Existing	Ongoing Rates funded
2.3 Provide funding to for-purpose organisations, local communities and communities of interest through Strategic Priority Grants	Existing	2024/25 Rates funded
Objective 3: divert waste from landfill		
3.1 Investigate opportunities for services for “hard-to-recycle” materials	New	Ongoing Rates Funded
3.2 Undertake data collection and analysis, to support monitoring and to identify areas for targeted waste reduction or new collection services. This includes undertaking a SWAP assessment and Waste Assessment.	New	2025/26 Waste Levy and rates funded
3.3 License waste collectors	New	2026/27 Rates funded

Action	New or existing action	Timeframe and funding
3.4 Develop and implement a construction site waste management plan	New	2025/26 Rates funded
3.5 Develop and implement an event waste management plan	New	2025/26 Rates funded
3.6 Develop a city-wide kerbside food scraps collection service	New	2024/25 – 2025/26 Rates funded
3.7 Introduce residential food scraps collection and processing	New	2028/2029 Rates Funded and Waste Levy Funded
3.8 Investigate the need for a new site for a green waste and recycling drop-off facility to support city growth	New	2024/25 Rates Funded
<i>Objective 4: provide waste collection services, including kerbside collection, the Ashhurst transfer station, and public space rubbish bins</i>		
4.1 Provide residential kerbside rubbish collection	Existing	Ongoing User Charges
4.2 Provide public space rubbish bins	Existing	Ongoing Rates Funded
4.3 Operate the Ashhurst Transfer Station	Existing	Ongoing Rates Funded and User Charges
4.4 Investigate models for kerbside waste collection service delivery	New	2024/25 Rates Funded
<i>Objective 5: provide recycling collection services, including kerbside recycling, drop-off centres, and public space recycling bins</i>		
5.1 Provide residential kerbside recycling collection and processing	Existing	Ongoing Rates Funded, Waste Levy Funded and Revenue from Commodity Sales
5.2 Provide non-residential kerbside recycling collection	Existing	Ongoing Rates Funded and User Charges
5.3 Provide public space recycling bins	Existing	Ongoing Rates Funded

Action	New or existing action	Timeframe and funding
5.4 Provide a biennial “hazardous materials” collection weekend	Existing	Every two years from 2025/26 Rates Funded
5.5 Provide recycling drop-off points and the Awapuni Resource Recovery Park	Existing	Ongoing Rates Funded and User Charges
5.6 Replace the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)	New	2025/26 Rates Funded
<i>Objective 6: monitor and manage the closed landfills</i>		
6.1 Monitor and manage the two closed landfills in accordance with relevant regulations and consents	Existing	Ongoing Rates Funded

The actions in this action plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary, such as when the Council adopts a new Long-Term Plan in 2027. Also, the Government is planning to introduce new legislation to replace the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 in 2024/25. We may also need to make changes to the WMMP and/or the Action Plan to respond to any legislative change.

6. Our funding plan

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 requires that we include information about how the implementation of the WMMP will be funded, as well as information about any grants made and expenditure of waste levy funds.

6.1 Funding options

There are 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.⁴
- Targeted rates - a charge applied to those properties receiving a particular council service
- Waste Levy funding - The Government redistributes funds from the waste disposal levy⁵ to local authorities on a per capita basis. Half of the money collected is distributed to councils. TAs must spend the levy to promote or achieve waste minimisation and in accordance with their WMMPs. WMMPs prepared by each TA set out how the levy will be used.
- 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.
- Sale of recovered materials - The sale of recovered materials can be used to help offset the cost of some initiatives.
- Private sector funding - The private sector may undertake to fund/supply certain waste minimisation activities, for example in order to generate income from the sale of recovered materials. We may work with private sector service providers where this will assist in achieving the WMMP goals.

When choosing which of these funding sources to apply to the actions in this WMMP, we will consider the following factors:

- Giving priority to managing harmful wastes;
- Minimising waste and the reduction of residual waste to landfill;
- Taking account of full-cost pricing – e.g. ‘polluter pays’;
- Weighing the public good vs. private good component of a particular service;
- Ensuring 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;
- Recognising the importance of protecting public health;
- The affordability of the funding source; and

⁴ Most councils in the region own transfer stations and or landfills and are able to set the fees at these facilities and can derive income from these activities. In accordance with s46 (2) of the Act, councils can charge fees for a facility that are higher or lower than required to recover the costs to provide the service, providing the incentives or disincentives will promote waste minimisation.

⁵ The waste levy, currently \$50 for class 1 landfills, will increase to \$60 in July 2025. Since 2021, the waste levy has incrementally been increasing, and expanded to cover other classes of landfill such as construction and demolition. For more information, visit <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/waste-disposal-levy/expansion/>

- Cost effectiveness.

The proposed sources of funding for each of the actions are noted in the tables in section 5. Budgets to deliver the activities set out in this plan are included in our draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

6.2 Waste levy funding

We receive, based on our population, a share of national waste levy funds from the Ministry for the Environment. It is estimated that at the current rate our total share of waste levy funding will be approximately \$1.47M in 23/24.

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 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 on education and communication, services, policy research and reporting, to provide grants, to support contract costs, or as infrastructure capital.

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 Waste Minimisation Fund, either separately, with other Councils, or with another party. This Fund provides additional waste levy funds for waste minimisation activities.

6.3 Funding business and community actions

We have the ability under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 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.

Our Support and Funding Policy sets out how we will provide funding for projects that align with the objectives of our WMMP. The following is a summary of the policy:

Eligibility	Open to eligible legal entities with a proposal that will be implemented in Palmerston North for the benefit of local residents.
Exclusions	The following applicants and expenditure will not be eligible for funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large corporations; • Ongoing operational costs beyond the life of the initiative; or • Recipients of central government’s ‘waste minimisation fund’.
Priorities	New or upscaling an existing project, activity or service that will contribute to one of the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction in the amount of waste being created; • reuse or upcycle of end of life material; • recycling waste material; or • alignment with actions in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. <p>In addition to the above, proposals will receive a higher rating if the applicant is either a:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• local community;• for-purpose group; or• locally-owned small business.
Allocation	There will be one funding round per financial year. Assessment and allocation decisions will be made by staff. Funding allocations may range from \$2,500 to \$15,000.

7. Monitoring, evaluating and reporting progress

We will continue to monitor and evaluate progress against the actions in the Action Plan. We will report to the appropriate Council committee annually on that progress.

8. Supporting information

The Palmerston North City Council Waste Assessment 2023 can be found on our website www.pncc.govt.nz

9. Glossary of terms

Disposal	Final deposit of waste into or onto land, or incineration
Diverted material	Anything that is no longer required for its original purpose and, but for commercial or other waste minimisation activities, would be disposed of or discarded.
Food scraps	Any unused food including from preparing meals, leftovers, scraps, spoiled food, and coffee grounds
Green waste	Waste largely from the garden such as hedge clippings, tree/bush prunings, lawn clippings
Hazardous waste	Waste that can cause harm or damage, to people or the environment, like strong chemicals. Shouldn't go into landfills.
Landfill	Tip or dump. A disposal facility as defined in S.7 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, excluding incineration. Includes, by definition in the WMA, only those facilities that accept 'household waste'. Properly referred to as a Class 1 landfill
LTP	Long-Term Plan
MfE	Ministry for the Environment
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) extraction of materials or energy from waste or diverted material for further use or processing; and b) includes making waste or diverted material into compost
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 material, or for a similar purpose
Transfer station	Where waste can be sorted for recycling or reprocessing, or is dumped and put in to larger trucks for transport to landfill
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) means subjecting waste to any physical, biological, or chemical process to change its volume or character so that it may be disposed of with no or reduced adverse effect on the environment; but b) does not include dilution of waste
Waste	<p>Means, according to the WMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Anything disposed of or discarded, and b) Includes a type of waste that is defined by its composition or source (for example, organic waste, electronic waste, or construction and demolition waste); and c) To avoid doubt, includes any component or element of diverted material, if the component or element is disposed or discarded.
Waste Assessment	A document summarising the current situation of waste management in a locality, with facts and figures, and required under the Waste Minimisation Act.
Waste Hierarchy	A list of waste management options with decreasing priority
WMA	Waste Minimisation Act (2008)
WMMP	A Waste Management and Minimisation Plan as defined by s43 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008

Mahere taumanu para Resource recovery plan

We want to minimise all waste and its impact on the environment.

The national Te Rautaki Para Waste Strategy provides a roadmap for a low-emissions, low-waste society built upon a circular economy. A circular economy is one where products are better able to be recovered, reused, repurposed or regenerated. This model is an alternative to a 'take-make-use-waste' approach to our products and purchases.

The national changes will reshape the way we manage city waste and increase our resource recovery. We want all our activities, including purchasing goods and services, to focus on waste-reduction.

Ka aha mātou?

What will we do?

Promote waste reduction

What will this mean?

People have easy access to clear information about how to reduce waste and the impact of change.

Specific actions

- Provide information and education about waste minimisation and recycling
- Enforce litter and illegal dumping regulations

Provide support for-purpose organisations and local communities to recover, reuse, repurpose or regenerate products

What will this mean?

Community groups have access to funding to develop and implement initiatives that divert waste from landfill.

Specific actions

- Provide funding for-purpose groups to undertake innovative recycling and reuse programmes through:
 - Resource Recovery Fund
- Provide informal support for community initiatives (e.g. Repair Café and community clean-up events)

New or one-off actions

- Provide funding to for-purpose organisations, local communities, and communities of interest through:
 - Strategic Priority Grants

Divert waste from landfill

What will this mean?

Council has high-quality information about waste. Council implements the most effective waste diversion initiatives.

Specific actions

- Investigate opportunities for services for "hard-to-recycle" materials

New or one-off actions

- Identify areas for targeted waste reduction or new collection services (year 1)
- License Waste Collectors (year 3)
- Develop and implement a construction site waste management plan (year 2)
- Develop and implement an event waste management plan (year 2)
- Develop a city-wide kerbside food scraps collection service (years 1 and 2)
- Investigate the need for a new site for a green waste and recycling drop-off facility to support city growth (year 1)

Provide recycling collection services, including kerbside recycling, drop-off centres and public space recycling bins

What will this mean?

There is a weekly kerbside recycling collection service for all households in the urban area, alternating between general recycling (wheelie bins) and glass (crates). There are public space recycling bins throughout the city and recycling drop-off centres in Ashhurst, Awapuni, and Terrace End.

Specific actions

- Provide residential kerbside recycling collection
- Provide non-residential kerbside recycling collection
- Provide public space recycling bins
- Provide a biennial "hazardous materials" collection weekend
- Provide Recycling drop-off points and the Awapuni Resource Recovery Park

New or one-off actions

- Replace the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) (year 2)

Monitor and manage the closed landfills

What will this mean?

The closed landfills are compliant with regulatory requirements. The adverse environmental effects of the two closed landfills are well-understood and effectively managed.

Specific actions

- Monitor and manage the two closed landfills in accordance with relevant regulations and consents

Provide waste collection services, including kerbside collection, the Ashhurst transfer station, and public space rubbish bins

What will this mean?

There is a weekly kerbside waste collection service for all households in the urban area. There are public space rubbish bins throughout the city.

Specific actions

- Provide residential kerbside rubbish collection
- Provide public space rubbish bins
- Operate the Ashhurst Transfer Station

New or one-off actions

- Investigate models for kerbside waste collection service delivery (year 1)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 13 March 2024

TITLE: Update on the Low Carbon Fund 2023/24

PRESENTED BY: David Watson, Senior Climate Change Advisor

APPROVED BY: David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Update on the Low Carbon Fund 2023/24' presented to the Sustainability Committee on 13 March 2024.

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 The Low Carbon Fund was established through the 2021 Long Term Plan (LTP) and provides up to \$1,000,000 of capital funding per year to enable investments in organisational greenhouse gas emission reductions. The fund prioritises for allocation to internal projects based upon their capital cost, operational savings, emission savings, and wider strategic benefit.
- 1.2 On 16 August 2023, the Sustainability Committee resolved: *"That the Chief Executive report progress on Financial Year 2023/24 Low Carbon Fund utilisation to the Sustainability Committee in Quarter 3 of Financial Year 2023/24"*.
- 1.3 This memorandum provides information on the activities of the Low Carbon Fund between July 2023 and March 2024. A further report on the Low Carbon Fund between March and July 2024 will be presented to a future committee meeting.

2. BACKGROUND

Strategic Context

- 2.1 The Eco City Strategy 2021 sets a net 30% reduction target for citywide greenhouse gas emissions (compared to the 2018 baseline). Council recognises that a key aspect of achieving this goal must be reducing its own operational emissions. Progress has been steady, with a 31.5% reduction in organisational emissions since 2015/16, as reported in the 2022/23 Annual Organisational Emissions Inventory. However, there is still a long way to go to meet, for example, the requirement of the Climate Change Response (Zero

Carbon) Act 2019 for net-zero emissions by 2050. In light of this, infrastructure decisions will often 'lock-in' emissions through the lifetime of the asset, in some cases making Council's task more difficult (and more costly) than it needs to be in the absence of up-front investment (e.g. through expensive retrofitting).

- 2.2 Even in the absence of this strategic driver, a substantial incentive exists to modernise Council assets and reduce costs through improved energy efficiency. Thus, the purpose of the Low Carbon Fund is to provide flexibility, enabling Council to take advantage of unforeseen and unbudgeted opportunities, such as sources of external funding, synergies with other programmes or early renewal of energy-inefficient assets, in order to reduce organisational emissions and, where possible, costs. The Low Carbon Fund also has a secondary purpose or benefit in that it assists with growing organisational awareness and capability regarding low or zero carbon investment.

Scope and Methodology

- 2.3 The purpose of the fund is to flexibly provide capital to enable operational emission reductions. The scope for funding is therefore the same as that in Council's annual organisational emissions inventory. These are emissions that occur across the lifetime of an asset or activity and sit within our operational control. Conversely, 'embodied emissions' of construction materials, or emissions otherwise controlled by another organisation, are out of scope for funding through the Fund.
- 2.4 Council Officers have identified several eligible and operationally deliverable projects which were assessed by the Senior Climate Change Advisor with assistance from the Finance Unit. Each project is analysed in terms of its 'Net Present Value' (specifically, looking at their projected operational savings discounted by the Council's cost of capital subtracted by the capital cost of the project), the projected carbon savings, and a 30% weighting to wider strategic benefit, if any. Applications are then prioritised by which projects deliver the greatest benefit per dollar. Consequently, leaving aside deliverability concerns, the fund is generally ambivalent to the scale of the project, and a \$30,000 application is at no inherent disadvantage compared to a \$300,000 application. If the former provides greater value for money, then it will receive priority. The current cut off benchmark for funding is the spot price of carbon through the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) (this price has varied from \$75.50 per tonne on 05.12.2023 to \$68.70 per tonne on 22.12.2023. Forward projection figures indicate an increase to approximately \$95 by 2028⁴) – only projects that deliver emission reductions at a lower cost per tonne of carbon equivalent than the cost Council could pay through the ETS are eligible.
- 2.5 Following this analysis, a series of recommendations are made to the Chief Executive to approve the re-allocation of funds from the Low Carbon Fund into the respective programmes associated with each project that meets the

⁴ Figures provided by Commtrade.co.nz on behalf of Jarden Securities Ltd.

above criteria. These are then delivered by the respective activity teams as with any other programme.

3. FUNDING ALLOCATION – 2023/24

3.1 A total of \$496,640 was allocated between July 2023 and March 2024 to the following capital programmes:

Project Description	Capital Cost	Net Present Savings	Carbon Savings (tonnes)	Project Status
Marginal cost for Electric Vehicle for Executive Officers	\$129,960	-\$12,884	279.44 [-\$46.11/t]	Complete
Electric ATV for the Resource Recovery Team	\$36,740	-\$4,288.02	24.5 [-\$174.99/t]	Complete
Electric Ride-on Mower Renewal	\$54,610	-\$2,131.93	22.00 [-\$96.88/t]	Complete
LED lighting upgrade at reserves car parks	\$45,645	-\$30,942.95	12.12 [-\$2,552.07/t]	Complete
Trial of electric power tools for parks teams	\$9,895	-\$9,018.24	67.33 [-\$133.89/t]	Complete
Enabling works for installation of a wood pellet boiler at the depot nursery	\$25,000	N/A	804.13 [N/A]	In Progress: Installation completed Testing scheduled February 2024
Electric pool vehicles	\$194,790	-\$4,577.44	419.07 [-\$10.92/t]	Complete

Table 1: List of 2023/24 Low Carbon Fund Allocations to date

3.2 Over the lifetime of these assets, the projects are estimated to save ~\$55,747.58 (above capital and interest costs, in 2023 dollars). The projects are estimated to save 810.73 tCO₂e that would otherwise have been emitted.

- 3.3 While solar systems generally offer considerable cost and carbon savings, specific issues at potential sites can make them ineligible for support from the low carbon fund. Eight sites have been investigated for solar systems this year that were not subsequently funded. In one instance this decision was due to structural issues with the roof and site-specific concerns. Five of the sites were not suitable financially due to a low return on investment. The remaining two buildings were suitable candidates for solar but could not be allocated LCF funding as the electricity bill is directly passed on to tenants occupying the building so no financial savings could be realised.
- 3.4 Several sites with substantial energy use, notably the Arena, Library and Lido, were investigated and their capacity for solar will be assessed in future years alongside scheduled roof repairs or other planned maintenance works to minimise any conflicts and maximise cost savings during installation.
- 3.5 In addition to the allocations in Table 1 several projects have been scoped and assessed for funding but are awaiting further information before they progress any further.

Project Description	Capital Cost	Net Present Savings	Carbon Savings (tonnes)	Project Status
Installation of solar panels at the Awapuni Resource Recovery Centre	~\$343,250	~-\$52,313	~413.67	Negotiating with supplier
Swimming pool covers	~\$143,450	~-\$5,935	Awaiting confirmation	Testing effect of covers on energy use
LED lighting upgrade Freyberg Swimming Pool	Awaiting confirmation of installation costs		~19.24	Negotiating with supplier

Table 2: List of 2023/24 Low Carbon Fund proposals in progress

- 3.6 Over the lifetime of these assets, these scoped projects are estimated to save approximately ~\$58,250 (above capital and interest costs, in 2023 dollars). The projects are estimated to save an additional ~1275 tCO₂e that would otherwise have been emitted. These figures will be confirmed once the projects are finalised.
- 3.7 The total allocation to date is \$496,640, this leaves \$503,360 remaining in the fund. When projects that are awaiting final approval are included, we expect the entire 23/24 fund to be allocated by the end of the financial year.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Officers will continue to look for opportunities through the remainder of the financial year, particularly to provide marginal additional funding to projects to enable improvements in efficiency or sustainability.
- 4.2 With the continuing decline in the cost of installing solar, we expect many solar projects not currently eligible to receive funding will become so in the future.
- 4.3 The approach taken in apportioning this fund is widely applicable to Council investment and budget setting decisions. A mechanism for determining the whole life cost of an asset and identifying projects where additional up-front Capex expenditure can result in whole life savings, both financial and in emissions, would be highly desirable. More information on carbon calculation and assessment will be provided to staff making investment and purchasing decisions in the future.

5. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City	
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Climate Change	
The action is:	
Create a 'low carbon fund' to allow Council the flexibility to respond to opportunities to reduce organisational emissions and, where possible, costs.	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	This memorandum details the progress in delivering the identified action.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 13 March 2024

TITLE: Palmerston North City Council Carbon Neutral Feasibility Study Update

PRESENTED BY: Adam Jarvis, Principal Climate Change Advisor

APPROVED BY: David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO COUNCIL

1. That as part of the process of finalising the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, Council either reaffirm the existing corporate emissions reduction target or replace the existing corporate emissions reduction target with a different one.
2. That Council note that further officer advice on the corporate emissions reduction target will be provided alongside deliberations on the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.

1. ISSUE

In October 2011 Council published a Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (the 2011 action plan). This document includes actions and corporate goals to address climate change with the first being:

1. Strive to be a zero carbon organisation by 2050

The 2021-31 Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) Long-Term Plan (LTP) included an action to: Complete a feasibility study to determine process, actions and time required for PNCC to be carbon neutral.

Four scenarios to achieve the goal of creating a carbon⁵ neutral Council were presented to the Environmental Sustainability Committee on 21 September 2022.

Scenario 1 – Provided a baseline case assuming population growth in line with predictions and enactment of the National Emissions Reduction Plan. Other local or regional policy changes were excluded. This scenario is not intended as a likely position for Council to take but acts as a baseline or 'do nothing' scenario to judge other scenarios against.

Scenario 2 – This scenario included the changes in scenario 1 and considers projects that can be reasonably expected to be cost negative or neutral.

⁵ For ease of reading 'carbon' will be used throughout this report to represent all greenhouse gases including those that do not contain carbon molecules such as ammonia and some refrigerants.

Scenario 3 – This scenario built on scenario 2 by adding an internal cost per tonne of carbon set at \$85 per tonne. This allows for projects that incur an overall cost but remain more cost-effective than purchasing carbon credits.

Scenario 4 – This scenario included all currently available technology regardless of cost. This scenario is not intended as a likely position for Council to take but rather demonstrates the limit of what is theoretically achievable.

Including landfill emissions the following results were predicted:

Scenario 2 resulted in a 49% carbon saving by 2035 and a 71% reduction by 2050. This would require the planting of 21Ha of new trees every year, starting in 2024, to offset the remaining emissions and achieve net 0%.

Scenario 3 resulted in a 53% carbon saving by 2035 and a 77% reduction by 2050. This would require the planting of 16Ha of new trees every year, starting in 2023, to offset the remaining emissions and achieve net 0%.

The 21 September 2022 Environmental Sustainability Committee resolved that:

1. *The Council receive the memorandum titled 'PNCC Zero Carbon Feasibility Study' and the attachment titled 'List of considered projects by scenario' for information.*
2. *The Council use the information provided in the memorandum titled 'PNCC Zero Carbon Feasibility Study' to inform future direction setting, including but not limited to, the formal adoption of a carbon neutrality target, the selection of a preferred emissions scenario, and resourcing to achieve that trajectory through the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.*
3. *The Chief Executive conduct an options analysis for the emissions reduction scenarios, including accelerated versions of Scenarios 2 and 3, in time for Council to identify a preferred scenario to consult on during the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan process.*

During the presentation of the September 2022 feasibility study, elected members indicated they would prefer a trajectory between scenarios 2 and 3. This informed the preparation of the Oranga Papaioea City Strategy, the Climate Change and Sustainability Plan, and the programmes developed for the 2024-34 LTP as referenced in resolution 2. However, given the model's descriptive rather than prescriptive nature, there was no basis for the development of a new accelerated study until draft budgets were agreed. That is, until substantive decisions were made about future direction, the model would be essentially unchanged.

This memorandum provides an analysis of the changes to the feasibility model resulting from the draft 2024-34 LTP actions and budgets as referenced in resolution 2 and the options analysis requested in resolution 3 from September 2022.

As outlined in the recommendation, as part of finalising the 2024-34 LTP, the Council can consider whether to reaffirm the existing 2011 target or adopt a different corporate emissions reduction target for the organisation.

Should the Council wish to adopt a different corporate target, specific Officer advice can be provided. At present there is an inconsistency in the language between the Council's 2011 target and the Government's emissions reduction target set through the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.

Separately the Council has adopted the following citywide target alongside the draft 2024-34 Long-Term Plan supporting documentation:

- *By 2034, there is at least a 44% reduction in citywide greenhouse gas emissions per capita (from our 2016/17 baseline)*

2. BACKGROUND

Strategic Context

As noted above, in October 2011 Council published a Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (the 2011 action plan). This document includes actions and corporate goals to address climate change with the first being:

1. Strive to be a zero carbon⁶ organisation by 2050

The 2011 action plan included a number of proposals to reduce emissions that have been used in developing the model scenarios. It is notable that the general tone of these actions has not changed significantly over the intervening period with an emphasis on energy efficiency and new technology, the creation of budgets specifically directed at key areas and the inclusion of operational cost savings in business cases and investment decisions.

Better data and dedicated staff resource has allowed for the delivery of some of the 2011 action plan proposals through mechanisms such as the low carbon fund, although many of the structural and behaviour change related elements are still to be fully implemented.

Nationally government has set an emissions reduction target, through the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019, of carbon neutrality⁷ by 2050.

The recently published Our Atmosphere and Climate 2023 Report (published in October by the Ministry for the Environment & Stats NZ) indicates that on the current

⁶ Defined as less than 5% of the 2006 baseline carbon emission inventory.

⁷ Defined as a reduction in net emissions of all greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050 and a reduction in emissions of biogenic methane to 24–47 per cent below 2017 levels by 2050, including to 10 per cent below 2017 levels by 2030.

trajectory Aotearoa New Zealand's gross emissions are projected to steadily decrease by 27.6 percent between 2020 and 2050 (MfE, 2022).

Council's existing policies, along with those of Horizons and national government, provide a foundation for climate progress; as reflected in Scenario 2. Council can continue to support transition away from fossil fuel use and encourage further reductions through additional actions (modelled in Scenario 3) to modernise the way Council as an organisation uses energy, prioritises investments and delivers capital projects and renewals.

Scope and Methodology

The 2022 model and the updated scenarios start from the 2022 PNCC Organisational Emissions Inventory data and then extrapolate historic trends to determine the future direction. The main factors in this are the predicted growth of the city's population, national government proposals around reducing emissions from electricity generation and local changes to technology (in particular vehicles and heating) and infrastructure. These local changes include an assumption about the potential minimum emissions from any one source and whether the change from one technology to another eliminates or merely reduces overall emissions (for example hot water could be produced by more efficient gas technology, reducing current emissions, or replaced with electric, changing the emissions source, or converted to solar hot water eliminating emissions during the day).

The model developed in 2022 to project emissions to 2050 included an assessment of predicted energy use based on national trend data. The updated model includes a more detailed breakdown of the individual components of each category to include step changes based on decarbonisation efforts proposed in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan. This takes account of the fact that not all reductions will be gradual and linear but could occur over a very short timeframe, such as when replacing large heating systems.

Some elements of the inventory data were not considered as variables and were not altered over time or between scenarios. The largest of these is methane emissions from the closed Awapuni landfill, which are assumed to be following a standard maturation process as the remaining biological material in the landfill decays. These emissions will not change with population or national policy and were considered to follow a standard downward trend. This change accounts for the 57% reduction in emission by 2050 seen in Scenario 1 (do nothing).

Some technological upgrades and large infrastructure projects such as those planned for urban growth contain the potential for both emissions reduction and emissions increase depending on the specific design and delivery of these projects. In the absence of further evidence it has been assumed that these will cancel each other out in the aggregate.

It is considered likely that operational savings and efficiencies can be achieved under Scenario 2 that would result in a net financial saving, however quantifying this is complex and outside the current scope of the model.

3. RESULTS

The following results were produced by the two models.

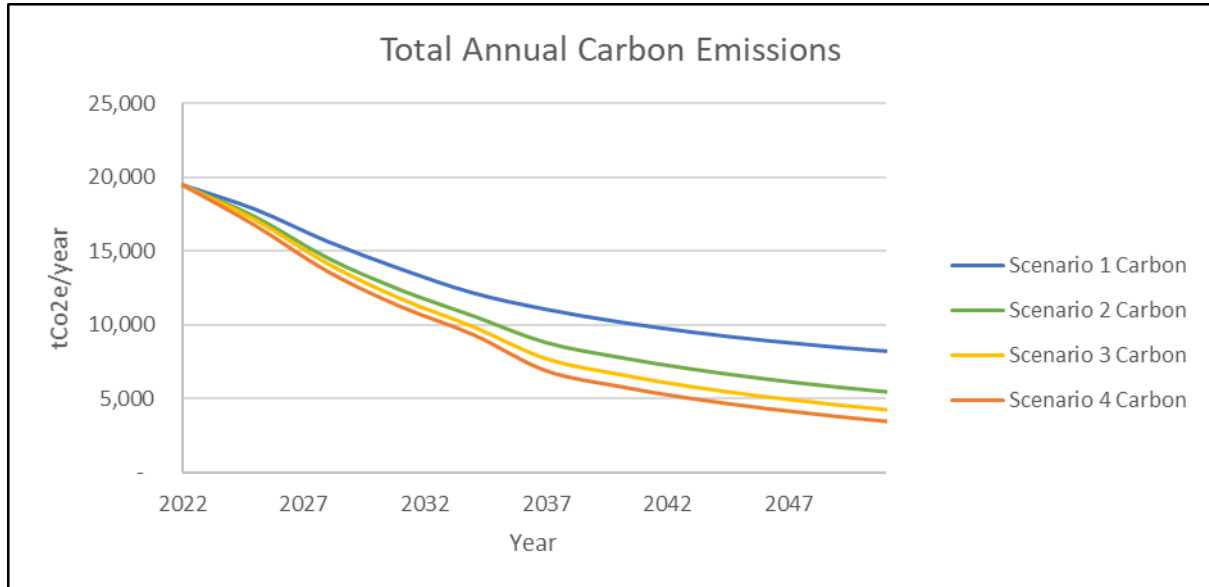


Figure 1: 2022 Emissions Scenarios Model

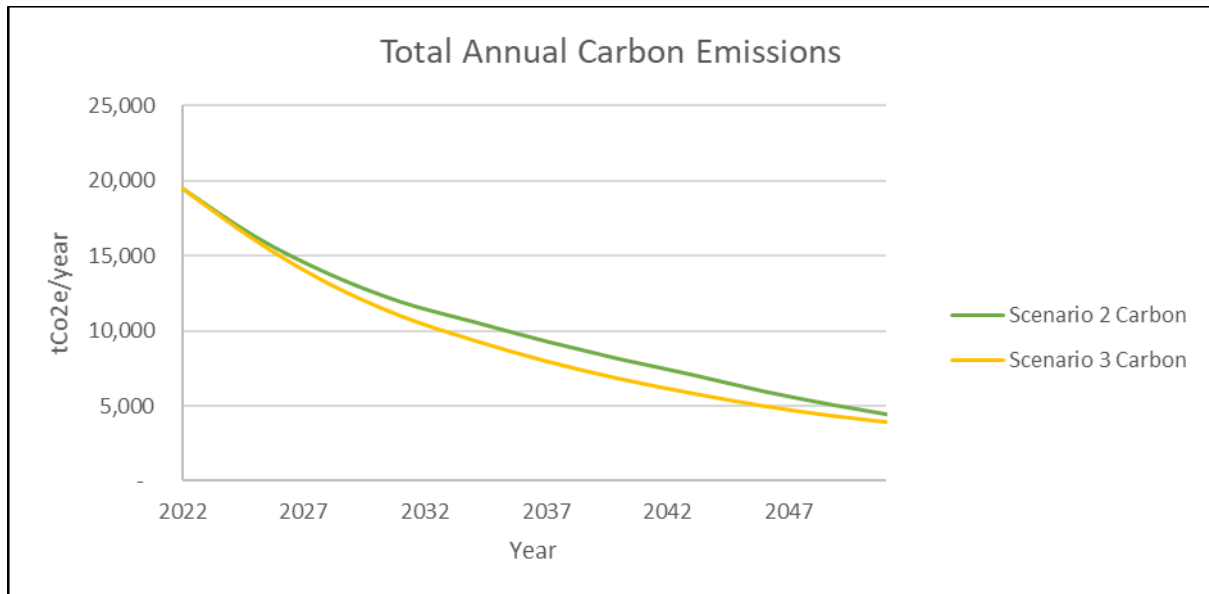


Figure 2: 2024 Updated Emissions Scenarios Model

Date	2022	2025	2028	2031	2034	2037	2040	2043	2046	2049	2052
Scenario 2	19,461	16,348	13,968	12,166	10,335	9,064	7,908	6,863	5,747	4,786	3,939
Scenario 3	19,461	16,345	13,468	11,352	9,421	8,044	6,878	5,904	5,025	4,324	3,758

Table 1: 2024 Updated Carbon Emissions Scenarios Model Data (tonnes)

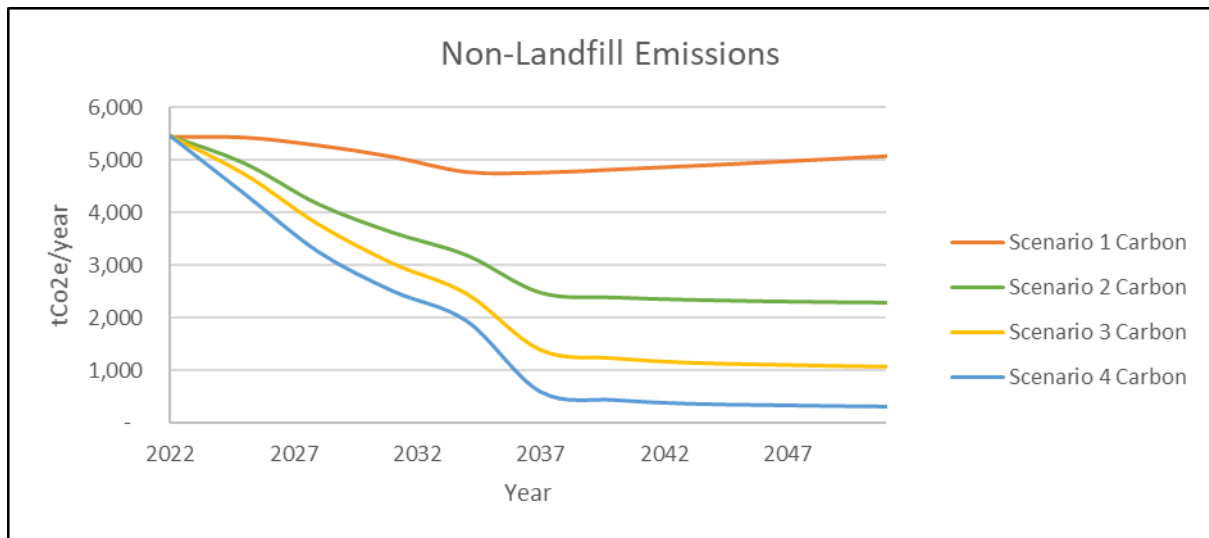


Figure 3: 2022 Emissions Scenarios Model

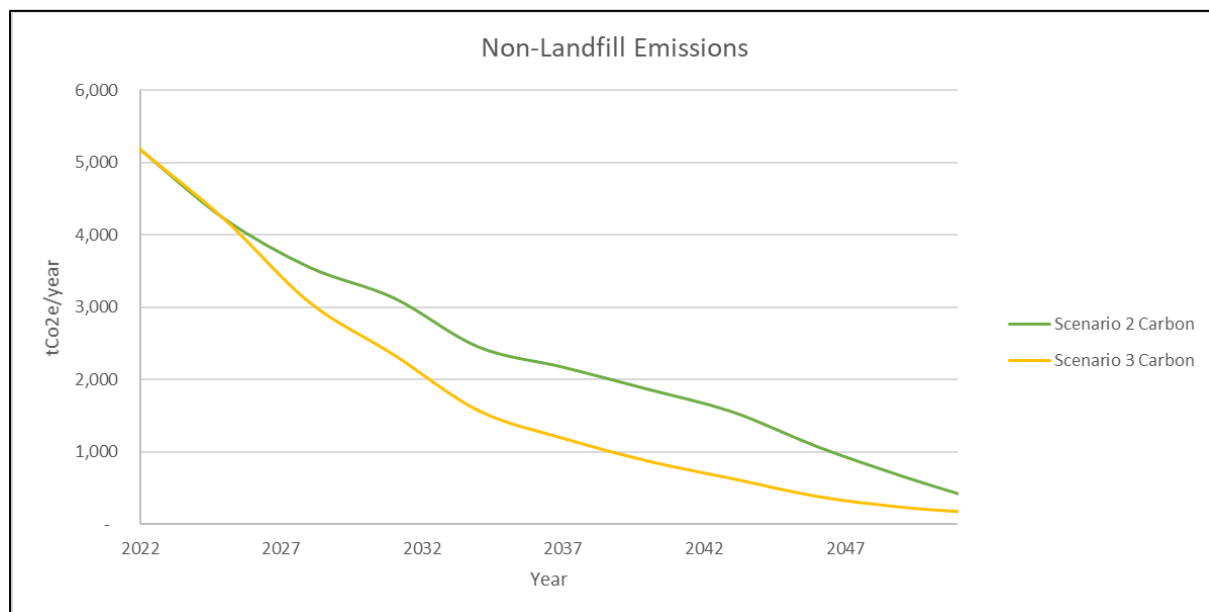


Figure 4: 2024 Updated Emissions Scenarios Model

Date	2022	2025	2028	2031	2034	2037	2040	2043	2046	2049	2052
Scenario 2	5,188	4,223	3,554	3,127	2,449	2,169	1,863	1,549	1,068	660	296
Scenario 3	5,188	4,219	3,075	2,347	1,575	1,192	878	635	389	239	153

Table 2: 2024 Updated Non-landfill Carbon Emissions Scenarios Model Data (tonnes).

Both updated scenarios result in a similar minimum emission value at 2050 (between 3% and 6% of the 2022 baseline) however the trajectory of scenario 3 is significantly steeper resulting in an overall emissions saving of ~6256 tonnes over 30 years.

4. OFFSET PLANTING

In order to reach net zero, native tree planting should aim to gradually increase with the aim of achieving 15Ha per year by 2034 and continue for several decades. This is in part due to the volume of trees required to offset emissions that are not amenable to reduction (such as landfill emissions) and the fact that trees absorb carbon at different rates through their life, making 10 to 30 year old trees the most useful in terms of carbon absorption.

In addition to carbon offsetting vegetation provides several co-benefits to the city. These include shading, food, biodiversity enhancement and amenity.

The current review of the Vegetation Framework provides an opportunity for the Council to further consider the role of vegetation in addressing our climate change obligations and commitments, e.g. identifying opportunities for afforestation projects. A Council workshop on the Vegetation Framework is scheduled for 13 March 2024, the same day this memorandum is considered by the Committee.

5. NEXT STEPS

As has been discussed during the Long-Term Plan deliberations it will be Council's responsibility to determine how achieving net zero carbon is prioritised against other elements of the LTP. The results of these decisions will be reflected in the future carbon reductions achieved across Council.

Given the age of the active target set in the 2011 Climate Action Plan Council may wish to consider re-affirming the organisational net zero emissions target or adopting a different one. This target could be adopted alongside the completion of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan process.

The results of ongoing reforms to Council processes including those highlighted in the Oranga Papaioea City Strategy will continue to be presented to Council through the quarterly reports and as part of future emissions inventory, tree planting and low carbon fund expenditure reports.

6. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?	No
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City	

<p>The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in the Climate Change Plan</p> <p>The action is: Complete a feasibility study to determine process, actions and time required for PNCC to be carbon neutral.</p>	
<p>Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being</p>	<p>This memorandum helps to define the scope of future carbon reduction projects and programmes.</p>

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE

TO: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: 13 March 2024

TITLE: Committee Work Schedule

RECOMMENDATION TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive its Work Schedule dated March 2024.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE – MARCH 2024

Estimated Report Date	Subject	Officer Responsible	Current Position	Date of Instruction & Clause number
13 March 2024	PNCC Zero Carbon Feasibility Study – options emissions reductions scenarios	Chief Planning Officer	Aligned with LTP process	Environmental Sustainability Committee 21 September 2022 Clause 22-22
13 March 2024	Compile a draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) for consultation concurrent with the consultation or as part of the consultation on the Resource Recovery Plan/Long Term Plan	Chief Planning Officer		29 November 2023 Clause 36-23
13 March 2024	Annual Sector Lead Report: Environment Network Manawatu	Chief Customer Officer		Terms of Reference
13 March 2024	6 monthly update on the Low Carbon Fund FY2023/24	Chief Planning Officer		16 August 2023 Clause 23-23

13 March 2024	Wastewater Discharge Consent Project—Quarterly Update	Chief Infrastructure Officer		11 May 2022 Clause 26-22
22 May 2024	Options to transition out of small vehicle fleet ownership and long-term lease, with a view to utilisation of a carshare or similar services Financial Year 2027 onwards	Chief Planning Officer & Chief Infrastructure Officer		Council 29 Nov 2023 Clause 193.3-23
22 May 2024	Environmental Sustainability Report 2023	CE Unit Manager		Terms of Reference of the Committee Last report presented May 2022
22 May 2024	Opportunities for native species re-introductions in the Turitea Reserve area - Update (incl projected funding requirements)	Chief Planning Officer		17 November 2021 Clause 38.21 7 June 2022 Clause 16-23 Last update presented Jun 2023
21 August 2024	Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Joint Action Committee Update	Chief Planning Officer		Climate change plan ongoing Last report presented Aug 2023
16 October 2024	Citywide Emissions Inventory 2023 Annual Report	Chief Planning Officer		Climate change plan ongoing action #3 Last report presented Oct 23
16 October 2024	Low Carbon Roadmap - options to achieve the city-wide goal of 30%	Chief Planning Officer		30 March 2022 Clause 6-22 Climate change plan

	reduction in emissions by 2031			ongoing action #5
16 October 2024	PNCC Organisational Emissions Inventory 2023/24 Annual Report	Chief Planning Officer		Climate change plan ongoing action #1 Last report presented Oct 23
16 October 2024	Waste management and minimisation plan 2019 - annual progress update for 2023/24 FY	Chief Infrastructure Officer		9 Sept 2020 Clause 17-20 Last report presented Oct 23
16 October 2024	6 monthly update on the Low Carbon Fund FY2023/24	Chief Planning Officer		