



KOMITI KAUPAPA TAIAO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

7 July 2022

Order Paper for the meeting to be held in the
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt,
on:

Thursday 14 July 2022 commencing at 2.00pm

The meeting will be livestreamed on Council's Facebook page.
Members of the public wishing to speak to an item on the agenda are asked to contact
democraticservicesteam@huttcity.govt.nz

Membership

	Cr J Briggs (Chair)
Mayor C Barry	Cr K Brown
Cr S Edwards	Deputy Mayor T Lewis
Cr A Mitchell (Deputy Chair)	Cr N Shaw

For the dates and times of Council Meetings please visit www.huttcity.govt.nz

Have your say

You can speak under public comment to items on the agenda to the Mayor and Councillors at this meeting. Please let us know by noon the working day before the meeting. You can do this by emailing DemocraticServicesTeam@huttcity.govt.nz or calling the Democratic Services Team on 04 570 6666 | 0800 HUTT CITY

CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Membership:	8
Meeting Cycle:	Meets on an eight weekly basis, as required or at the requisition of the Chair
Quorum:	Half of the members
Reports to:	Council

OVERVIEW:

This Committee has responsibility for oversight of Council's environment and climate change response.

The Committee is aligned with the Environment & Sustainability Directorate.

Its areas of focus are:

- Oversight of Council's plan to reach Carbon Zero, including raising awareness of climate-related issues
- Developing and implementing climate and environmental policies and plans including ecology, biodiversity and biosecurity matters
- Waste and recycling

PURPOSE:

To develop, implement, monitor and review strategies, policies, plans and functions associated with environmental and climate change activities.

DELEGATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE'S AREAS OF FOCUS:

- All powers necessary to perform the Committee's responsibilities including the activities outlined below.
- Develop required strategies and policies. Recommend draft and final versions to Council for adoption where they have a city-wide or strategic focus.
- Implement, monitor and review strategies and policies.
- Oversee the implementation of major projects provided for in the LTP or Annual Plan.
- Oversee budgetary decisions provided for in the LTP or Annual Plan.
- Oversee the development and implementation of plans and functions that promote environmental wellbeing, including Council's plan to reach Carbon Zero.
- Maintain an overview of work programmes carried out by the Council's Environment & Sustainability Directorate.
- Address matters related to ecological protection, the protection of biodiversity, and biosecurity.

- Address matters related to climate change, including raising awareness of climate-related issues, advocating for climate change issues and actions, and championing initiatives that reduce carbon emissions.
- Recommend to Council the acquisition or disposal of assets, unless the acquisition or disposal is provided for specifically in the LTP.
- Conduct any consultation processes required on issues before the Committee.
- Approval and forwarding of submissions.
- Any other matters delegated to the Committee by Council in accordance with approved policies and bylaws.
- The committee has the powers to perform the responsibilities of another committee where it is necessary to make a decision prior to the next meeting of that other committee. When exercised, the report/minutes of the meeting require a resolution noting that the committee has performed the responsibilities of another committee and the reason/s.
- If a policy or project relates primarily to the responsibilities of the Climate Change & Sustainability Committee, but aspects require additional decisions by the Communities Committee and/or Infrastructure & Regulatory Committee, then the Climate Change & Sustainability Committee has the powers to make associated decisions on behalf of those other committees. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that matters do not need to be taken to more than one of those committees for decisions.

HUTT CITY COUNCILKOMITI KAUPAPA TAIAO
CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Thursday 14 July 2022 commencing at 2.00pm.

ORDER PAPERPUBLIC BUSINESS**1. APOLOGIES**

No apologies have been received.

2. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA (22/996)

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te
tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tihei mauri ora.

*Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened
air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Generally up to 30 minutes is set aside for public comment (three minutes per speaker on items appearing on the agenda). Speakers may be asked questions on the matters they raise.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have

5. UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE WORK (22/1433)

Report No. CCASC2022/3/145 by the Head of Climate and Solid Waste

6

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed."

6. **UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S SOLID WASTE AND WASTE MINIMISATION WORK** (22/1441)

Report No. CCASC2022/3/146 by the Solid Waste Manager

25

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

7. **SUBMISSION ON THE NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY EXPOSURE DRAFT**

Report by the Policy Planning Manager (*to be separately circulated via a supplementary agenda*).

8. **CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2022** (22/1710)

Report No. CCASC2022/3/147 by the Democracy Advisor

38

CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed."

9. **QUESTIONS**

With reference to section 32 of Standing Orders, before putting a question a member shall endeavour to obtain the information. Questions shall be concise and in writing and handed to the Chair prior to the commencement of the meeting.

10. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA** (22/997)

Unuhia!

Unuhia!

Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui

Kia wātea, kia māmā

Te ngākau, te tinana, te

wairua i te ara takatū

Koia rā e Rongo

whakairihia ake ki runga

Kia wātea, kia wātea!

Ae rā, kua wātea!

Hau, pai mārire.

Release us from the supreme sacredness of our tasks

To be clear and free

in heart, body and soul in our continuing journey

Oh Rongo, raise these words up high so that we be cleansed and be free,

Yes indeed, we are free!

Good and peaceful

Judy Randall

DEMOCRACY ADVISOR

30 June 2022

File: (22/1433)

Report no: CCASC2022/3/145

Update on Council's climate change work

Purpose of report

1. Officers provide a regular update on key climate change work in order to implement Council's organisational carbon target, facilitate a reduction in city-wide emissions, and address climate change impacts.
2. To avoid duplication, some work with climate change implications is reported in separate papers and committees. This includes work on waste minimisation and our new kerbside service, and project-specific updates for RiverLink and the new Naenae Pool.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes the update on various climate change work streams; and
- (2) notes the officer's submission on the Draft National Adaptation Plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Reducing Council's organisational carbon emissions

Pools

3. The installation of a heat pump at the Eastbourne Pool to replace a natural gas boiler was completed. Formal commissioning will be completed before the pool opens in November 2022.
4. The installation of a heat pump at the new Huia Pool to replace a natural gas boiler, was scheduled to be completed by the end of June. However, there have been delays in finalising the design for the new enclosure to hold the new heat pumps due to the poor ground condition. This has now been resolved and work has started on the enclosure. Works are now scheduled to be completed by September 2022.

5. In April, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) launched “Technology Demonstration Funding for Local Government Pool Heating,” to demonstrate the feasibility of using heat pumps for heating aquatic facilities to other territorial authorities. Following an application, EECA approved \$100,000 to accelerate the heating plant change at McKenzie Summer Pool.
6. This project involves replacing the gas boiler with a heat pump in order to achieve operational energy and cost savings, and to reduce carbon emissions. Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions would amount to 35 tonnes per year. (These reductions are in addition, and of similar magnitude, to those already realised two years ago as a result of the installation of a pool cover).
7. The heating change was originally scheduled for 2030 in Council’s Long Term Plan 2021-31. By completing this change in 2023 rather than 2030, about 250t CO₂e can be avoided.
8. Project funding by EECA is tied to delivering this project sooner than otherwise would be the case and to demonstrate the feasibility of using heat pumps for heating aquatic facilities to other territorial authorities. Hence it was proposed to pull forward the timing of the replacement of the heating plant at McKenzie Pool, and Council approved this change as part of the annual plan for 2022/23.

Dowse Museum

9. The replacement of the gas boiler with a heat pump at the Dowse Museum is scheduled for April 2023. Design work is currently under way, which will be followed by a procurement phase later this year.

LED street lighting

10. There has been no change to the number of installed LED streetlights since the end of 2021 due to funding constraints. Installations are scheduled to recommence during the 2022/23 financial year, with support from Waka Kotahi.

Council's vehicle fleet

11. As of 30 June 2022, Council’s vehicle fleet has an electric vehicle (EV) share of 42% (67 vehicles in total, and 28 EVs), a significant increase compared to the 33% reported in early May 2022. The table below shows our EV share for different vehicle categories.

Category	Vehicles	EVs	EV share
Passenger vehicles (Compact, SUV)	34	24	69%
Tools of Trade vehicles (Ute, Van)	32	4	13%
TOTAL	67	28	42%

12. Over the next 12 months, at least eight conventional vehicles are scheduled to move to EVs, which would lift our fleet's EV share to 53%, two years ahead of the original target in 2025.
13. Whilst no information is available for how Council's EV share compares to other territorial authorities, the New Zealand Government publishes a dashboard that shows how each government agency's fleet tracks in comparison to other agencies, to encourage them to transition to an emissions-free fleet. Based on the results for Q3 for 2021/22, Hutt City Council's fleet would be in the top five (out of 72 agencies with vehicle fleets).

Closed Wainuiomata landfill

14. The trial of a flare at the closed Wainuiomata landfill is scheduled to get underway during July 2022, subject to receiving consent from Greater Wellington Regional Council. The trial involves the drilling of five wells, and the operation of a flare for a limited time, to test gas extraction and combustion, and to collect data to inform the development of a business case for investment.

Reducing city-wide carbon emissions

Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway implementation

15. From July 2022, our Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway Lead will champion the pathway, report progress to the steering group, plan ongoing engagement with the community, including adding new initiatives to the pathway, and retain strategic oversight of the relationship to other plans and policies.
16. In order to assist and facilitate the implementation of the Pathway, it was proposed to set up a Steering Group (*this name may change following discussion with the group once it is formed*).
17. The purpose of the Steering Group is to guide and champion the Lower Hutt Community Climate Response, which is made up of Council and willing businesses, organisations and the community through the implementation of the Pathway.
18. To provide continuity, the previous Lead Group members were invited to be involved. Many of the Lead Group members would like to continue on the Steering Group, and we are now bringing additional people to fill the vacant places and bring in additional diverse perspectives. Membership will include representatives and officials as follows:
 - a. Mana Whenua
 - b. Chair of the Hutt City Council Komiti Kaupapa Taiao | Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
 - c. Chair of the Greater Wellington Regional Council Climate Committee
 - d. Hutt City Council's Director of Environment and Sustainability
 - e. Chief Executive of Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce
 - f. Between three and six other representatives that can provide community insight or have key relationships

19. The Steering Group is not *responsible* for the implementation, or any budgets.
20. The Steering Group is not 'fixed' and it is anticipated that there may be people that come and go from the group over time, as the implementation of the Pathway will be over several years. Any further group members beyond the original members will be as agreed upon by the group.
21. The Steering Group is scheduled to meet bi-monthly to drive the implementation and ongoing evolution of the Pathway.

Rollout of electric vehicle charging stations across Lower Hutt

22. The EV charging stations at the Koraunui Stokes Valley Community Hub were completed in June and are now available to the public. The site now features two 25kWh DC charging stations, and one AC charging station.
23. Four more sites are scheduled to host EV charging stations: Walter Nash Stadium, Avalon Park, Moera Library and Wainuiomata town centre. We aim to have installations completed by the end of December 2022, but there continues to be significant risk of delays considering ongoing global shipping constraints (for charging equipment and transformers).
24. All stations will be operated by Meridian Energy. In addition, as part of this project, Meridian Energy has agreed to invest in the rollout of additional AC charging stations, co-located with the Council-owned DC charging stations. This means that the project directly results in 38 additional charging bays across Lower Hutt, to facilitate EV uptake.
25. The table below shows the list of EV charging stations that are being rolled out as part of this project, and their implementation status.

Site	Charging outlets			EV charging bays	Estimated completion
	25kWh DC	75kWh DC	AC		
Stokes Valley	2	-	1	3	completed
Walter Nash	3	-	2	5	Oct 2022
Avalon Park	4	2	3	9	Dec 2022
Moera Library	2	-	-	2	Oct 2022
Seaview Marina	2	-	8*	10	completed
Wainuiomata	3	2	4	9	Dec 2022
TOTAL	16	4	18	38	

*The AC charging bays within the Marina compound are only available to members or their visitors.

26. The map below shows the location of key sites with current and planned EV charging stations (including those operated by other entities, such as ChargeNet). Those marked in red are yet to be completed, as noted in the table above.



Design of a Low Carbon Acceleration (LCA) Fund

27. In the paper “Enabling investments through income from carbon credits” to the Community and Environment Committee on 19 November 2020 ([refer 20/1258, page 7](#)), officers provided an overview of the opportunity for forests on Council-owned land to generate income through carbon credits.
28. At its meeting on 8 December 2020, based on that report, Council agreed (see [Minute No. C 20623](#)):
- a. that any funds associated with the carbon credits earned by Council will go to projects that produce the largest carbon reduction benefits and/or biodiversity improvements, with funding decisions made by Council or a relevant committee [...]; and
 - b. that officers develop the formal scope, process and decision-making approach for an internal low carbon acceleration fund, and report back to Council for agreement [...].
29. The development of an LCA Fund was also later included as a key action in [Mahere Hukihuki Whakaiti Waro - Council’s interim Carbon Reduction and Resilience Plan 2021-31 \(refer action 19\)](#).
30. Design work on the scope, structure and decision-making approach for this LCA Fund is now underway, and officers aim to report back to Council with recommendations at the end of 2022.

31. With regard to funding potentially available, as of 30 June 2022, Council holds 13,123 emission units (or carbon credits) in its emission unit register. This is based on the carbon sequestered in the current emissions return period under the ETS (since January 2018). At a [current market price of about \\$76/t](#), this equates to a value of about \$1M.
32. With the previous decision to hold at least 2,000 units in reserve (or 20% of units, whichever is higher) to allow for liabilities and risks such as fires, the total value potentially available for an LCA Fund is in the order of \$800,000. Going forward, we will likely receive about 3,000 units each year (currently valued at about \$230,000), but this will reduce slowly over time as the registered forests approach maturity.
33. The map in Appendix 1 to the report shows the location of registered Council-owned post-1989 forest land.

Adapting to climate change impacts

Climate change risk assessment

34. Council is collaborating with all other councils in the Wellington region to develop a regional risk assessment for key climate change impacts. This project will underpin the subsequent regional approach to climate change adaptation undertaken by the Wellington Region Climate Change Forum and is carried out as part of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework work programme. Assessment work is now underway, completion is scheduled for the end of 2022.

Submission to Draft National Adaptation Plan

35. On 28 April 2022, the New Zealand Government released [a consultation document](#) on a draft national adaptation plan and managed retreat proposal. The document builds the foundation for adaptation action so that all sectors and communities can live and thrive in a changing climate. The consultation also outlines proposals for flood insurance and managed retreat policies.
36. Consultation closed on 3 June 2022. In light of the time frame for making submissions, it was not feasible to have the formal submission endorsed by Council or a Council committee. In this instance, officers made a submission in order to provide feedback to the Government's proposals, and a copy is attached in Appendix 2 to the report.

Collaboration with Victoria University

37. Earlier this year, Council (via its Urban Development Team) joined with Architecture students at Victoria University to explore different hypothetical design briefs. One of those designs interrogates how landscape can be a medium for structuring projective responses to socially and environmentally just land-based change.
38. Students employed a variety of design methods to adapt Petone's Esplanade Zone to accommodate sea-level rise and increased flooding/storm surge incidences. Proposals envisage a pedestrian priority, biodiverse living

landscape that expresses Petone's specific identity communicating where and how change might unfold in the context of Petone 2040 and beyond.

39. An exhibition of the designs was held between 16-24 June 2022 at the War Memorial Library.

Climate Change impact and considerations

40. This report responds directly to the need to reduce carbon emissions, by providing a regular update on Council's key carbon reduction and climate change response initiatives.

Consultation

41. Not applicable.

Legal Considerations

42. There are no legal considerations at this time.

Financial Considerations

43. Further work will be undertaken regarding the use of Council's carbon credits, officers will report back to Council at the end of the year.

Appendices

No.	Title	Page
1	Appendix 1 - Locations of Council-owned forest land registered under the ETS	13
2	Appendix 2 - Submission to draft national adaptation plan	14

Author: Jörn Scherzer
Head of Climate and Solid Waste

Approved By: Helen Oram
Director Environment and Sustainability

04 July 2022

File: (22/1441)

Report no: CCASC2022/3/146

Update on Council's solid waste and waste minimisation work

Purpose of report

1. To provide the Committee with an update on various solid waste management and minimisation matters.

Recommendation

That the Committee notes the update on various solid waste management and minimisation matters.

Background

2. Council undertakes a range of solid waste management and minimisation initiatives, and this report consolidates information on their status.
3. However, detailed and regular information on the ongoing development, operation and performance of the Silverstream Landfill is covered in a separate report to the Hutt Valley Services Committee.

Procurement for landfill operations and resource recovery park

4. In late 2021, Council commenced a process to find an experienced and motivated partner to operate Silverstream Landfill and the associated Refuse Transfer Station and Resource Recovery activities with services commencing from early 2023.
5. A Request for Proposals (Stage 2 of this process) was released on 4 April 2022 and closed on 3 June 2022. Three suppliers submitted tenders, which is in line with what we expected to see following the Registration of Interest stage. The evaluation of tenders is currently under way, with decisions on the successful tenderer to be made by the end of July 2022.

Changes at Silverstream transfer station

Transfer station & resource recovery

6. Council's Long Term Plan has funds allocated to make significant changes to the layout of the transfer station at Silverstream Landfill. Changes are needed to improve upon the current level of service and enable the establishment of a resource recovery park.
7. While the resource recovery changes remain subject to the completion of a business case and the outcomes of the current landfill procurement process as noted above, some no-regrets works have been undertaken. This included the construction of a new roundabout, to enable a change to the way waste is loaded out, and to eliminate a significant health and safety risk.
8. Construction work for the new roundabout has been completed, and work is now under way to fill in the large pit used for loading out waste in the past.

Weighing of light vehicles and trailers

9. Over the last three months, work has been carried out to upgrade the kiosk and surrounding area to enable the move to charge all vehicles based on weight from 1 July 2022. Some work, including the installation of a new portacom and additional barrier arms, is scheduled for completion later in July 2022.
10. New landfill charges apply since 1 July 2022, as per Council's agreed fees and charges for 2022/23. All landfill account holders have been notified by email about the price increase at the landfill kiosk in the lead up to the new financial year. Council has issued a press release regarding the annual plan and associated changes.

Discounts for charities at Silverstream landfill

11. A new approach to landfill fee discounts and exemptions for charities was approved by Council on 28 September 2021. Earlier this year, officers contacted 61 charities that council had contacts for, and made them aware of the discounts/exemptions available to them going forward.
12. Below is a table representing the number of charities that applied for discounts/exemptions for 2022/23, and where they are based.

Letters sent to charities in Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt that have previously used Council's fee exemption	61
Number of charities responded	40
No response	21
Charities in Lower Hutt accepted	28
Charities in Upper Hutt accepted	12

Food waste investigation

13. Officers recently commenced work on the options for managing food waste in the future. The project will enable Council to have a clear assessment of the different options for managing, collecting and processing this waste from businesses and households. The government has signaled that local councils should build capability to divert food waste from landfills, using collections and processing systems. This aligns with Council's aspirations for diversion and waste minimisation.
14. Council is collaborating with Porirua City Council on this work. Following a joint procurement process, Tonkin and Taylor were selected as the preferred consultants to carry out the procurement work.
15. A high-level timeline is shown below.

Stage	Deliverable / Milestone	Indicative timing
1	Development of stakeholder engagement strategy	July 2022
2	Targeted stakeholder engagement (suppliers of organic waste, end-product users, etc)	August to September 2022
3	Development of organics facility and collections options and recommendations.	October to November 2022
4	Presentations and workshops with council staff and elected members	December 2022
5	Development of Detailed Business Case	January to March 2023
6	Presentations and workshops with council staff and elected members	April 2023
7	Final report	May 2023

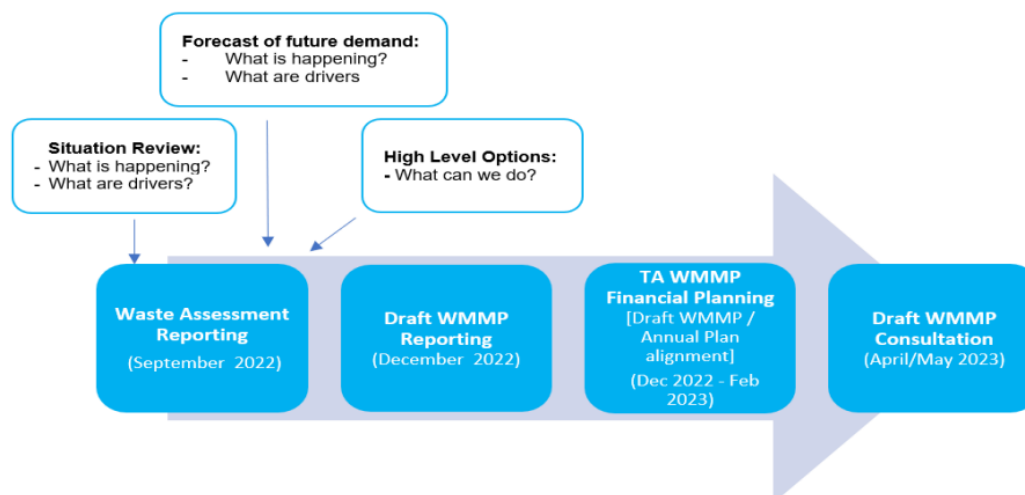
Regional Waste Assessment 2022

16. Work is currently underway to develop a new Waste Assessment for the Wellington Region. This Waste Assessment will be prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA) and will inform and support the development of the next regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023-2029 (WMMP).
17. The Waste Assessment will cover the following:
 - a. Wellington Region Overview - Provision of an overview of the region in terms of, for example, geography, population changes and broad economic profile and changes to help inform the current waste profile and potential future changes.

- b. Legislative and Strategic Overview – A review of the current New Zealand legislative framework (eg public health issues, considerations of solid, liquid and gaseous wastes) including any potential future developments (eg Container Return Scheme) as well as a high-level overview of international key drivers that may influence waste management in New Zealand and within the Wellington Region.
 - c. Wellington Region Waste Profile – A review of current region’s Council waste facilities (eg landfills, transfer stations, hazardous waste facilities and operators, recycling and resource recovery facilities) and non-Council waste services, a review of current and proposed waste infrastructure, including contract expiry dates. The waste profile will also provide an overview of where the waste is coming from, the volumes of waste produced and the composition of the waste stream. The waste profile information will provide a picture of waste flows within the region.
 - d. Gap Analysis and Potential Future Demand – This component will take outcomes of the Wellington Region overview, legislative and strategic overview and the waste profile information to assess what is expected to influence waste volumes and by association the potential demand or otherwise on existing waste infrastructure. A key component of this analysis will be a review of potential future changes to the New Zealand waste sector, including product stewardship schemes and legislative drivers to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.
 - e. Waste Management Options and the Region’s Potential Role – A review and discussion of options that may support future waste management in the region (eg resource recovery network, organics processing) and increase recovery and reuse of materials as well as a review and discussion of how the region can continue to meet its combined obligations.
18. The draft Waste Assessment is scheduled to be presented to the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee (the Joint Committee) in September 2022.

Development of next Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023-2029 (WMMP)

19. The current WMMP will need to be reviewed, in order to enable the development of a new WMMP. This work will get under way in the second half of 2022.
20. Following completion of the draft Waste Assessment in September 2022, a preliminary draft WMMP will be brought back to the Joint Committee for consideration in December 2022.



21. The WMMP also features local action plans. Therefore, work is scheduled to develop the next Lower Hutt action plan, alongside the other territorial authorities' action plans. The process for developing this action plan has yet to be confirmed.

Waste Management New Zealand change of ownership

22. Council currently has contracts with Waste Management NZ (WMNZ) for the kerbside services and the operation of Silverstream landfill.
23. In March 2022, BCG NZ Investment Holding Limited agreed to sell all its shares in Beijing Capital Group NZ Investment Holding Limited to Tui Bidco Limited, an entity established by [Igneo Infrastructure Partners](#).
24. Igneo Infrastructure Partners has a track record in infrastructure investments in New Zealand, Australia, the United States and Europe over the past 20 years. Their interests include waste assets, whereby Igneo Infrastructure Partners has acquired interests in waste to energy and landfill businesses.
25. The change in ownership for WMNZ is expected to be complete in the second half of 2022. Both before and after completion, Igneo Infrastructure Partners expect WMNZ's business to continue as normal, and all existing arrangements will remain in place.

Kerbside Rubbish, Recycling and Green Waste bin service

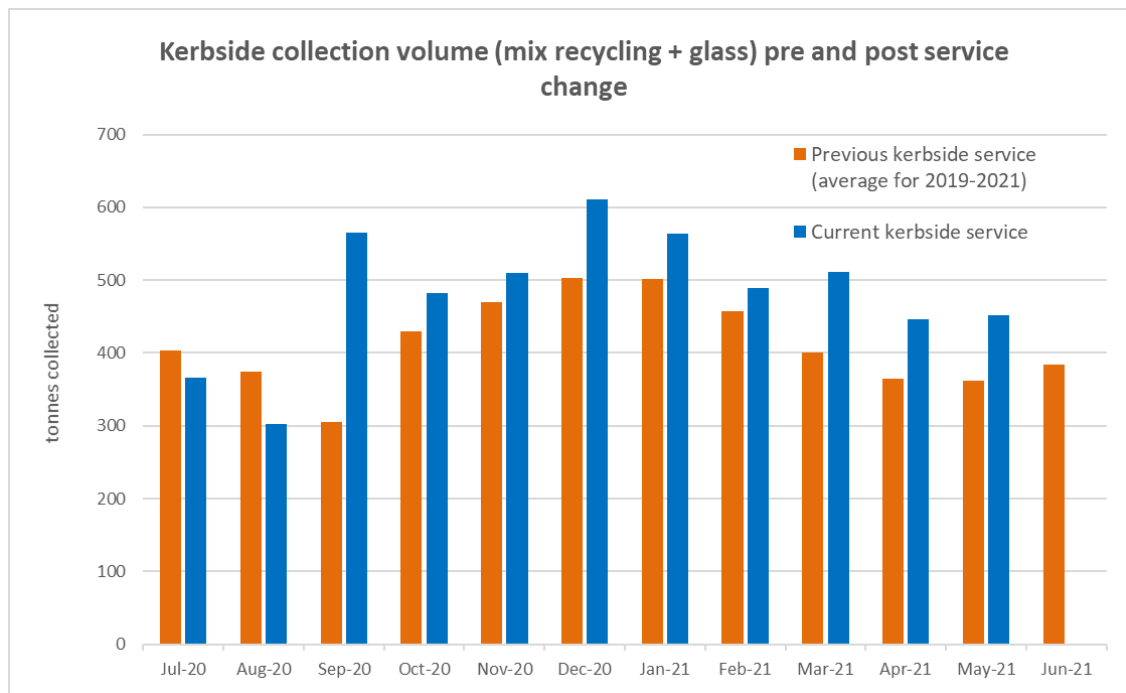
Service for non-commercial premises

26. As per the recommendations of this Committee on 28 September 2021 (and later confirmed by Council), Council agreed to make its kerbside service available to non-commercial rateable properties such as sports clubs and churches, on an opt-in basis.
27. Officers have contacted about 260 non-commercial rateable properties. As at 30 June 2022, 21 have opted in (excluding schools and early childhood education).

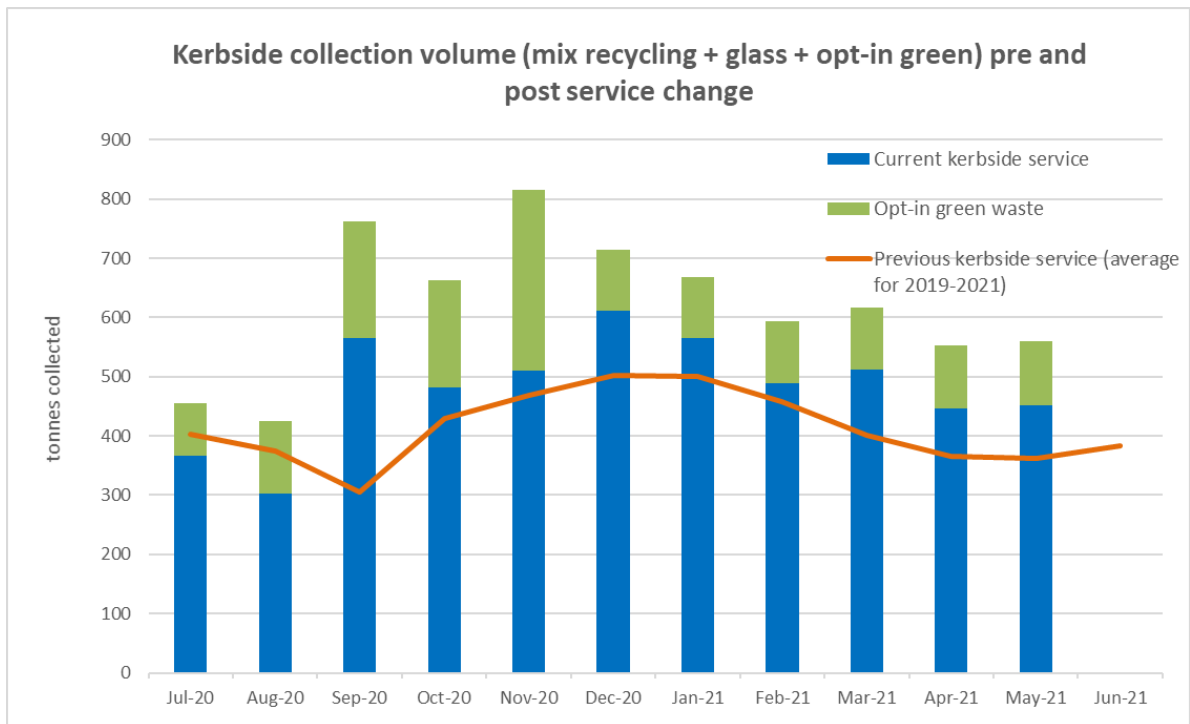
- 28. Note that early childhood education centres were already provided with recycling bins as part of the original rollout. They now have the ability to opt in to refuse collection, should they want to.
- 29. With regard to recycling in schools, officers are in contact with most schools to implement a consistent recycling service offering. However, the timing of implementation is specific to each school, depending on their circumstances.

Collection volumes

- 30. The figure below shows the amount of recycling (mixed recycling and glass) collected for the current service, and how this compares to the average results of the previous service over three years.
- 31. Discounting the first two months of the new rubbish & recycling service, where the focus was on completing the service change and where we experienced delays in shipping and bin deliveries, there has been an approximate 25% increase in recycling collected, when compared to the previous kerbside service.



- 32. However, total diversion has increased by about 50% when taking into account the additional (optional) green waste collected, as shown below:



33. In addition, an estimated 2,000 tonnes of green waste is being diverted from Silverstream landfill since 1 July 2021, as that material is no longer used for cover material, but sent to Composting New Zealand in Kāpiti.
34. Therefore, in total, the kerbside service change, alongside no longer using green waste as cover material at the landfill, means that over a whole year, an estimated 4,800 tonnes of material is now being diverted from the landfill, compared to the period before July 2021.

City-wide recycling contamination

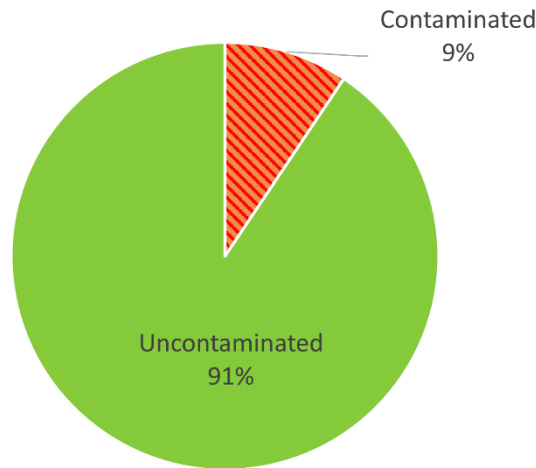
35. The contamination rates for the recycling service are measured by sampling at the processing plant. The monthly contamination rate for the months of March and April 2022 was 19% for the whole city. This is currently above Council's target, which is less than 10% contamination.

Contamination at the household level

36. Recycling ambassadors have been deployed to inspect bins to collate a more detailed picture of the type and degree of contamination at the household level, and to provide immediate feedback to households by way of stickers. Samples of the green, orange and red stickers are shown in Appendix 1-3 to the report.
37. With regard to the information gathered, more than 1,700 bins have now been inspected, and we have increasingly good data for Taita, Wainuiomata and Naenae. Note that the runs on Thursdays and Fridays have been prioritised due to the availability of bin inspectors in a shared arrangement with Porirua City Council. From mid-July we will be gathering more granular data for all runs from Monday to Friday across the city.

38. Based on the bins inspected so far, about 91% were assessed as “uncontaminated”. Nevertheless, about 9% of bins were found to have some or significant contamination (see figure below). This confirms, based on current data, that much of the contamination originates from a relatively small number of households.

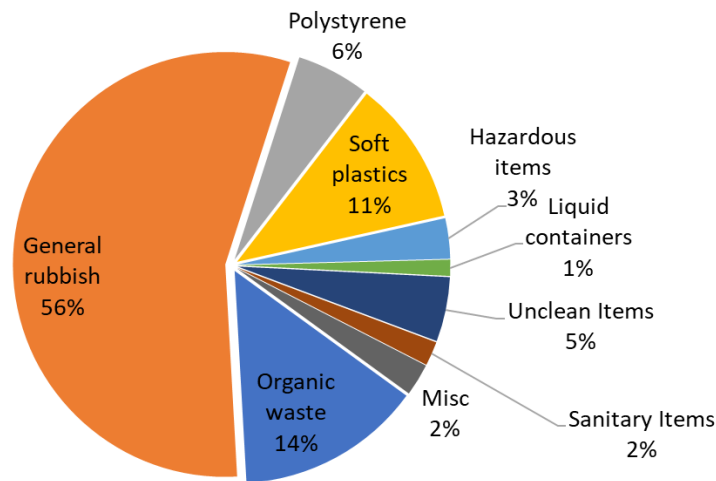
Bin inspection results



39. In cases where contamination has been identified, the below figure shows a breakdown by waste material. (Note that the figure only shows the predominant waste material found, whereas some bins will have had several waste materials.)

40. Household rubbish and organic waste (food waste, green waste) were the most frequently found problematic items. “General rubbish” can include a range of non-recyclable items, such as plastic storage baskets, polystyrene, takeaway containers, soft plastics, gloves etc.

Percentage contamination by material



41. Bin inspections will continue over the next few months, and the quality of data is expected to improve significantly as a result of this. This will then inform our communications and engagement work.

Behaviour change

42. To achieve a positive shift in the recycling and contamination behaviours of Lower Hutt residents, a two-pronged approach is being taken.
43. Officers plan to launch a city-wide behaviour change campaign in September 2022, the design and testing of this is underway. This will focus on increasing awareness of materials appropriate for recycling, reasons for recycling and the environmental impacts. The campaign aims to build better recycling habits amongst Lower Hutt residents by increasing awareness, efficacy and thereby increasing recycling and reducing contamination.
44. Successful behaviour change is dependent on three key elements:
 - a. Desire (want to do it, will put in the effort, have made it a priority)
 - b. Knowledge (know what to do, when, where and how)
 - c. Skills (can do it properly/effectively)
45. There is no silver bullet that will address these issues beyond time, persistence and repeated messaging.
46. We are currently collecting data (eg research, survey, focus groups) to inform the city-wide behaviour change programme. There are a range of approaches that will be considered:
 - a. targeted and general messaging across specific areas of our city
 - b. working with schools, community and interest groups
 - c. building awareness of the greater good of collective efforts.
47. To educate at an individual household level, the Council is taking a similar approach to Porirua City Council, who found that repeat checks of red stickered bins directly led to a reduction in contamination. The stickers provide immediate feedback to households on problematic items found, and the action needed to resolve the problem.

Independent 12-month review of kerbside service

48. Officers will be developing a draft scope of the 12-month review of the service. This will be reported towards the end of 2022.

Climate impact and considerations

49. The work regarding improved resource recovery and food waste diversion directly aligns with Council's desire to reduce emissions at Silverstream Landfill, as it could reduce the amount of organic waste disposed.
50. Our procurement for a new landfill operations contract includes explicit requirements regarding sustainability and the reduction in carbon emissions.

Consultation

51. Not applicable.

Legal considerations

52. There are no legal considerations at this time.

Financial considerations

53. The cost of contaminated recycling is in the order of \$30,000 per month (with associated negative future budget impacts) unless contamination can be reduced.

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Author: Diljinder Uppal
Solid Waste Manager

Reviewed By: Jörn Scherzer
Head of Climate and Solid Waste

Approved By: Helen Oram
Director Environment and Sustainability

30 June 2022

 File: (22/1710)

Report no: CCASC2022/3/147

Climate Change and Sustainability Committee Forward Programme 2022

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Committee with a Forward Programme of work planned for the Committee for 2022.

Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the Forward Programme for 2022 attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Background

2. The Terms of Reference for the Committee require the Committee to assist Council in developing, monitoring and reviewing strategies, policies, plans and functions associated with environmental and climate change activities.
3. The Forward Programme for 2022 provides a planning tool for both members and officers to co-ordinate programmes of work for the year. The Forward Programme is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Forward Programme

4. The Forward Programme is a working document and is subject to change on a regular basis.

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Author: Judy Randall
Democracy Advisor

Reviewed By: Kate Glanville
Senior Democracy Advisor

Approved By: Kathryn Stannard
Head of Democratic Services

