

Waste to resource

WAIKATO WASTE AND RESOURCE
EFFICIENCY STRATEGY 2015-18

Waikato Regional Council

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Strategy review 2015

WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A ZERO WASTE REGION

THE WASTE AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY STRATEGY 2015-18

The Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy (WRES) describes how Waikato Regional Council will work with key stakeholders to achieve collective regional waste minimisation objectives.

Two key goals of the strategy are to:

- protect our communities, land, water and air from harmful and hazardous wastes
- encourage resource efficiency and beneficial reuse that creates sustainable, economic growth.

STRATEGY REVIEW - WHAT HAS CHANGED?

The strategy was adopted by the council in April 2012 and was reviewed in June 2015. The purpose of the review was to assess the alignment of the WRES with our strategic direction, examine any new drivers for change, evaluate work achieved to date and to identify direction, scope and priorities for the next strategy period.

As a result of the review we've identified emerging international and national trends and identified future linkages and opportunities for alignment with internal and external priority areas of focus.

The collaborative approach of the strategy continues to be supported and valued by the its stakeholders and enables shared and collective action to occur in the areas where there are regional benefits.

Strategic and legislative alignment

The review confirmed that the WRES aligns with our council's priorities of land and water, regional development and community partnerships.

Working together with stakeholders to increase resource efficiency and minimise waste while leveraging regional economic, environmental and community opportunities is still deemed to be an appropriate approach.

There have been no legislative shifts in the waste framework in New Zealand since the strategy was adopted. As the WRES is aligned with the current legislative framework, it is considered that its focus and approach is still relevant.

Future trends, alignment considerations and timeframes

Internationally there is a notable shift from 'making something from waste' to prevention of waste generation in the first instance through better design of products and processes, and increasing the efficiency of the resources we use.

Nationally, resource efficiency (particularly water) is becoming a key focus for central and local government and is largely being driven by the constraints that natural resources have on achieving economic development targets. The current scope of the WRES allows for some work to be undertaken under the resource efficiency focus area. There may be opportunity to align the WRES to better support any future work in the water resource efficiency area.

Rural waste - in particular agrichemicals and farm plastics - is now being discussed at a national level and continued work in this area is recommended. Our local council partners and industry have expressed interest in working more collaboratively, including exploring shared infrastructure services options, regional targets, and shared waste education opportunities. These considerations will need to be included in future Waste Management and Minimisation Plan reviews, which councils are required to complete within the next two years.

Our council is undertaking a review of the Waikato Regional Plan in 2017 and any rule changes will be incorporated into the proposed full review of the WRES in 2019.

Performance measures

The review revealed that we have achieved, or are making good progress, on 11 of the 16 performance measures. Timeframes to achieve the remaining performance measures are primarily dependant on stakeholders' capacity, drivers and external co-funding opportunities. The remaining five performance measures are ongoing.

Only one performance measure - relating to electronic waste - has been removed. This performance measure has been achieved and any future work required in this area will be captured in an existing performance measure relating to product stewardship.

Further detail on the status of the current performance measures is provided in Appendix One of the strategy.

The timeframes of some of the performance measures were, upon reflection, ambitious and will need to be adjusted in the updated WRES.

Feedback from external stakeholders

Feedback from interviews with members of the Waste Strategy Advisory Group (WSAG) and Waikato territorial authorities indicates that the strategy and approach of working with others to achieve shared objectives for the region is valued, and the facilitation and coordination role our council plays is an important one for the region.

Stakeholder feedback also identified important roles for our council to facilitate:

- Exploring opportunities to divert materials from landfills to regional markets.
- Taking a collaborative approach to these waste streams to increase diversion opportunities.
- Continuing to advocate for product stewardship of tyres, agrichemicals and electronic waste.

Collaboration and funding

During the past two financial years, every dollar we have contributed in the form of co-funding for waste and resource efficiency initiatives has leveraged an estimated \$4 of stakeholder co-funding to projects that have benefited the Waikato region. This activity is budgeted at the current level through the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan.

Introduction

There is growing awareness that we live in a world of finite resources. This awareness is driving worldwide interest in waste prevention, resource efficiency, recovery, reuse and recycling. As these activities evolve, exciting new opportunities are stimulating economic growth across private, public and community sectors while producing environmental benefits for all. Already, businesses across the globe are adopting holistic approaches that encompass the entire product life cycle. This awareness affects product design and manufacturing, packaging and distribution, consumer behaviour, product recovery and reprocessing activities. At each stage of a product's life cycle, innovative, new technologies and approaches that maximise use of materials and optimise recoverability are being developed.

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 brings a new focus to waste. For the first time New Zealand has legislation focusing on waste minimisation rather than waste management and disposal. This new emphasis, along with financial and other incentives, creates opportunities for businesses and communities to work together toward a less wasteful future.

This strategy, *Waste to resource - Waikato waste and resource efficiency strategy 2015-18*, supports the objectives of the New Zealand Waste Strategy 2010, and has a strong focus on recognising waste as a resource and as an opportunity. Resource efficiency offers opportunities for innovation and wealth creation that permeate the wider economy. Resource efficiency also has potential to mitigate wider issues related to water, energy and materials security, while contributing significantly to a low-carbon economy. While this strategy aligns with the resource efficiency principle, further research needs to be undertaken to quantify specific benefits that the Waikato region may accrue from this approach. By quantifying benefits to both the economy and regional resources (including energy and water) further initiatives can be undertaken in this area as appropriate.

The Waikato community has developed a vision of 'working together towards a zero waste region'. This collaborative approach will foster innovative waste minimisation solutions that deliver economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for the region. In the process, our goals are to protect our communities, land, water and air from harmful and hazardous wastes and to encourage resource efficiency and beneficial reuse that creates sustainable, economic development. The ultimate aim is to build a vibrant, 'green growth' economy in which environmental protection provides real economic development opportunities that are decoupled from environmental harm.

BACKGROUND

Waste management in New Zealand is principally a local government responsibility. The Local Government Act 1974 and 2002 and the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 clearly give powers and responsibilities to local government to manage waste. The Resource Management Act 1991 provides a framework to manage environmental, cultural and social effects of resource use and waste management.

In 2002, the Ministry for the Environment, in partnership with Local Government New Zealand released the New Zealand Waste Strategy. At the time, local government and the community wanted a regional approach that would provide opportunities for greater information sharing and collaborative programmes to address waste issues and provide economies of scale. Waikato Regional Council responded in 2002 by developing a regional waste strategy to describe how it would support local councils, industry and community to implement the New Zealand Waste Strategy.

The past 10 years have seen the public, private and community sectors invest considerable time, money and effort into changing the way we think about, and manage, our wasted resources. Now that the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 has been implemented, and the New Zealand Waste Strategy has been revised, it is timely for Waikato Regional Council to update its regional waste strategy to align with this new framework.

This strategy has been developed in partnership with industry, local government, businesses and community stakeholders to create a shared vision, set of goals and focus areas for waste minimisation across the Waikato region. The strategy outlines how we will work together to support regional waste minimisation objectives.

SCOPE

Section 5(1) of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 defines waste as follows.

Waste:

- a. means 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 of or discarded.

This strategy focuses predominantly on solid resources currently disposed of or discarded to landfill where a regionally coordinated approach makes sense. However, it also aims to provide solutions that address the impact of hazardous liquid wastes (including agrichemicals, oil, paint and chemicals) and other harmful wastes (including electronic wastes, televisions, tyres and treated timber) that have the potential to cause significant harm to the environment.

STRATEGIC DRIVERS FOR A REGIONAL WASTE STRATEGY

Waikato Regional Council continues to have responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (Functions of Regional Councils):

to achieve integrated management of the region's natural and physical resources and to regulate discharge of contaminants into the environment.

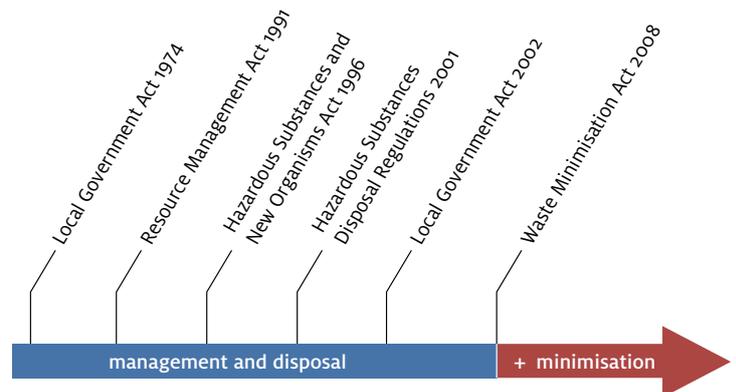
Key drivers for the development of the Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy 2012-15 included:

- the implementation of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008
- the release of the revised New Zealand Waste Strategy 2010
- the development of the Waikato Regional Council's strategic direction.

Essential elements of these drivers are described here.

Waste Minimisation Act 2008

Prior to the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, the waste landscape was guided primarily by legislation that focused on waste management and disposal, including the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Hazardous Substance and New Organisms Act 1996, and the Local Government Act 1974 and 2002. The introduction of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 provided for the first time a piece of legislation that focused on waste minimisation.



Key aims of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 are to reduce the environmental impact of waste in New Zealand by encouraging waste reduction and better use and reprocessing of materials.

The purpose of the Act (as stated in Part 1) is:

to encourage waste minimisation and a decrease in waste disposal in order to:

- a. *protect the environment from harm; and*
- b. *provide environmental, social, economic, and cultural benefits.*

Although the Waste Minimisation Act does not assign specific responsibilities to regional councils, it does assign responsibilities to all unitary and territorial authorities within the region. Waikato Regional Council is in a position to use its expertise, regional perspective and/or potential economies of scale to work with territorial and unitary authorities, industry and community enterprise to achieve shared waste minimisation objectives for the region.

Revised New Zealand Waste Strategy (2010)

The revised New Zealand Waste Strategy (NZWS), released in October 2010, has two high level goals. These are:

- to reduce harm
- to improve the efficiency of resource use.

The revised NZWS states regional council responsibilities as follows:

Under the Resource Management Act, regional councils regulate the environmental effects of waste disposal facilities by granting and monitoring resource consents. Regional councils can also play an important role in facilitating a collaborative approach to waste management and minimisation planning amongst territorial authorities.

The national waste strategy supports the facilitation, coordination and collaboration role regional councils can play in supporting shared waste minimisation objectives.

Waikato Regional Council's strategic direction

We review our strategic direction at the start of each new council term, to ensure that we continue to effectively address current issues. It reflects what councillors want to see from the council during their term. Staff from around the region also provide feedback on the issues they think new councillors should consider when developing the latest strategic direction.

Waikato Regional Council's Strategic Direction 2010-2013 had a focus on greater involvement in regional leadership of economic and environmental issues. It did not mean the council should take the lead on an issue. Rather, it required the council to work out what part it could play in addressing any particular economic and environmental issue, to add value to the region.

Since the Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy 2012-15 was developed, the council has adopted a new strategic direction for 2013-2016. It guides our work over the current council term, and has also set the context for the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan.

Our vision

Competing globally, caring locally

Our mission

Working with others to build a Waikato region that has a healthy environment, a strong economy and vibrant communities.

Our priority areas

- Coastal and marine
- Iwi Māori co-governance
- Community partnerships
- Land and water
- Regional development



SECTION 1
The Waikato now and into the future

Waste in the Waikato: a regional picture

The Waikato region has five municipal solid waste landfills, five disposal sites associated with industrial operations and 13 or more consented cleanfills of significant size.

Landfills in the Waikato report on total annual tonnages received, but are not currently required to report the percentage of waste they receive from outside the region. Therefore, it is unclear how much of the total waste to landfill is generated within the Waikato and how much is brought in from other regions.



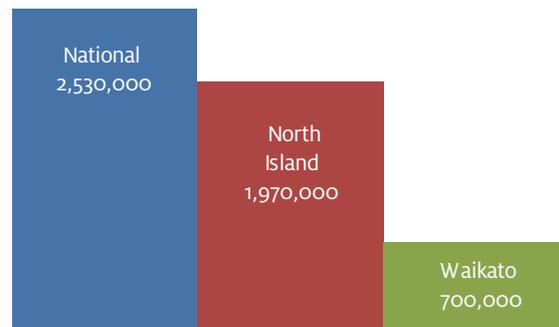
WASTE DATA AND STATISTICS

The Waikato region, like many other regions across the country, has limited and variable waste data available. Waste data across the country are, at best, sporadic and, at worst, non-existent, with available data often being accumulated for one-off projects of limited or inconsistent scope. This is compounded by limited access to data held on privately collected wastes (due to commercial sensitivities) and the absence of a coordinated mechanism or central repository for gathering, analysing and disseminating data.

What we do have is a good understanding of council controlled (municipal) waste streams in some districts gathered from district council waste audits and assessments. Data are also available from regional waste studies. These assessments and studies offer a general overview of regional waste issues.

In 2006, an estimated 588,000 tonnes of waste was disposed of to landfill in the Waikato region. This increased to more than 700,000 tonnes in 2010 – an estimated 19 per cent increase over this period. A comparison with national waste figures is shown below.

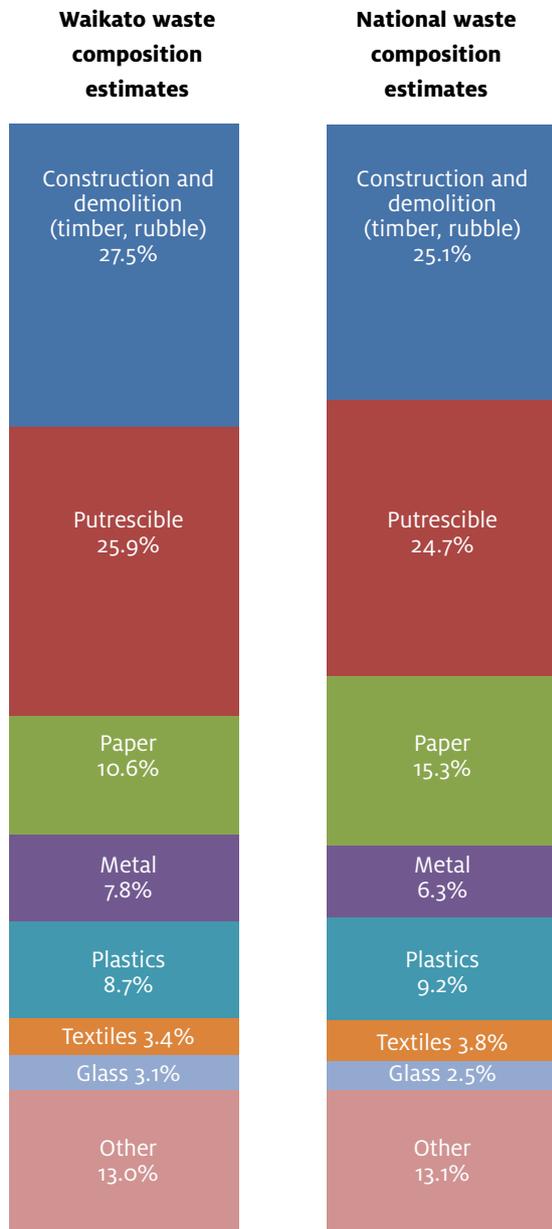
**Total waste disposed to landfills 2010
(tonnes)**



This means that an estimated 36 per cent of the North Island's waste is disposed of in Waikato regional landfills. Waikato landfills receive 28 per cent of the nation's total waste.

MUNICIPAL WASTE COMPOSITION

Municipal waste composition within the Waikato region is relatively well understood in districts where councils control the collection and disposal of municipal waste. The following chart shows municipal waste composition for the Waikato region compared with national estimates. The percentages below are based on weight.



Note: These figures exclude materials disposed of to cleanfills and industrial landfills.

As the chart shows, construction and demolition waste and putrescible (green and organic waste) are the largest waste streams in the Waikato region (based on weight) and provide the greatest opportunities for reduction, reuse and recoverability.



Timber recycling. Photo: Transpacific Waste Management

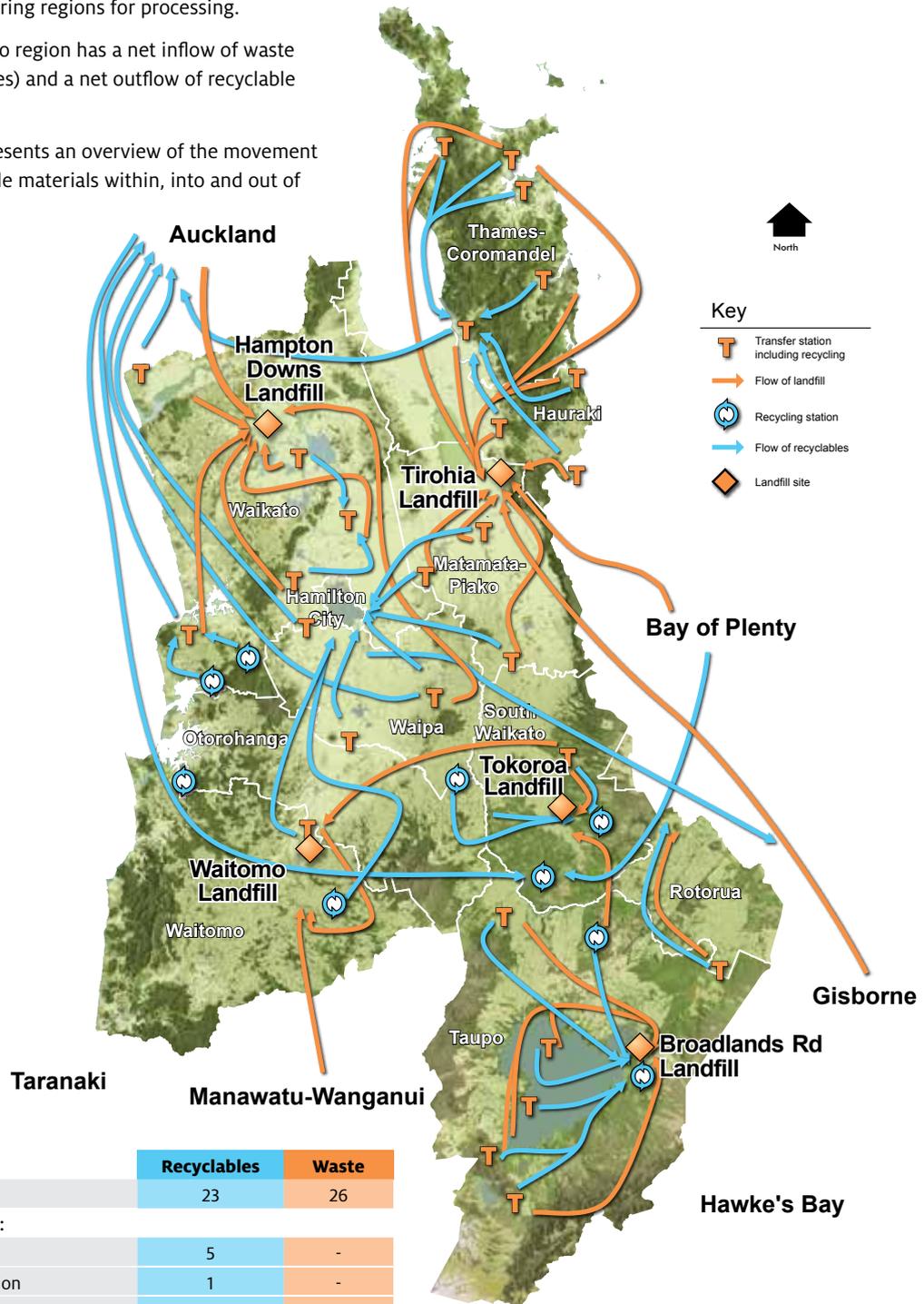
MOVEMENT OF WASTE AND RECYCLING

The waste collection and disposal market is highly competitive and is determined by cost rather than proximity of landfills or local authority boundaries.

Tirohia landfill in Paeroa and North Waikato Regional landfill near Hampton Downs receive significant quantities of waste from outside the region, including Auckland and Bay of Plenty regions, but also from places as far away as Gisborne. The Waikato region also sends recyclable materials to neighbouring regions for processing.

In general, the Waikato region has a net inflow of waste (or unutilised resources) and a net outflow of recyclable material.

The following map presents an overview of the movement of waste and recyclable materials within, into and out of the Waikato region.



Movements	Recyclables	Waste
within Waikato region	23	26
from Waikato region to:		
Auckland region	5	-
Bay of Plenty region	1	-
Taranaki region	-	1
to Waikato region from:		
Auckland region	1	-
Bay of Plenty region	1	2
Manawatu-Wanganui region	-	1
Gisborne region	-	1

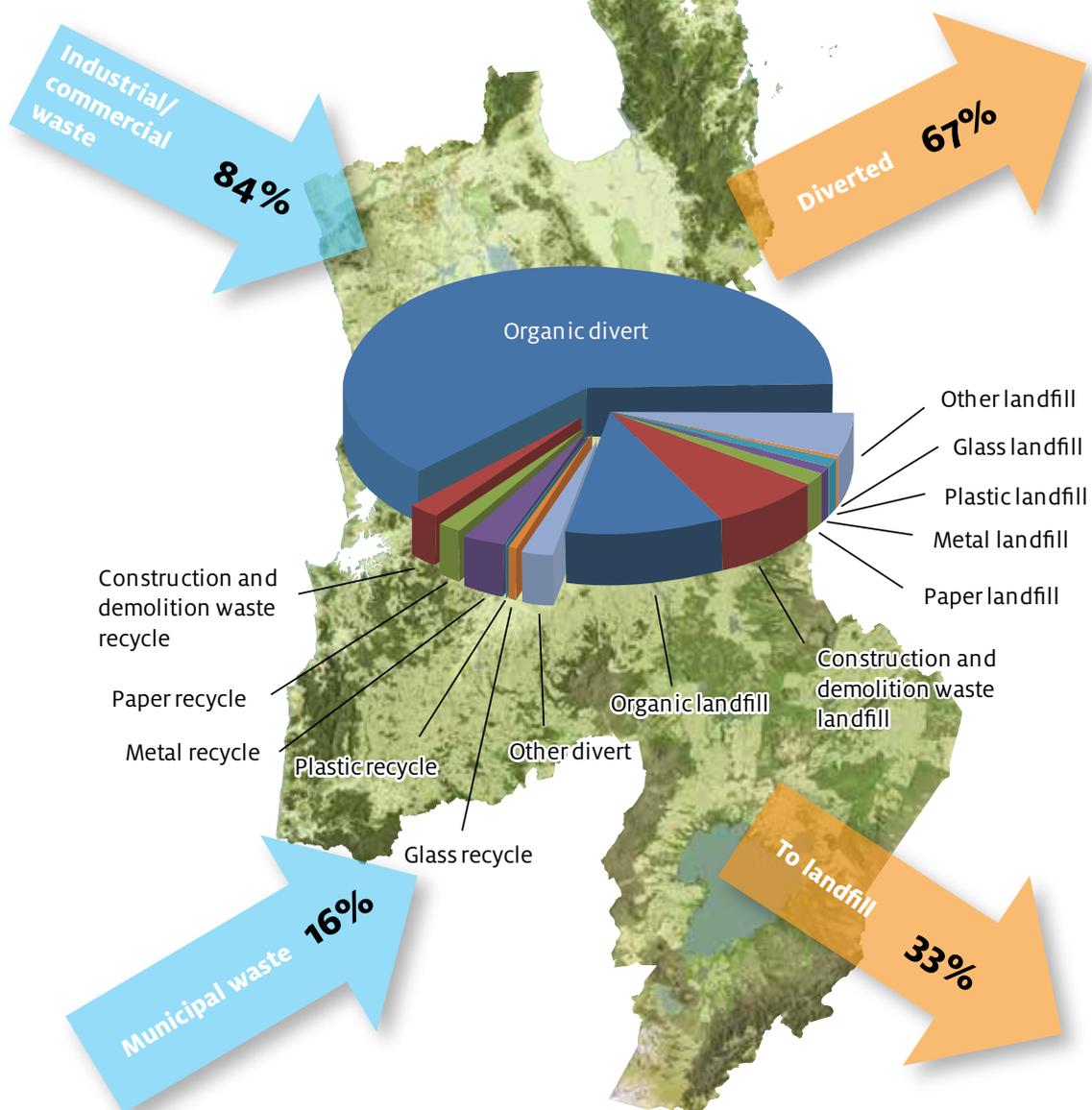
Note: Data are not available for waste going to industrial waste disposal and cleanfill sites operating within the Waikato region.

WASTE DIVERSION

In 2006, more than 64 per cent, or over 1 million tonnes, of the total known waste stream was reported as being diverted from landfill.¹ Diversion is primarily through:

- commercial transactions involving wastes such as wood wastes (boiler fuel), bark (composting and boiler fuel), scrap metal, food processing waste and land application of high strength organic wastes
- local authority collections
- commercial recycling collections.

District councils within the Waikato region control approximately 15 to 20 per cent of the region's waste to landfill. The remaining 80 to 85 per cent is controlled by the private sector. Notably, the greatest quantities of waste produced are outside the direct management of district councils.



Digital Elevation Model layers derived by Environment Waikato.
Topographic information derived from Land Information New Zealand's data. COPYRIGHT RESERVED.

Textured Landcover image derived from DEM data supplied by Landcare and the LCDB2 owned by the Ministry for the Environment and supplied by Terralink International Limited

¹ Waikato Regional Waste Stocktake and Infrastructure Assessment 2007

Organic wastes

Over 1.1 million tonnes of organic waste is generated each year in the Waikato region. Approximately 88 per cent of this is diverted, mainly via land application, boiler fuel or made into compost. The remaining estimated 135,000 tonnes of organic waste is disposed of to landfill, cleanfill and industrial landfills each year. Approximately 107,000 tonnes of this comes from commercial activities.²

Construction and demolition wastes

Construction and demolition waste is a significant waste stream in the Waikato, with an estimated 120,000 to 150,000 tonnes disposed of to landfills and cleanfills each year. More than 40,000 tonnes is estimated to be concrete and approximately 50,000 tonnes is made up of treated and untreated timber, including MDF, hardboard and furniture. Currently, markets for untreated wood (boiler fuel, mulch and firewood) exist, as do growing markets for recycled aggregate from waste concrete in the region.

Hazardous and special wastes

Hazardous wastes, including agrichemical wastes and harmful wastes³, are of particular concern in the Waikato due to the level of harm they can cause to waterways and land. There is currently limited quality information on the movement and handling of these wastes in the Waikato region. A number of these wastes are suitable for product stewardship schemes. Some are already part of voluntary industry initiatives and product stewardship schemes, but these voluntary schemes generally do not have comprehensive coverage or target a full range of materials or sources.

A previous Waikato Regional Council led initiative to remove harmful chemicals from the environment was at least ten times more successful than current alternative product stewardship schemes⁴, and saw the council collect 121 tonnes of unwanted agrichemicals that could have otherwise been disposed of into the environment. Although the initiative was successful, the regional council acknowledges that the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and New Zealand Waste Strategy (2010) are now placing stronger importance on the role of industry and product stewardship. Opportunities exist to enhance the capture and diversion of these wastes from landfill through mandatory and voluntary product stewardship schemes. However, if national mandatory product stewardship schemes do not eventuate, the responsibility of waste management and minimisation will remain with local government.



Compost turning. Photo: Envirofert

² Waikato Organic Waste Options Study 2009

³ Harmful wastes include used oil, tyres, end of life vehicles, treated timber, batteries and electronic products.

⁴ Under the regional council led Unwanted Agrichemical Recovery Scheme, around 8-13 tonnes of unwanted agrichemicals were collected each year, but in 2010 and 2011 the product stewardship scheme recovered only 690 kilograms and 460 kilograms respectively, or less than 10 per cent of the regional council led initiative.

A new approach: waste as a resource

As the world shifts toward resource efficiency and low carbon economies, many countries are embracing clean technology strategies to position themselves for economic competitiveness and growth. Job creation, incubation of high value industries, energy security, resource efficiency and environmental protection are common reasons given by governments for making clean technology a top priority.

Factors propelling the global transformation include growth in the world's population, increased purchasing power of the middle class in emerging markets, limits to assimilative capacity of receiving environments and the increasing scarcity of natural resources worldwide. Rising energy and commodity prices, the response to climate change and the new awareness of the need for corporate sustainability strategies are also important drivers of change and all are fundamentally altering the way in which natural resources are distributed, consumed and disposed of.

Many believe that the global financial crisis has initiated a new wave of innovation based on resource efficiency. This new wave is said to be driven by an increasing scarcity of various ores, increasing demand for diminishing supplies of clean water, increasing demand for energy and an increasing recognition of the economic value of the environment beyond the potential it offers as a source of resources.

This resource efficiency approach marks a shift away from economic growth driven by unlimited consumption. The new wave emphasises identification of waste as an opportunity for growth, because in a world of limited resources waste is a source of untapped value. In a world where resource efficiency drives competitive advantage, waste is a good place to start looking for opportunities.



Mussel farming, Thames

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Waikato region's central location and wide variety of businesses, emerging and growth industries, community enterprises, and research and development organisations offer a broad range of opportunities and potential regional benefits.

Business and industry opportunities

There is opportunity for emerging and growth sectors, businesses, local government and the community to work together to maximise waste to resource opportunities in the region. By working together stakeholders can identify mutually beneficial linkages that foster resource efficiency (including energy and water) opportunities, research and innovation that has the ability to reduce waste or utilise wasted resources in a way that also provides economic development for the region. The Waikato is in a unique position to maximise the broad range of "waste resources" produced in and brought into the region.

Key growth sectors identified in the Waikato Regional Economic Profile include:

- high value food manufacturing (especially dairy and meat)
- high value manufacturing (such as agritech and aviation)
- forestry and wood product manufacturing
- agriculture
- aquaculture
- high value services (such as and information and communication technology).

These sectors, and other organisations, could provide a solution for a particular waste stream. They might also produce a waste stream that has value as a resource for another sector to produce a further high-value product.

Coordinated approach to data and information gathering and dissemination

A coordinated and standardised data and information structure needs to be developed to meet the needs of neighbouring regions, local councils, industry and the community. This information would:

- assist stakeholders to identify opportunities for further waste minimisation initiatives
- support market development and business opportunities
- enable everyone to measure improvement and effectiveness of programmes.

Coordinated regional and cross-regional opportunities

This strategy presents an opportunity to develop a more effective and coordinated regional and cross-regional approach to increase beneficial reuse, resource efficiency and recovery. Key stakeholders have indicated their interest in working together and have identified opportunities including:

- aggregation of potential regional resources such as organic wastes
- coordination of procurement of product and services
- increasing linkages between generators and processors
- shared research and innovation opportunities
- support market development for resources such as construction and demolition wastes and organics
- collaborative investment in programmes and infrastructure planning and development such as the development of a resource recovery network or park to increase economies of scale and that also provide economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits for all.

Cross-regional and national forums

The Waikato Regional Council participates in the Regional Waste and Contaminated Land Forum (attended by regional councils across the country) and convenes the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Waste Liaison Group (including representation from Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Gisborne District Council and Ruapehu District Council) with representation from the Ministry for the Environment in both forums. These forums bring together waste officers, planners, and managers to discuss national and local opportunities, issues and policies, share information and resources and foster collaboration on waste minimisation projects and initiatives. The forums provide a valuable platform from which to advocate on behalf of stakeholders and provides an opportunity for industry and community to interface with local and central government.

ROLE OF WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regional councils are uniquely placed to:

- facilitate cross-sector relationships
- be impartial in competitive environments
- work at regional and cross-regional levels
- facilitate collaborative opportunities between local authorities
- gather, assess, monitor and disseminate data and information
- advocate on behalf of stakeholders
- establish and build strategic alliances
- create or stimulate economic development in the region.

Waikato Regional Council has a key role, in partnership with key stakeholders, to play in the implementation of this strategy:

WHAT WE'LL DO	PARTNERS	OUTCOMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue advocacy and regional facilitator roles, encouraging and supporting collaborative relationships 	Industry, business, community and local and central government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution of regional waste issues • Increased opportunities for waste minimisation and resource efficiency across the region • Increased uptake of product stewardship programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of a central repository for gathering, analysing and disseminating relevant waste data and information 	Local government, industry, businesses, and community partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated and consistent data and information structure developed and utilised by stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide skills and expertise to support research and innovation initiatives • Play a role in supporting waste streams or support market development and education for waste currently going to landfill 	Waikatolink, Waikato University, Landcare Research, industry, community enterprise, Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, sector associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable solutions for waste minimisation identified • Increased number of research and innovation projects focused on optimising wastes into high-value products and resources. • Development of sustainable markets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential risks, hazards and biosecurity issues derived from emergency situations 	Central government and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and reduction of the harmful impacts of wastes in emergency situations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to strengthen alliances and partnerships 	Local and central government, industry sectors and associations and community enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximised economies of scale • Pooled resources • Facilitation of beneficial linkages and outcomes across all sectors • Reduced duplication of effort towards a more coordinated and efficient waste sector



WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A ZERO WASTE REGION



VISION AND GOALS

The shared vision of ‘working together towards a zero waste region’ was agreed through a series of meetings with key stakeholders and a regional workshop made up of industry, local government, and community stakeholders.

This vision captures a key aspiration for a region that values its natural resources now and into the future. To achieve it, we must work together to utilise our collective knowledge and expertise to maximise future opportunities through:

- sustainable and innovative product design
- clean technology and lean manufacturing processes
- improved systems to increase recovery of resources
- beneficial reuse of resources creating high value end products
- strong alliances and collaborative partnerships to shape regional development.

This strategy will establish a coordinated and informed region that is able to prioritise regional waste issues and opportunities. The strategy provides for strong advocacy, where necessary, and facilitates access to funding for projects that align with regional priorities.

To achieve our vision, our goals are:

- **to protect our communities, land, water and air from harmful and hazardous wastes**
- **to encourage resource efficiency and beneficial reuse that creates sustainable, economic growth.**

These goals will reduce environmental harm, provide economic development opportunities and increase employment within the Waikato region. However, these benefits can only be accrued through strong, collaborative partnerships and alliances.



Waikato River

STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

We will achieve the vision of becoming a zero waste region by using the following guiding principles:

Prioritising waste prevention and reduction: We support the internationally accepted waste hierarchy, which aims to move from waste disposal to waste prevention.

Exploring onshore and sustainable solutions: We support working with industry, community and local government, to explore the growth of onshore processing options and commercially sustainable waste minimisation solutions. These approaches have the potential to drive economic growth and provide employment opportunities for the Waikato and New Zealand.

Closed loop or cyclical solutions: We support waste minimisation solutions that reflect a production system in which the waste or by-product of one process or product is used in making another product of high-value.

Recognising kaitiakitanga (stewardship): We recognise that the principle of kaitiakitanga takes an integrated view of the environment and we acknowledge our duty to manage our environment sustainably for future generations.

Keeping the big issues in front of decision makers: We understand the importance of keeping decision makers aware of key issues regarding waste and resource efficiency in the Waikato region. This includes communicating, when appropriate, changes in central government policy and legislation and making annual submissions to local council plans to support increased waste minimisation options for the community.

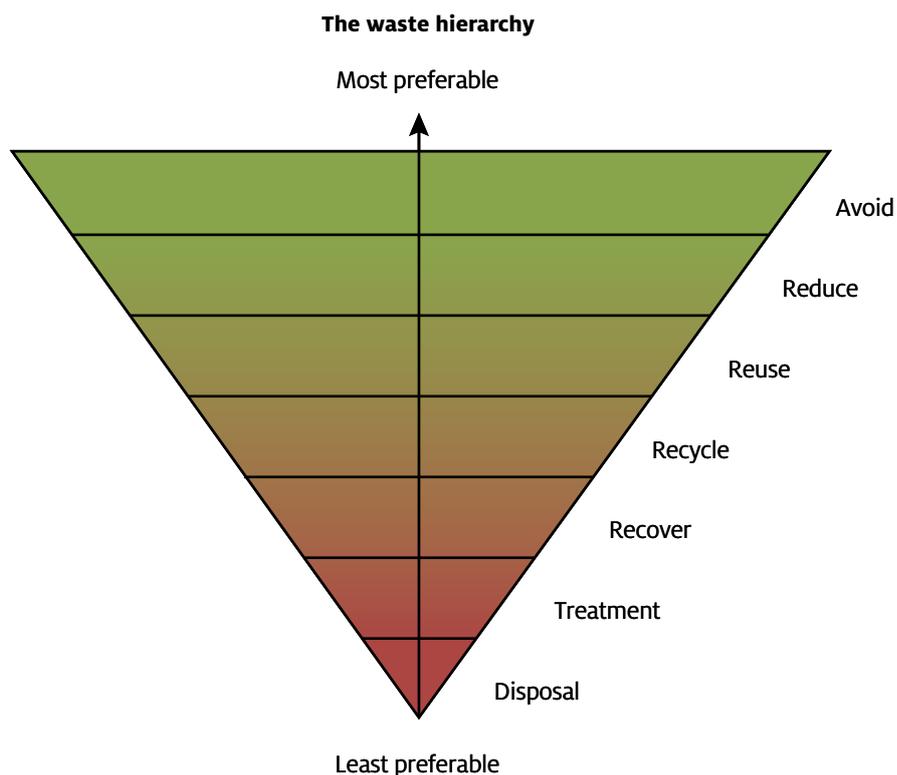
Supporting the valuable role of community enterprise: We recognise the value of local solutions to local problems and the important role community enterprise plays in the resource recovery sector and local economic development and community prosperity.

Working collaboratively with others to share responsibilities: We recognise the importance of effective collaboration in creating shared opportunities. We support working closely with private, public and community sectors to identify issues and opportunities for the Waikato region.

Advocating for product stewardship: We support the concept that waste producers should share responsibility for their products throughout the product's lifecycle from production to final disposal.

Getting the most from external funding: We will continue to explore new waste minimisation funding opportunities for the Waikato region. We will encourage other agencies, industries and territorial authorities to contribute towards waste minimisation activities.

Exploring how to lower barriers to waste minimisation: We will strive to understand barriers to waste minimisation and ensure that the regulatory framework is fair and equitable, while ensuring that high environmental standards are maintained.



Implementation and review

Waikato Regional Council and strategy partners recognise that progress and change within the waste sector can occur quickly and recommends this strategy is reviewed every three years, with an annual programme review undertaken as part of the annual planning process.

Two external advisory groups, the Waste Strategy Advisory Group and the Waste Liaison Group, will oversee and input into the implementation and annual review of the strategy.

WASTE STRATEGY ADVISORY GROUP (WSAG)

This group will include representation from industry, local authorities, community enterprises, Auckland Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Ministry for the Environment. Its role is to:

- monitor and review the effectiveness of this strategy
- provide feedback and advice and recommend changes to the strategy to Waikato Regional Council
- report back, at a political or senior management level, to their respective organisations.

It is proposed that the Waste Strategy Advisory Group meets biannually to receive reports on the effectiveness of programmes delivered over the past 12 to 18 months and approve the proposed work programme for the next 12 to 18 months. The annual planning and review process will enable the strategy to shift focus should priorities change.

WASTE LIAISON GROUP

This group has been in existence since 2002 and brings together waste management staff from local authorities in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions to discuss waste issues and initiatives. The proposed role of this group in relation to the strategy includes:

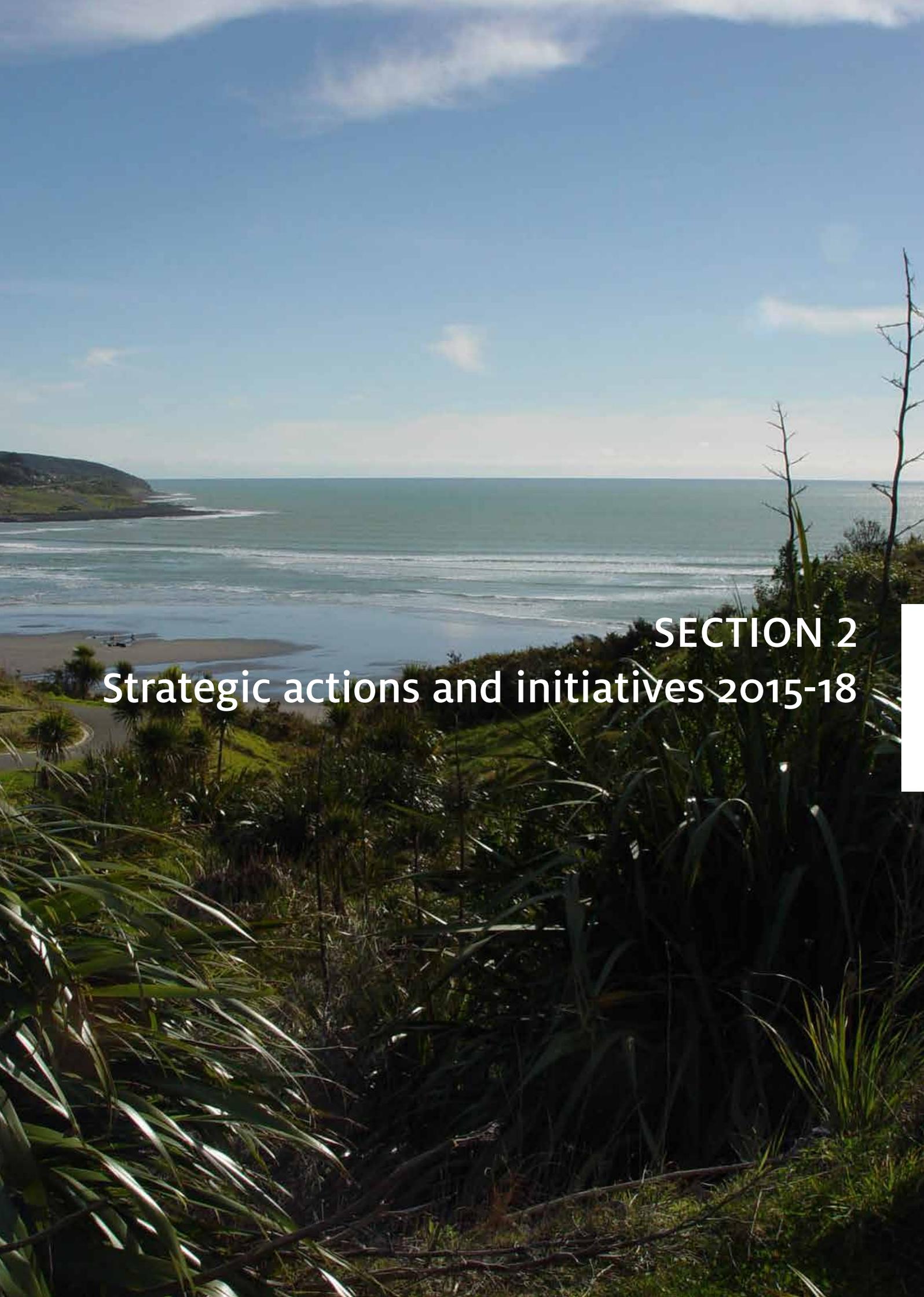
- identification of potential joint projects that require regional or inter-regional coordination
- informing the Regional Waste Strategy Advisory Group on the effectiveness of the regional waste strategy
- monitoring region-wide projects and initiatives and informing their respective organisations on progress.

The group currently meets three times a year. Private sector representation is invited to this meeting when information is required to support the objectives of local council waste management and minimisation plans and the regional waste strategy.

Waikato Regional Council will coordinate both these groups. Costs of the Waste Liaison Group will be shared with Bay of Plenty Regional Council and territorial authorities.

THE UPPER NORTH ISLAND STRATEGIC ALLIANCE (UNISA)

Regional and metropolitan councils in the upper North Island (Auckland Council, Northland Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton City Council, Tauranga City Council and Whangarei District Council) agreed to collaborate for responding to, and managing, a range of inter-regional and inter-metropolitan issues. UNISA had its first formal meeting and a signing ceremony on 8 October 2011. First and second order issues have been set out in the agreement, with waste being recognised as a first order issue. UNISA's work programme to date has focused on economic development linkages, transport, ports and tourism, population and settlement patterns and commercial and industrial land development. A review of UNISA's work programme is underway and a detailed review of first and second order issues is expected in 2016.



SECTION 2

Strategic actions and initiatives 2015-18

Key focus areas

The vision and goals of this strategy will be achieved through six key focus areas developed in collaboration with key industry, community and local government partners. The focus areas and associated initiatives are listed below.

Focus area A: Improve waste data and information management

- Initiative A1: Implement waste data and information network
- Initiative A2: Conduct waste and infrastructure studies

Focus area B: Review regulatory environment governing waste

- Initiative B1: Review of regulations related to waste activities including resource consents for landfills, cleanfills, and other waste related activities in the region.

Focus area C: Reduce the harmful impacts of waste

- Initiative C1: Provide education and support towards agrichemical collections and disposal options
- Initiative C2: Support initiatives that divert harmful and hazardous wastes from the environment

Focus area D: Increase resource efficiency and beneficial reuse

- Initiative D1: Facilitate a coordinated approach to increase resource recovery and beneficial reuse opportunities in the region
- Initiative D2: Support industry sectors to reduce use of resources and generation of waste

Focus area E: Stimulate research and innovation

- Initiative E1: Support research projects that explore the development and application of sustainable, innovative, alternative solutions to waste disposal.
- Initiative E2: Facilitate projects focused on market development opportunities for recovered, recycled or reusable resources

Focus area F: Foster partnerships, collaboration and funding

- Initiative F1: Work with local authorities and other councils to support collaborative waste minimisation objectives
- Initiative F2: Build relationships with relevant central government agencies, industry associations and tertiary and research institutes
- Initiative F3: Support industry and community engagement with the Waste Minimisation Fund

Each focus area is critical for the identification, prioritisation and development of waste to resource opportunities in the region. This means initiatives will need to be prioritised before they can be implemented and will require strong partnerships, collaboration, co-funding and a coordinated approach, sharing these responsibilities across all sectors.

Focus area A

IMPROVE WASTE DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

This focus area will provide a current and accurate understanding of the generation, quantity, composition and movement of waste throughout the Waikato region and between neighbouring regions, including Auckland and Bay of Plenty. Initiatives will support development of a collaborative waste data and information network for gathering, storing and analysing relevant and valid data.

It is intended that this focus area will support business development opportunities and assist key stakeholders and decision makers.

Why do we need to do this?

Consistent, current and accurate data are an essential component of informed decision making and prioritisation of waste issues and initiatives in the Waikato region. High quality data are also essential for monitoring the effectiveness of initiatives and progress towards goals and objectives.

At present, waste data for the Waikato region are patchy and inconsistent. Further, there is no consensus on the type of data required or any system for storing or analysing regional data.

What are the benefits?

The public sector will benefit from having relevant and reliable information to identify issues, inform decision making and prioritise waste initiatives that will reduce harm to the environment and improve the use of resources.

Private and community sector benefits include access to information useful for identifying waste minimisation business opportunities. The private sector will also benefit from a rationalisation of waste data reporting requirements across the Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Auckland regions.

How will we get there?

Proposed initiatives in this focus area will:

- implement a waste data and information network
- support waste feasibility/options and infrastructure studies.

Initiative A1: Implement waste data and information network

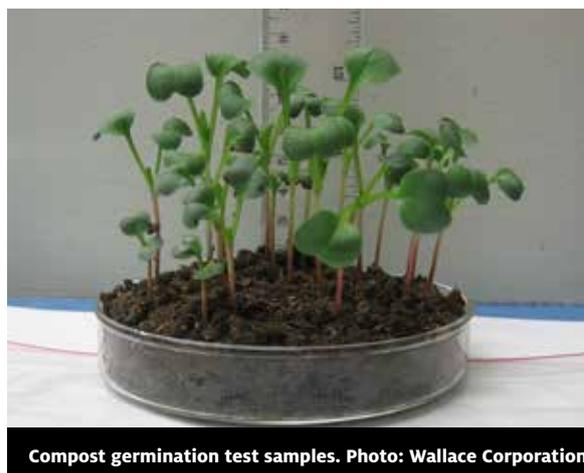
The initiative will develop a network to bring together useful and relevant data and information using consistent methodologies and key performance indicators. Waikato Regional Council will collate and report these indicators under information sharing agreements agreed to with key stakeholders.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aggregate and review of all currently available data and information.• Perform a gap analysis and assess future data requirements, objectives and methodology of data requirements.• Develop waste data templates.• Implement data collection, storage and dissemination systems and processes.• Review the network as part of annual review process.	Waikato Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Auckland Council, industry, territorial authorities, community enterprise landfills, cleanfills, MfE
TIMEFRAME 2015-18	

Resources and funding

Waikato Regional Council will contribute \$30,000 annually from 2015 onwards and seek contributions from partners, including other regional councils, Ministry for the Environment, territorial authorities and industry. Applications for national funding will also be considered.

Waikato Regional Council staff time will also be provided towards these initiatives.



Compost germination test samples. Photo: Wallace Corporation

Initiative A2: Conduct waste and infrastructure studies

Waikato Regional Council will facilitate collaborative studies across the region, and inter-regionally as required, to identify waste minimisation opportunities and assist in evaluating regional progress on initiatives.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update regional waste stocktake and infrastructure study. Develop database of waste diversion opportunities. Collect information on the quantities of hazardous waste generated in the region. Conduct studies of special waste streams that pose difficulties within the region, such as unwanted agrichemicals, agricultural plastics, electronic wastes, tyres, or waste oil, and an analysis of options to resolve associated issues. 	Industry, community, territorial authorities, Auckland Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, other regional councils, MfE
TIMEFRAME 2015-18	

Resources and funding

These projects will be undertaken collaboratively. Waikato Regional Council will contribute \$5000 annually from 2012 onwards towards co-funding, and applications to relevant national funds will be considered.

Waikato Regional Council staff time will also be provided towards these initiatives.

The Waste Strategy Advisory Group will contribute to decision making on which of these projects is funded in any given year as part of the annual planning process.

How will we measure success?

- A Regional Waste Assessment and Infrastructure Stocktake report will be undertaken every three years and will feed into the Waikato Progress Indicators. The next report is due by April 2016. By 2018, local councils in the region will all be reporting using the National Waste Data Framework protocols.
- By 2018 information and data will be gathered on agreed priority waste issues/gaps for the region in order to support future action.



Agrichemical collection

Focus area B

REVIEW REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT GOVERNING WASTE

This focus area will provide a review of the regulatory environment related to waste management activities in the region. Waikato Regional Council recognises that new and emerging businesses, systems and clean technologies will be entering the market place as potential solutions to waste issues. It is timely for Waikato Regional Council to review its regulatory framework to ensure it aligns in a way that supports innovation and potential solutions to waste issues without compromising the integrity of the environment.

Why do we need to do this?

This focus area will support Waikato Regional Council to identify regulations that may create barriers to waste minimisation. The review will also ensure that the framework does not create disincentives for environmentally sustainable activities and enable better alignment with other regulatory authorities to increase efficiencies and increased waste minimisation opportunities.

What are the benefits?

Waikato Regional Council's regulatory framework will allow waste minimisation activities that benefit the region and support stakeholders interested in sustainable waste minimisation activities. This work will include working with other regional councils where it makes sense and there are efficiencies to be made in taking a regional approach.

How will we get there?

Review and amend regional rules that:

- a) create perverse outcomes for waste minimisation; or
- b) are inconsistent with the purpose of the WMA.

Work with other regional councils to align policies and rules, where appropriate.

Work with territorial authorities in the region to align policies, bylaws and rules, where appropriate.

Work with industry to identify any regulatory barriers to waste minimisation.

Initiative B1: Review of regulations related to waste activities including resource consents for landfills, cleanfills, and other waste related activities in the region and neighbouring regions

Waikato Regional Council will facilitate a review of its regulatory environment related to waste activities in the region and assess neighbouring region's regulations, policies and plans related to waste to identify any inconsistencies, gaps and potential alignment opportunities.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess regulations, policies and plans related to waste.• Assess and analyse the scale of environmental problems arising from waste streams that are currently covered by permitted activity rules in RPS.	Industry, community, territorial authorities, other regional councils, MfE
TIMEFRAME 2015-18	

Resources and funding

Waikato Regional Council staff time will also be provided towards these initiatives.

How will we measure success?

By 2018 we will have identified:

- gaps and opportunities for policy alignment
- rules required to increase waste minimisation activity in the region.

Focus area C

REDUCE THE HARMFUL IMPACTS OF WASTE

This focus area aims to ensure hazardous and harmful wastes do not enter our waterways, land or air. Diffuse contaminants that impact land and water, such as farm effluent, are not specifically addressed in this strategy. However, Waikato Regional Council recognises this is a significant issue for the region and plans and projects, as outlined in the Land and Water Road Map⁵, have been developed and are currently being implemented to address this waste issue.

This focus area aims to encourage and support cost-effective and safe alternatives for disposal of harmful wastes by the community and industry.

Why do we need to do this?

Toxic materials entering landfills and leaching into waterways present a significant threat to the health of humans and to natural ecosystems. Harmful wastes that currently pose a threat within the Waikato region include:

- unwanted agrichemicals
- domestic hazardous waste
- treated timber
- used oil
- rural plastics⁶
- electronic waste
- unwanted paint
- tyres.

Many of these wastes are suitable for product stewardship schemes, with some already currently managed under voluntary product stewardship initiatives. To ensure national consistency and sustainability of current or new product stewardship schemes in the region, Waikato Regional Council can play an important role in encouraging implementation and improvement of product stewardship schemes to protect the environment from the harm posed by inappropriate disposal of toxic materials.

What are the benefits?

The Waikato region will benefit from an increased number of effective product stewardship schemes providing alternative avenues for hazardous and harmful wastes. This will lead to a reduction in illegal dumping or accidental leakage of unwanted agrichemicals, end of life tyre stockpiles and associated costs of cleaning up these contaminated sites.

The region will also benefit from recovery of precious metals and other valuable materials present in electronic waste.

How will we get there?

Proposed initiatives in this focus area will:

- provide education and support for agrichemical collections and disposal options
- support projects that divert harmful and hazardous wastes from the environment.

Potential projects supported by these initiatives could include safe collection and verified disposal of harmful wastes, including agrichemicals, e-wastes, tyres and other priority hazardous wastes in the region.

Waikato Regional Council will support initiatives that:

- lead to effective industry-led product stewardship of harmful wastes, so that manufacturers contribute to the collection and safe disposal of their own products
- promote these schemes and educate end users to enhance participation and overall scheme effectiveness.

Initiative C1: Provide education and support towards agrichemical collections and disposal options

Waikato Regional Council will provide education and support for collection and disposal of unwanted agrichemicals not currently supported under existing product stewardship programmes.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess current product stewardship programmes and assist programme improvements to enhance participation and recovery volumes.• Advocate nationally for changes in the product stewardship environment that will result in more cost-effective and productive scheme(s).• Continue to educate and engage the rural community to enhance participation.	Waikato Regional Council, territorial authorities, Regional Waste and Contaminated Land Forum, MfE

TIMEFRAME 2015-18

Resources and funding

Waikato Regional Council will contribute \$30,000 annually and seek contributions from partners including territorial authorities, other regional councils and applications to national funding will also be considered.

Waikato Regional Council staff time will be provided in kind towards these initiatives.

⁵ Land and Water Roadmap for Sustainable Agriculture

⁶ Including silage wrap/covers, empty agrichemical containers/drums, feed bags, horticultural net and films, shrink/pallet wrap and twine.

Initiative C2: Support initiatives that divert harmful and hazardous wastes from the environment

Waikato Regional Council will participate in joint and collaborative initiatives – regional and inter-regional – that support the diversion of harmful wastes from discharging to land, water and air. Waikato Regional Council will work with the Regional Waste and Contaminated Land Forum to agree on prioritisation of wastes to be addressed.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support initiatives that work towards product stewardship schemes for harmful wastes. • Coordinate and facilitate regional and wider efforts to establish industry-led product stewardship schemes. • Promote awareness of, and participation in, product stewardship schemes. • Work with other agencies and industry to ensure the safe disposal of large volumes of potentially hazardous or harmful wastes in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. 	<p>Waikato Regional Council, Regional Waste and Contaminated Land Forum, territorial authorities, industry, community enterprise</p>
<p>TIMEFRAME 2015-18</p>	

Resources and funding

Waikato Regional Council will contribute seed funding of \$20,000 annually towards collaborative projects addressing hazardous and harmful wastes. Applications to national funding will also be considered.

Waikato Regional Council staff time will also be provided towards these initiatives.

The Waste Strategy Advisory Group and the Regional Waste and Contaminated Land Forum may assist in determining which of these projects is funded in any given year as part of the annual planning process.

How will we measure success?

By 2018:

- the Waikato region will have more product stewardship schemes available for issue wastes than in 2015
- we will have viable options for rural communities for unwanted agrichemicals, hazardous waste and other issue rural wastes in the region
- we will be in a position to respond appropriately to emergency and disaster situations with regards to waste management.



Recovered electronic waste

Focus area D

INCREASE RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND BENEFICIAL REUSE

This focus area aims to encourage key stakeholders to increase the efficiency of resource use and yield parallel economic benefits.

Why do we need to do this?

Future allocation of finite natural resources is a strong driver for improving the way we use our resources today. Reducing waste and using materials more efficiently makes good commercial sense. Waste costs money – not only through the cost of disposal, but also through lost value of wasted materials.

What are the benefits?

Resource efficiency represents a critical opportunity to build green economies in which economic growth is decoupled from environmental harm. By enabling the design and production of low-impact products and services, resource efficiency can help meet human needs while minimising the impact on the planet. Development of new, resource efficient technologies requires innovative and entrepreneurial thinking and has the potential to create new jobs, businesses, industries and products and materials, unlocking a wealth of economic benefits for the Waikato region and the whole of the country. With growth under pressure because of wider economic conditions, businesses able to realise the benefits of greater resource efficiency will reduce costs and increase regional economic resilience.

What are we trying to achieve?

- Encourage beneficial reuse of resources that deliver economic benefits for the region.
- Encourage more efficient use of regional resources including energy, raw materials and water.

How will we get there?

- Facilitate a coordinated approach to increase resource efficiency and beneficial reuse opportunities.
- Support industry sectors to reduce use of resources and generation of waste.

Initiative D1: Facilitate a coordinated approach to increase resource recovery and beneficial reuse opportunities in the region

Waikato Regional Council will explore options to increase diversion of materials from landfill, increase beneficial reuse and enhance business and industry development opportunities within the region. This might include identification of regional infrastructure requirements like a regional resource recovery park/facility or materials recovery network, or facilitating beneficial cross-sector linkages.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate a regional resource efficiency network with local government, industry and community partners.• Regional education and promotional project developed to raise awareness around waste minimisation initiatives happening in the region.	Waikato Regional Council, territorial authorities, industry, community partners, Auckland Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council
TIMEFRAME 2015-18	

Resources and funding

Waikato Regional Council will contribute \$10,000 annually towards co-funding with industry, community and territorial authorities, and applications to relevant national funds will be considered.

Waikato Regional Council staff time will also be provided towards these initiatives.



Concrete recycling. Photo: Transpacific Waste Management

Initiative D2: Support industry sectors to reduce use of resources and generation of waste

Waikato Regional Council will support existing and emerging industry sectors to reduce their use of resources including energy, water and raw materials and reduce waste generation. This will include exploring options and incentives that will encourage sectors to utilise sustainable alternatives and clean technologies that reduce waste and resource use and deliver positive long term economic benefits for the region.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise industry sectors through a region-wide study which will quantify benefits of a resource efficiency approach (to include energy and water). • Develop a resource efficiency plan in conjunction with a regional economic development strategy. • Provide technical (resource information) support and resource efficiency incentives for prioritised industry sectors. • Encourage business and sector engagement with existing product stewardship programmes and/or encourage businesses to develop new product stewardship programmes for their sectors. 	<p>Waikato Regional Council, territorial authorities, MfE, MBIE, and industry associations and sectors</p>
<p>TIMEFRAME 2015-18</p>	

Resources and funding

Waikato Regional Council will provide 0.5 of an FTE from 2017 onwards to develop the resource efficiency plan and contribute \$15,000 annually towards collaborative projects with industry sectors and associations.

Waikato Regional Council staff time will also be provided towards these initiatives.

How will we measure success?

By 2018:

- the region will be taking a strategic approach to achieving resource efficiency in alignment with the regional resource efficiency plan.



Rendering plant Waikato - photo: Waikato Byproducts

Focus area E

STIMULATE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

This focus area aims to stimulate new approaches for addressing waste streams that currently have little value or no pathway alternatives to landfill. This might include developing new products to replace problem materials, creating clean technology solutions for waste disposal; or identifying linkages where an unutilised resource can be used in another product or process to produce a high value end product that provides sustainable, economic benefits for the region.

Why do we need to do this?

The region currently produces, and receives from outside the region, a variety of waste streams that represent untapped resources. Finding solutions to some of these more complex waste streams will require creative and innovative thinking. However, opportunities and outcomes that may emerge have the potential to produce significant benefits for the region.

What are the benefits?

The Waikato region is a hub for research and innovation, with Waikato University, Innovation Park and Waikatolink already offering a significant number of researchers. The opportunity exists for the waste sector to access these resources and to develop linkages with other sectors to increase innovation opportunities.

Partnerships between waste producers and researchers will support and strengthen the research industry in the Waikato, but may also open up industries to manufacture products that result from research solutions.

How will we get there?

Proposed initiatives in this focus area will:

- support research projects that explore the development and application of sustainable, innovative, alternative solutions to waste disposal
- facilitate research projects focused on market development opportunities for recovered, recycled or reusable resources.

Initiative E1: Support research projects that explore the development and application of sustainable, innovative, alternative solutions to waste disposal

Support research projects that focus on identification of opportunities with wastes generated from existing and emerging growth industries in the region e.g. aquaculture, food manufacturing industries, or particular waste streams that currently have no alternative pathways other than landfill.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with key growth sectors in the region to identify opportunities for research projects.• Facilitate partnerships including public-private partnerships.	Waikato Regional Council, industry partners, CRIs, Waikatolink, Waikato University, territorial authorities, MBIE
TIMEFRAME 2015-18	

Resources and funding

These projects will be undertaken collaboratively. Waikato Regional Council will contribute \$10,000 annually towards a collaborative and co-funded project. Applications to relevant national funds will be considered.

Waikato Regional Council staff time will also be provided towards these initiatives.



Biochar from regional pyrolysis project

Initiative E2: Facilitate projects focused on market development opportunities for recovered, recycled or reusable resources

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and facilitate research projects focused on increasing markets for processed organic waste onto agriculture, horticulture and pastoral farms. • Support and facilitate research projects focused on increasing markets for priority wastes/ resources that currently have few markets. • Help develop purchasing and procurement policies that support the use of recovered or recycled materials (e.g. construction and demolition materials). • Support market development through regional communication avenues to increase understanding of benefits and opportunities of recovered recycled or reusable resources. 	<p>Waikato Regional Council, territorial authorities, industry, community partners</p>

TIMEFRAME 2015-18

Resources and funding

These projects will be undertaken collaboratively. Waikato Regional Council will contribute \$10,000 annually towards a collaborative and co-funded project. Applications to relevant national funds will be considered.

Waikato Regional Council staff time will also be provided towards these initiatives.

How will we measure success?

By 2018 there will be an increase in:

- research and innovation projects addressing waste and resource efficiency issues in the region
- markets for organic waste and construction and demolition materials in the region.



Gib board recycling. Photo: Envirofert

Focus area F

FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION AND FUNDING

This focus area will improve coordination of those working in the waste sector in the Waikato region. This will increase opportunities for collaboration and reduce duplication and unnecessary costs to the community. A collaborative approach will open up opportunities for industry, community, local government and individuals to access funding from the Waste Minimisation Fund, and other national funds, to support the initiatives that are part of this strategy.

Why do we need to do this?

A facilitated and coordinated regional approach towards zero waste enables interested parties to share resources, information, skills and experience towards solutions within and across regions.

What are the benefits?

Initiatives within this focus area aim to build linkages between businesses, industry sectors, community, and local government that may not normally interface, but which have the potential to work together to increase resource efficiency and waste minimisation. These relationships may cross public, private and community boundaries to provide economic growth and development.

A coordinated and collaborative approach also provides opportunities for regions to pool resources, increasing economies of scale to achieve common objectives and to leverage significant funding to support growth in this sector.

How will we get there?

Proposed initiatives in this focus area will:

- provide collaborative projects that include local authorities and other councils to support waste minimisation objectives
- build relationships with central government, relevant industry associations, tertiary education institutions and research institutes to develop collaborative waste minimisation ventures
- support industry and community applications to the Waste Minimisation Fund and other relevant national funds.

Initiative F1: Work with local authorities and other councils to support collaborative waste minimisation objectives

Waikato Regional Council will continue its facilitation and coordination role with territorial authorities, enabling information sharing, building relationships between local authorities, industry and community sectors, and coordinating collaborative cross-regional (and inter-regional) joint projects that support councils to achieve the objectives of their waste plans and strategies.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate cross-regional Waikato and Bay of Plenty Waste Liaison Group meetings. • Facilitate collaborative regional projects as agreed to by the group. • Collaborate with neighbouring councils, in particular Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Auckland Council, on policy alignment and collaborative initiatives where an inter-regional approach makes sense or provides economies of scale that benefit the efforts of all regions. 	Waikato Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Auckland Council and territorial authorities
TIMEFRAME 2015-18	

Resources and funding

These projects will be undertaken collaboratively, with contributions from Waikato Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Auckland Council, and territorial authorities via their territorial authority levy funding. Applications to the Waste Minimisation Fund will be considered.

Waikato Regional Council staff time will be provided towards these initiatives.



Initiative F2: Build relationships with relevant central government agencies, industry associations and tertiary and research institutes

Waikato Regional Council will work together with relevant central government agencies, industry associations and tertiary and research institutes to explore collaborative projects addressing regional issues and opportunities. As an independent, non-competitive entity (with technical expertise), the regional council is well placed to be able to facilitate interaction between sectors and break down barriers.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on collaborative projects to support industry sectors to increase waste minimisation and resource efficiency practices. Identifying and facilitating co-beneficial sector specific partnerships. Supporting central government on issues of national and regional importance. 	Waikatolink, Wasteminz, MBIE, BRANZ and other industry associations and Waikato Regional Council
TIMEFRAME 2015-18	

Resources and funding

These projects will be undertaken collaboratively and applications to relevant national funds will be made. Waikato Regional Council staff time will also be provided in kind towards these initiatives.

Initiative F3: Support community engagement with the Waste Minimisation Fund

Waikato Regional Council will play an active role in supporting community engagement with the Waste Minimisation Fund. This includes providing information and support on how to access the fund and fostering public, private and community collaboration.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS	PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively promote the Waste Minimisation Fund to industry sectors to increase waste minimisation activities. Support community groups/enterprises, iwi, and Māori organisations to engage with the Waste Minimisation Fund on projects that support regional waste minimisation. 	Waikato Regional Council, MfE, territorial authorities, Community Recycling Network (CRN), Trust Waikato, Waikato Environment Centre and other community organisations
TIMEFRAME 2015-18	

Resources and funding

Waikato Regional Council will undertake this role with support from the Ministry for the Environment, and relevant private and public community stakeholders.

How will we measure success?

- By 2018 there will be an increase in applications to the Waste Minimisation Fund by industry, community and iwi for waste minimisation projects in the region from previous years.
- By 2018 there will be an increase in waste and resource efficiency projects being undertaken by council, industry, community and iwi in the region from previous years.



Xtreme Waste school education beach clean up and waste audit



Glossary

Glossary

Beneficial reuse: when a material destined for landfill is captured and made into a high-value material or product that will feed into, or benefit, another system or product. For example, transforming food waste into compost, or soil conditioner that will be used to improve the health of the soil to grow food or plant life that will be beneficial to the community or environment.

Cleanfills: waste disposal sites that accept only cleanfill material. Cleanfill material is material that when buried will have no adverse effect on people or the environment; and includes virgin natural materials such as clay, soil and rock, and other inert materials such as concrete or brick that are free of:

- combustible, putrescible, degradable or leachable components
- hazardous substances
- products or materials derived from hazardous waste treatment, hazardous waste stabilization or hazardous waste disposal practices
- materials that may present a risk to human health
- liquid waste.

Construction and demolition waste: material generated from the construction or demolition of a building including the preparation and/or clearance of the property or site. This excludes materials such as clay, soil and rock when those materials are associated with infrastructure such as road construction and maintenance, but includes building-related infrastructure.

Disposal facility: defined by the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 as a facility, including a landfill, at which waste, including household waste, is disposed of and which operates at least in part as a business to dispose of waste.

Diverted material: defined by the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 as 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.

Harmful waste: wastes that have the potential to cause significant harm to the environment, but are not classified as hazardous wastes. Examples include used oil, used tyres, batteries, end-of-life electronic goods, televisions and treated timber.

Hazardous waste: materials that are flammable, explosive, oxidising, corrosive, toxic, ecotoxic, radioactive or infectious. Examples include unused agricultural chemicals, solvents and cleaning fluids, medical waste, and many industrial wastes.

Industrial landfills: receive waste from individual operations, for example, sawdust and bark from timber mills or mining waste.

Municipal landfills: landfills that have consents to receive municipal wastes (waste generated by the general public). Most municipal landfills also receive wastes from commercial activities.

Organic waste: common definition, based on the putrescible waste category used in the Ministry for the Environment's 2002 Solid Waste Analysis Protocol (SWAP) includes garden waste (more commonly known as 'green waste'), food scraps and commercial organic wastes such as food processing waste. Some other wastes that may biodegrade in landfill, such as paper, cardboard, biosolids (classified as special wastes) and untreated wood are also defined as organic wastes, but these are identified separately in SWAP audits.

Product stewardship: requires producers, brand owners, importers, retailers, consumers and other parties to accept responsibility for the environmental effects of products from the beginning of the production process through to, and including, disposal at the end of the product's life. It moves some responsibility for waste to those involved in production and supply of a product and indirectly to the consumer by ensuring any residential waste costs are reflected in the purchase price. It therefore provides incentives for better product design and other measures to reduce waste and resource costs.

Putrescible waste: defined in Ministry for the Environment's 2002 Solid Waste Analysis Protocol (SWAP) includes garden waste (more commonly known as 'green waste'), food scraps and commercial organic wastes such as food processing wastes.

Recycling: the reprocessing of waste or diverted material to produce new materials.

Resource efficiency: using materials, energy and water more effectively so you can do more with less, and as a result there is less waste and demand on raw materials and reduced environmental impact.

Resource recovery: extraction of materials or energy from waste or diverted material for further use or processing, including making waste or diverted material into compost.

Solid wastes: include wastes generated as a solid or converted to a solid for disposal. It includes wastes like paper, plastic, glass, metal, electronic goods, furnishings, garden and other organic wastes.

Special wastes: those wastes that cause particular problems at disposal and which may need special management to effectively recover material or ensure proper disposal. Includes catch pit cleanings (from stormwater drains etc), road sweepings, wash bay sumps and similar wastes that are not quite classed as hazardous waste but are not completely inert.

Territorial authority: defined by the Local Government Act 2002 as a city council or a district council.

Waste: is defined by the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to:

- a. mean anything disposed of or discarded; and
- b. include 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 of or discarded.

Waste minimisation: defined by the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to mean reduction of waste, and the reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and diverted material.

Waste prevention: sits at the top of the waste hierarchy and refers to practices that avoid the generation of waste in the first instance.

Zero waste: defined by the Zero Waste International Alliance in 2004 as “a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use. Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.”



Compost. Photo: Envirofert

COMPETING GLOBALLY
CARING LOCALLY

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