

Rubbish and Recycling



To help lower future rates and keep services sustainable, Council is reviewing whether services should stay the same, change, be reduced or stop.

While councils must provide waste minimisation services they can choose how those services are delivered.

Our services include:

- Kerbside rubbish collection
- Kerbside recycling collection
- Kerbside food scraps collection
- Transfer stations
- Resource recovery centres
- Managing and monitoring closed landfills

Why is reducing waste to landfill important?

Since the Taumarunui landfill closed, all rubbish has to be taken to a Transfer Station near Auckland. Council also pays the Government a \$75-per-tonne waste levy. This makes landfill disposal much more expensive.

To help reduce these costs, Council has invested in food scraps collection, composting and Resource Recovery Centres. These services help keep reusable and compostable material out of landfill. These initiatives are making a difference. Ruapehu sends less waste to landfill and recycles more than the national average.

Who benefits and how is it funded?

Everyone benefits when we reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Recycling and disposing of waste safely also protects public health and the environment that our economy depends on.

Households in areas that receive kerbside rubbish, recycling and food scraps collections pay for those services through targeted rates.

Other services are funded by a mix of user charges, including the sale of official rubbish bags and fees paid at transfer stations, and the general rate. The Government also supports this activity by returning a portion of the "waste levy" to Councils.

Food Scrap Collection

Ruapehu was one of the first councils in New Zealand to introduce kerbside food scraps collection. Food scraps are turned into compost at the Taumarunui Hot Composting Unit. This reduces landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Many rural households compost at home, have worm farms, or feed pigs, so fewer people have used the service than expected. Recent audits show that about 25-30% of rubbish bags still contain compostable material. The Government no longer requires food scraps collection, but Council is contracted to provide the service until 2030.

1. Should Council stop the kerbside food scraps collection service?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

2. If Council stops kerbside food scraps collection, should it support alternatives such as home composting or worm farming?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Waste Minimisation Education

Council provides education programmes to help people reduce waste, recycle more and save money. These include school programmes, community workshops and campaigns such as Plastic Free July.

These programmes are paid for through the national Waste Minimisation Levy, not general rates. Council could choose to use this funding for other waste initiatives.

3. Should Council reduce or stop these programmes?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐



Transfer Stations

Council operates six transfer stations across the district.

Taumarunui and Ohakune have larger sites with Resource Recovery Centres. Ongarue, Waimarino (National Park), Ohura and Owango have smaller rural transfer stations. Pipiriki has a refuse station.

Compared with many similar councils, Ruapehu has a high number of transfer stations. Most residents live within about 20 minutes of one. Many rural people regularly travel to Taumarunui or Ohakune and may be able to use a transfer station while they are there.

4. Do you think we have too many small transfer stations? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Raetihi Recycling Bins

Public recycling bins were first installed in Raetihi for seasonal visitors. They have since become a regular service. The bins now cost more to service because of contamination and illegal dumping. Council currently spends about \$60,000 each year maintaining them.

Raetihi already has weekly kerbside recycling, and the Ohakune Transfer Station is about 10 minutes away. However, the bins are also being used by the wider community who do not receive a kerbside recycling service.

The Raetihi community has questioned the scale of the problems and strongly supports keeping the bins.

5. Should Council remove the Raetihi recycling bins? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Public Rubbish and Recycling Bins

Council provides rubbish and recycling bins in town centres, parks and reserves.

Council is considering reducing the number of bins across the district while keeping them in the places they are needed most. Experience elsewhere shows that careful reductions can lower costs without increasing litter.

6. Should Council reduce the number of public rubbish and recycling bins?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Other Feedback

7. Do you have any other feedback about rubbish and recycling?

8. Where do you live?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Taumarunui | ☐ Ohura | ☐ Ongarue |
| ☐ Owango | ☐ Waimarino | ☐ Rangataua |
| ☐ Ohakune | ☐ Raetihi | ☐ Waionuru |
| ☐ Other | | |