

Kerbside food waste collection

In July/August we asked which services matter most, and where changes could be made, to help keep rates affordable. Your feedback has helped shape proposals to reduce service costs and the amount funded through rates.

This proposal includes potential savings and other details that may change your views.

Please tell us what you think.

**YOUR RATES
YOUR SERVICES
YOUR PLAN**

LONG-TERM PLAN 2027/37



What we are proposing

Council is proposing to discontinue the kerbside food scraps collection service during the next ten-year 2027/37 Long-Term Plan.

- **Note:** there is an existing contract to deliver these services through till 2030.
- Residents would continue to receive kerbside rubbish and recycling collections.

Council is also interested in understanding whether support should be provided for alternatives such as home composting and worm farming.

What we deliver

Council currently provides a weekly kerbside food scraps collection service alongside kerbside rubbish and recycling collections.

The service was introduced in October 2020 to help reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill and support waste minimisation across the district as part of its Zero Waste 2040 vision.

Lower-than-expected uptake has prompted Council to consider withdrawing the service.

How does our level of service stack up?

Providing a dedicated food scraps collection service is a higher level of service than many comparable rural districts. Among the 29 “small provincial and rural” councils, only six (including Ruapehu) provide food scraps kerbside collection.

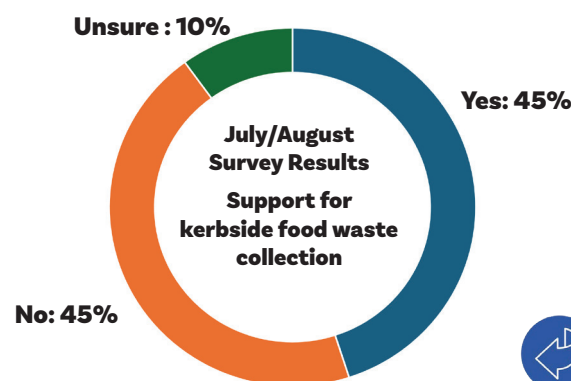
Home composting and worm farming remain widely used alternatives for managing household food waste.

What you told us

In the July/August survey we asked whether Council should stop the kerbside food scraps collection service.

What you could save

Removing the kerbside food scraps collection service is estimated to save **approximately \$1.5 million over the next 10 years**, after allowing for increased costs to dispose of food waste in the regular waste stream.



Home composting/worm farming

If kerbside food waste collection is withdrawn an option to provide home composting or worm farming would cost up to an estimated \$380,000 over 10 years, assuming a fully subsidised solution for every household who currently receives a kerbside service.

Council has not discussed the level of subsidy which may be provided, and it is unlikely every household would opt in, given the limited uptake of the kerbside service.

Questions

Given the limited uptake of kerbside foodscraps collection and the costs to operate the service:

1. Do you think Council should continue providing food scraps collection? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

2. If NO, should Council subsidise home composting/worm farming for those who wish to participate? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

3. Where do you live?

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Taumarunui | ☐ Ohura | ☐ Ongarue | ☐ Owhango | ☐ Ohakune |
| ☐ Waimarino | ☐ Rangataua | ☐ Raetihi | ☐ Waiouru | ☐ Other |