

# SOLID WASTE



## Overview

The Solid Waste section is responsible for the operation of the Waitakere Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station which includes a drop-off centre that assists in the handling, separating and disposal of all waste types. This section oversees refuse and recycling collection operations throughout the city for both households and commercial premises. It also oversees operations for the removal of litter from street litter bins, footpaths and streets.

## Governing regulations

- Litter Act 1979
- Local Government Act 1974
- Local Government Act 2002
- Health Act 1956
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Waste Minimisation Act 2008



## Funding of Solid Waste activities

- User pays for household refuse collection
- Partial user pays for household inorganic collection
- Rates funding for kerbside recycling
- User pays for all refuse types brought to the Transfer Station for disposal
- Rates funding for street litter collection, litterbin emptying, waste analysis, waste education and promotional activities

### **Sustainability objectives**

*Waitakere will be a clean and attractive city that turns all its waste to resources, with a target of Zero Waste to landfill by 2020*

### **Environmental objectives**

*Minimize waste generation to encourage sustainable resource use and divert waste from landfill to convert into resources so that it has minimal environmental impact*

### **Cultural objectives**

*To ensure diverse communities in Waitakere understand and embrace the concept of waste minimization and resource recovery and develop a sustainable community.*

### **Economic objectives**

*To generate jobs at the resource recovery centre or any other council owned waste management and minimization facility and develop local skills in the sector.*

### **Social objectives**

*To empower and encourage people and businesses to take responsibility for their own actions and to find their own ways to conserve resources and avoid waste.*

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## How we contribute to community outcomes

Community outcomes	Our contribution	
Sustainable environment— Kauneke Tauwhiro Taiao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter Control</li> <li>• Abandoned vehicles</li> <li>• Illegal dumping</li> <li>• Zero waste advocacy</li> <li>• Recovery of resources prior to landfilling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education programmes</li> <li>• Harbour Cleanup Trust</li> <li>• Stream Cleaning</li> <li>• Refuse &amp; recycling collection service</li> </ul>
Environmental protection— Waiora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter Control</li> <li>• Abandoned vehicles</li> <li>• Illegal dumping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste minimisation Learning Centre</li> <li>• Harbour Cleanup Trust</li> <li>• Stream Cleaning</li> </ul>
Green network—he tuituianga kākāriki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter Control</li> <li>• Abandoned vehicles</li> <li>• Illegal dumping</li> <li>• Zero waste advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education programmes</li> <li>• Harbour Cleanup Trust</li> <li>• Stream Cleaning</li> </ul>
Strong Economy– He tupu- ranga kaha wana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Transfer Station provides the local community with jobs and an opportunity to grow their skills</li> </ul>	



*Redvale landfill used by Waitakere City*

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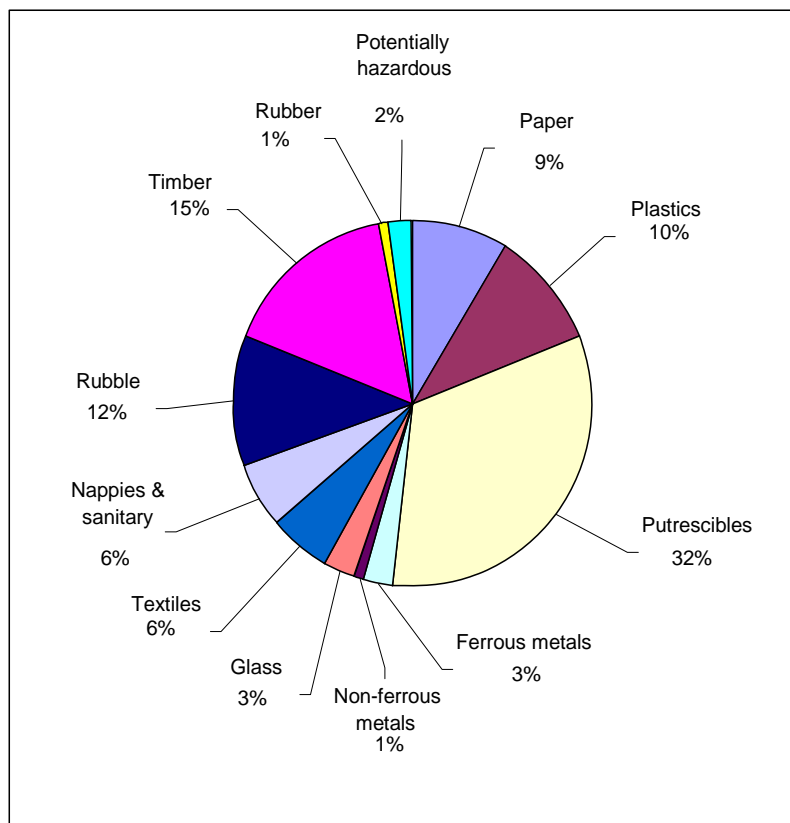
## Refuse and recycling transfer station

Vehicles entering the facility with waste are weighed at the weighbridge and charged accordingly. Within the facility, separate disposal points are provided for different materials, such as recycling, green waste, metal, hazardous waste, timber, general waste and clean fill etc.

Co-mingled refuse is brought in and emptied onto the tipping floor to be sorted. Materials that can be reused or recycled are removed from the waste stream before bulk haulage vehicles take the residual waste to the landfill.



## Composition of waste at tipping floor



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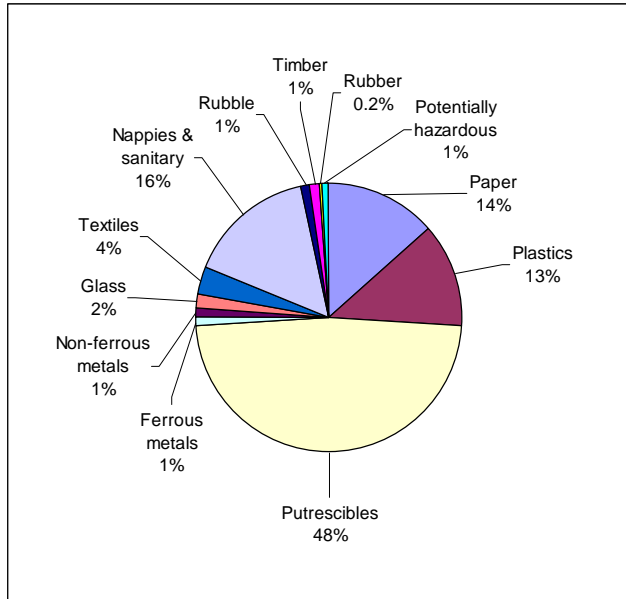
## Refuse collection

Refuse is collected once a week from all households and three times a week from all businesses within the city.



*Each week 458 tonnes of household refuse is collected in the City*

## Composition of waste at collection



## Kerbside collection of recyclables

Fortnightly kerbside collection of recyclables are undertaken in a joint venture with the North Shore City Council. All kerbside recycling collected from both cities is sorted into individual categories at the Recycling Sorting Facility located at the transfer station and operated by the Onyx Group.

### How much recycling is collected in the City each fortnight?

- 285 tonnes of paper/kraft
- 315 tonnes of glass
- 56 tonnes of recyclable plastic
- 28 tonnes of steel cans
- 5 tonnes of aluminium cans



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## Reactive collections

### Litter

Solid Waste is responsible for removing litter from streets and the emptying of litter bins. In addition to the litter pick-up service being provided by the contractor, the council has recently employed three litter officers to monitor litter cleanliness in the streets in CBD areas. Commercial centres receive a daily litter collection. Last year 113 tonnes of litter were removed from streets within the city. Each week's litter collection is estimated to include over 16,000 items. Over half the litter is food and drink packaging. Snack food packaging is one of the most common types of litter with approximately 2,200 items recovered each week. Over 4,900 drink containers and 1,500 fast food packages are also collected each week.



### Illegal dumping of rubbish

There was a 1.7% increase in the quantity of illegally dumped rubbish removed in the city compared with the previous year.

### Stream Clearing

The Council litter contractor removes rubbish, plastic and other containers, tyres, shopping trolleys which have been dumped in the streams, affecting the ecosystems.



### Abandoned vehicles

Solid Waste dealt with 1,160 reports of derelict or abandoned cars last year, which has dropped by 16% from the year before.

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## Waste Minimisation Learning Centre

Education at the Learning Centre is an ongoing service provided free to school groups and educational facilities in Waitakere City. The programme includes:

- Tour of the Transfer Station so the students can see that much more can be done with waste than just burying it.
- Visit to the worm farm with the opportunity to take away a recycled bath tub (complete with worms and accessories) for the development of their own worm farm.
- Litter initiatives and the role of the city's Waste Minimisation Officers.
- Composting and its benefits.



*Wastewise schools is a regional waste education initiatives.  
The logo is used in all their resource material. Two schools  
from Waitakere City are currently involved.*