

Executive Summary

This Hutt Valley Waste Management Plan (WMP) outlines the high level strategy for the future, by which the Hutt City Council and the Upper Hutt City Council will jointly manage waste. This WMP will be breaking new ground for both Councils for the following reasons:

- It will be the first time both Councils have worked together to produce a WMP for the Hutt Valley.
- This WMP addresses both solid and liquid waste.
- The WMP has been prepared using the new policy framework established by the *New Zealand Waste Strategy – Towards zero waste and a sustainable New Zealand (NZWS)*. Prior to this Strategy there were no national standards or targets concerning the management of waste.

The NZWS outlines a series of national targets for waste management and waste reduction. At this stage the NZWS is not legally binding on territorial local authorities – provided positive progress is made to meet targets. If not, government may consider this as an option.

The WMP comes in three sections. The first section (Pages 3–20) outlines what each Council currently has in place, with respect to the management of solid and liquid waste in the Hutt Valley. The second section (Pages 21–25) outlines the proposed Hutt Valley waste targets (which are the same as the NZWS targets) and reports on progress to date in meeting each target. The third section (Pages 26–27) projects into the future and explores issues and opportunities to further reduce waste in the Hutt Valley.

This Plan shows that positive progress has been made on several fronts to manage and reduce waste in the Hutt Valley. This work is set to continue. However, it is possible that the NZWS targets for organic wastes and construction and demolition wastes will not be met within the set time frames. While there are no available solutions at this point, both Councils are aware of the issues involved and are keen to investigate options that are economically, socially and environmentally feasible.



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 DOCUMENT PURPOSE

This Hutt Valley Waste Management Plan (WMP) outlines the high level strategy for the future, by which the Hutt City Council and the Upper Hutt City Council will jointly manage waste. The vision for managing waste in the Hutt Valley is to move towards zero waste and a sustainable New Zealand. The objectives for this WMP are as follows:

- To promote and encourage cost-effective, efficient and sustainable waste management practices within the Hutt Valley and
- To minimise the quantity of waste being generated and disposed of within the Hutt Valley by providing strategies and tactics to encourage waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery before residual disposal.

The Local Government Act 2002 continues the original requirements of the 1996 Local Government Amendment Act No 4. This legislation requires that Councils effectively and efficiently manage waste from the point of generation through to disposal. The legislation also requires that the WMP take into consideration the waste management hierarchy that involves a combination of methods including reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal, as shown in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1 The Waste Management Hierarchy



This document focuses on the management of solid and liquid waste in the Hutt Valley. The Plan does not specifically address gaseous waste, as this is outside the role of both Councils.

This document will be reviewed at least every three years. Both Councils will also include details in their respective Annual Reports about the progress achieved during the reporting period (refer Section 3.0 Targets, page 21).

This WMP is consistent with New Zealand's international obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, national policies, regional policies, and existing Council waste management policies.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, New Zealand's commitment is to limit its total emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels, on average, over the period 2008–2012.

Within New Zealand emissions of methane from landfills are projected to decrease, given the trend towards building larger, better designed landfills and a continuing increase in the collection of landfill gas for energy.

With respect to wastewater, total gas emissions were projected to increase after 2000, but are projected to remain below 1990 levels in 2020.

1.2 WHY HAS THIS PLAN BEEN WRITTEN?

There are several reasons why the WMP has been created:

- The New Zealand Waste Strategy (NZWS) was released in March 2002, and presented a new national vision for minimising and better managing waste. Hence there is now a need to review current plans in light of the new national strategy.
- Hutt City Council's current WMP is three years old. The NZWS notes that existing WMPs should be reviewed every three years.
- The NZWS encourages local authorities to work with their neighbouring councils for mutual advantage. Hutt City and Upper Hutt City share solid and liquid waste facilities. The establishment of a 'Hutt Valley Waste Management Plan' is a logical extension of this arrangement.
- The Local Government Act requires that councils adopt a Waste Management Plan by 30 June 2005 if they haven't done so already.

1.3 LINKAGE TO THE COMMUNITY PLAN (LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN (LTCCP))

Each city's Community Plan is put together by the respective community and Council, and sets the city's strategic direction for the next 10 years. The Community Plan is reviewed once every three years, and the Community Outcomes contained within the document must be reviewed and evaluated once every six years to ensure that Council is on track.

Hutt City Council's Community Plan notes that:

- (i) Council's Solid Waste Division contributes to strategic goals and Community Outcomes by:
 - Encouraging waste minimisation and environmentally friendly practices.
 - Ensuring refuse is managed and disposed of in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner that maintains the city's natural and aesthetic values.
- (ii) Council's Wastewater Division contributes to strategic goals and Community Outcomes by:
 - Contributing to the health of the community through the efficient collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater in an environmentally sustainable manner.
 - Providing a high quality, cost-effective wastewater system which supports development in Hutt City.

Upper Hutt City Council's Draft Community Plan covers:

- (i) Outcomes relating to the Upper Hutt Environment in 20 years time:
 - We manage our resources and waste well.
- (ii) Opportunities for action:
 - Adopt best practice for resource use and reduce, reuse and recycle waste materials.
 - Adopt a zero tolerance approach to illegal dumping.

(iii) Key directions for the City Council:

- Educate to reduce water use and waste.
- Plan for sustainable development.

Hutt City Council established its first Community Plan for the 2003/2004 financial year. Upper Hutt City Council will be establishing its first Community Plan for the 2004/2005 financial year.

Appendix A shows waste management planning for the next 10 years and Appendix B extracts from both Councils' 2003/04 operating expenditure.

1.4 NEW ZEALAND WASTE STRATEGY (NZWS)

The WMP has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NZWS.

The NZWS is the result of a process involving Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry for the Environment. Together they developed a new national vision for minimising and better managing waste. The NZWS covers solid, liquid and gaseous waste, and recognises that moving towards zero waste and a sustainable New Zealand is a long-term challenge. It has three core goals:

- Lowering the social costs and risks of waste
- Reducing the damage to the environment from waste generation and disposal
- Increasing economic benefit by more efficient use of materials.

New Zealand's waste problem is large, and growing. Waste reduction cannot succeed without a system that manages waste from the point of generation through to disposal. A more effective, integrated approach to material and resource efficiency is needed at every stage of production and consumption.



Up to now, waste policies have focused on end of pipe solutions by dealing with disposal rather than prevention. Yet there is a direct link between New Zealand's rate of economic growth and the amount of waste we produce. The long term challenge is to break this link and achieve sustainable growth by learning how to use resources more efficiently – to produce more with less.

The NZWS sets challenging national targets, which are addressed in Section 3.0 (refer page 21).



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