

4.0 Opportunities to reduce waste

4.1 NZWS TARGETS

As noted in Section 3.0 above there are several NZWS targets that need attention in the future. Below is an outline of what action might be possible to meet the targets, within the established timeframes.

4.1.1 Waste Minimisation Targets (refer to page 21)

Upper Hutt City Council does not meet waste minimisation Targets 4 or 6. Currently 91% of residents have access to recycling rather than the target 95%, and no target reduction has been set for Council facilities. These will be developed in the future.

4.1.2 Organic Waste (refer to page 22)

Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils do not meet Organic Waste Targets 1, 2, 4 and 5.

The NZWS Organic Waste Target 2 requires that 60% of garden waste be diverted from landfill to beneficial use by December 2005 and that 95% be diverted by 2010. Figure 4.1.1 shows that currently Hutt City and Upper Hutt City residents are landfilling approximately 22,500 tonnes of garden waste per annum.

Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils have a measurement programme in place to measure diversion and provide a facility that enables the separation of green waste. The green waste is currently landfilled. The major barrier to beneficial use of this waste is the lack of an economically feasible option for diversion. Specific options have been explored with local businesses but this has not been successful. Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils will continue to investigate economically, socially and environmentally feasible options for the diversion of green waste from landfill with the objective of meeting the NZWS targets.

The NZWS Organic Waste Target 4 requires that 95% of sewage sludge currently landfilled will be composted, beneficially used or appropriately treated to minimise the production of methane and produced by leachate by December 2007.

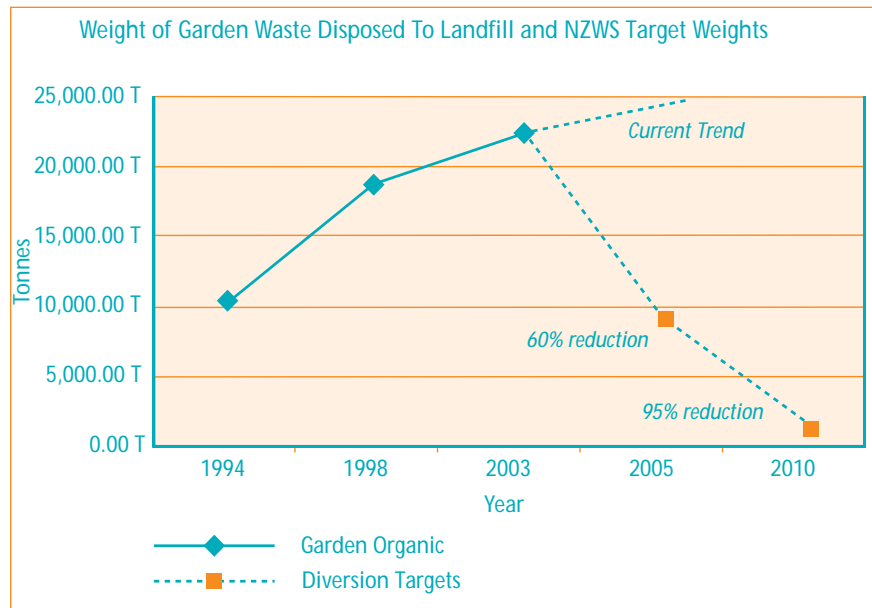
Currently approximately 3,600 tonnes of grade A biosolids in pelletised form (produced by a dewatering and thermal drying process for sewage sludge) are landfilled per annum. The Hutt Valley Wastewater Service company currently operates the Wastewater Treatment Plant and has ownership and responsibility for disposal of the pellets. They are looking at ways of securing an economic return on the disposal of pellets, and this would be likely to include beneficial use of the pellets.

As the volume of biosolids produced is less than 10% of the original raw sewage sludge, the 95% reduction target is not appropriate. The process of thermal drying of the sludge reduces the potential to produce methane and leachate.

The NZWS Organic Waste Target 5 requires that by 2010, 95% of commercial organic waste will be diverted from landfill to beneficial use.

The major barrier to beneficial use of this organic waste is the lack of an economically feasible option for diversion. Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils will continue to investigate economically, socially and environmentally feasible options for the diversion of organic waste from landfill with the objective of meeting the NZWS targets.

Figure 4.1.1



The Silverstream Landfill Gas to Electricity Plant converts methane, created from the breakdown of organic waste, into electricity which feeds the national grid. Therefore a benefit is being received from the current landfilling of organic waste. Operation of this plant, which actively extracts landfill gas, reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill, thus providing an environmental benefit.

4.1.3 Construction and Demolition Wastes (refer to page 23)

Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils do not meet Construction and Demolition Waste Targets 1 and 2.

The NZWS Construction and Demolition Waste Target 2 states that by December 2008 there will have been a 50% reduction in the December 2005 weights of construction and demolition waste landfilled.

Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils have a measurement programme in place for construction and demolition waste landfilled. Currently 42,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste go into Hutt Valley landfills per annum. This waste does not contribute to gas or leachate.

The major barrier to achieving the target reduction is the lack of a local market that would divert waste from landfill. Given the dynamics of the waste management market in the greater Wellington region, the reuse or recycling of this waste stream may be best addressed on a regional co-operative basis.

Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils will continue to pursue economically, socially and environmentally feasible options for the diversion of construction and demolition waste from landfill with the objective of meeting the NZWS target.

4.2 REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils consider regional co-operation as an opportunity to improve on current waste management practices. Such an approach also allows the sharing of resources, expertise and any costs associated with developing new or innovative ways to manage and reduce waste.

The NZWS indicates a preference for partnerships, with respect to the future management of waste in New Zealand. The Wellington region is well placed to pursue this partnership approach.

4.3 OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Hutt City Council continues to investigate options for development of a resource recovery centre, which would allow for additional types of waste to be separated for recycling or reuse. The preference is to develop this centre in partnership with private enterprise or charitable organisations as it is seen as a feasible business opportunity, and/or as an opportunity to provide income and employment for otherwise disadvantaged groups.

As yet there has been only limited interest from the private sector, however it is hoped that this will change as landfill prices increase and recycling of additional materials becomes more feasible. Hutt City Council is currently working with a charitable organisation that is interested in collecting inorganic items from the landfill, which they will repair and sell. A trial of this collection will commence within the next few months.

