



EDITORIAL

Rob Langford
Chair The Packaging Forum

THE RECYCLING industry around the world is in turmoil. China's decision to stop taking the world's paper and plastic waste has seen tonnes of paper and plastic building up at recycle centres around the country. Recycling contracts for councils and for commercial businesses are based on the collector generating revenue from the sale of the collected materials. With the world's recyclers vying for processing markets, the cost of recycling has gone up and the value of the materials has gone down.

Minister Sage has committed to supporting more onshore processing facilities in New Zealand through the latest round of the Waste Minimisation Fund. This is welcome. There is alignment across industry, local and central government that New Zealand must invest in its own recycling solutions so that it is not reliant on overseas markets.

Last month Minister Sage visited Auckland's Materials Recovery Facility at Visy and the glass manufacturing plant at O-I NZ in Penrose to follow the process of how waste glass containers collected from kerbside around New Zealand are remanufactured into glass bottles. New Zealand boasts one of the highest

percentages of glass cullet (recycled glass) in its wine bottles in the world which we can rightly be proud of. We are also extremely proud that in renewing the accreditation of the Glass Packaging Recycling Scheme, the Minister acknowledged the important contribution it makes to waste minimisation.

Following investment by Flight Plastics and the Waste Minimisation Fund, there is now domestic processing of clear PET bottles and trays into recycled PET food containers. This plant has the capacity to take all the clear PET recycled at kerbside around New Zealand as demand for RPET packaging increases. What we need urgently are domestic processing plants that can take mixed paper; coloured PET plastic 1; and plastics 2-7 or to transition away from using these materials.

For our existing processors, we need to improve the quality of collected materials so that they receive paper, glass and PET of the right quality and the minimum waste. The best results come from single stream collection systems. We also need to look at the logistics of moving waste around the country to the end user.

This is not someone else's problem, we must own the solution. Consumers want to recycle or

compost their packaging and as is evident from the "pass on plastic" campaigns, they expect brands to take responsibility. It is not enough for companies to say that "our packaging is recyclable". The container/packaging may be recyclable but only if we put in place and help fund the systems to recycle it. This is the same for new compostable packaging which needs the right collection and processing systems in place to allow it to be composted, otherwise it simply becomes another waste stream. I urge you to read the discussion paper by the Waste Management Institute of New Zealand (WasteMINZ) *Rebooting Recycling. What can Aotearoa do?*

We're learning all the time. As managers of the soft plastic recycling scheme, we are now part of the collection and recycling service industry and we fund the costs from members' fees. There is no commercial value to post-consumer soft plastic materials and increasingly we will pay the processor to take the waste. Over 70% of New Zealanders have access to the service and we are committed to sustaining this and expanding it further. In May, Minister Sage also approved the accreditation of the soft plastics recycling scheme under the Waste Minimisation Act.

To make the scheme sustainable we need to develop onshore processing solutions and start buying the products made from our recycled waste to create demand.

The government and a number of New Zealand and international companies have signed a declaration to reduce plastic packaging waste focussing on the redesign of packaging so it contains recycled materials and is recyclable or compostable by 2025.

At our AGM in July we will set our members a challenge for "all packaging to be recyclable and diverted from landfill by 2025". To achieve this will require changes to packaging design but as importantly the availability of processing plants for recyclables and for compostable packaging and the logistics networks in place

to make this economically viable. We need to work with the recycling and composting industry to ensure that the packaging which we use is recyclable or compostable in New Zealand.

The Packaging Forum is in the unique situation of operating and managing three accredited voluntary product stewardship schemes. We now need to up our game and make changes to our packaging so that it aligns with what can be processed here and help develop our onshore processors by changing our procurement practices so that we buy packaging and products that contain New Zealand recycled materials.

We invite you to join us and help us invest in the solution.

Nga Mihi

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

RADIO LIVE COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING JUST AS DETRIMENTAL AS PLASTIC BAGS?

bit.ly/RadioLive-compostable-packaging

You can't just throw all compostable packaging away and expect it to biodegrade. Kim Renshaw from Beyond the Bin joins James Coleman on First@5 to discuss New Zealand's need to facilitate compostable packaging. Ms Renshaw acts as an independent facilitator for the Packaging Forum's Working group.

RADIO RHEMA LET'S PUT LITTER IN ITS PLACE

bit.ly/Rhema-LPLIIP

In an effort to make recycling and waste management more effective, Wellington has installed new bins as part of the Let's Put Litter in its Place campaign. Andrew Urquhart talks with Public Place Recycling Scheme Manager Lyn Mayes about this initiative.

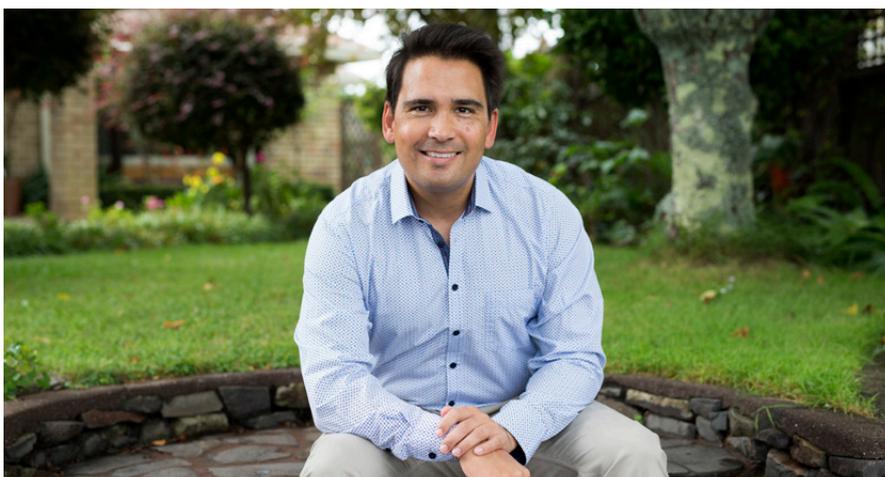
NEWSTALKZB KERBSIDE RECYCLING BINS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT FOR TAURANGA

bit.ly/Newstalk-Tauranga-kerbside

Tauranga City Council turned to the Glass Packaging Forum for help, and it has now stumped up \$165,000. The money will cover around quarter of the cost of providing kerbside, glass-only recycling bins.

PERSPECTIVES | HON. SIMON BRIDGES

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION



WHEN THE Volvo Ocean Race sailed into Auckland earlier this year, one of the yachts was *Turn the Tide on Plastic*.

The team's mission is to amplify the United Nations Environment's Clean Seas: Turn the Tide on

Plastic campaign throughout the eight months of the race.

The one thing we can be sure of is that change is inevitable, and we need to evolve our thinking around the impact we have on the environment.

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HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Adele Rose says kerbside recycling is the overwhelming preference of people living in Tauranga, with older people especially struggling with heavy boxes of empties. She says the council is purchasing 52,000 bins and residents will receive instructions on how to use them before kerbside recycling resumes in October.

NINE TO NOON MINISTER INCLINED TOWARDS BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS

bit.ly/RNZ-ban-on-bags

Associate Minister for the Environment Eugenie Sage says she's inclined towards a ban on plastic bags, but work is still underway. Plastic bags and their eco-friendly alternatives have been in the spotlight following Countdown's first 10 supermarkets going plastic free, and The Warehouse choosing to switch to compostable bags. But there are criticisms about the lack of standards around what compostable materials should be made of. Ms Sage said she would make announcements on plastic bags by the end of the year. As part of this decision, Ms Sage said compostable plastic bags could also be banned because they can cause more problems than they solve if not disposed of correctly.

I congratulate the Packaging Forum and its members for its leadership in packaging product stewardship which is recognised by the three voluntary product stewardship schemes which it operates.

As Leader of the National Party, I want us to focus more on environmental issues.

I've charged our environment MPs, led by Scott Simpson, Todd Muller, Sarah Dowie and Erica Stanford with the task of modernising our approach to environmental issues.

New Zealand is a successful, prosperous, confident country, filled with people and businesses that can foot it with the best in the world.

But in a hundred years, when we're all long gone, National wants our grandchildren to be living in a New Zealand that is still the envy of the world, because of its stunning natural environment as well as its prosperity.

Climate change is one of the world's most serious environmental challenges, and I am committed to ensuring New Zealand plays its part.

We want to find sensible and practical solutions to climate change that are science-based and won't harm our economy or drive up the cost of living for New Zealanders.

The previous National Government signed New Zealand up to the Paris agreement with the challenge of reducing emissions to 30 per cent less than 2005 levels by 2030.

Since 2008 our greenhouse gas emissions have fallen, despite a growing economy and a growing population.

That's a big deal, but now we need to shrink emissions even further.

I want us to take the politics out of climate change and work with other parties to make meaningful progress on climate change.

That's why I wrote to the Prime Minister and Minister for Climate Change, offering to work with them to establish a non-political Climate Change Commission.

Getting cross-party agreement will be challenging and require compromises on both sides. But the prize is too great not to try, and the consequences on our economy, jobs and the environment are too serious if we don't do so responsibly.

Of course, simply establishing a Climate Change Commission isn't sufficient – there will be ongoing debate and differing views about the specific policy choices that will be taken to reduce emissions.

National believe a sustainable, pristine environment and a strong economy that creates jobs and lifts incomes can and must go hand in hand.

Addressing climate change isn't easy. We all know that. But I want our grandchildren to know that all of us have done what we can to protect the environment.

MEEGAN JONES, SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME MANAGER, VOLVO OCEAN RACE

TURNING THE TIDE ON PLASTIC – THANKS AUCKLAND

It was a pleasure for Volvo Ocean Race to stop over in Auckland, where the materials recovery and event waste management services are well advanced.

We were able to engage with The Packaging Forum through the soft plastic programme and really loved the detailed materials segregation that Clean Event NZ do onsite – a back of house 'waste triage' to make sure all material streams are separated correctly before their onward journey, and of course their excellently designed event waste bins.

We have a special focus on reducing single-use plastic, and while none was provided or sold onsite through food and beverage

services, we still saw a large volume travel to the site in the hands of visitors. Plastic lined coffee cups were also a major waste stream making its way to the race village.

We collected as much soft plastic as possible, separate from other recyclable material, to save the MRF the trouble of entanglement and so that we can assess the actual plastic footprint of our race village. We collected about 500kg of soft plastic, collected by Abilities for recycling. We also conducted waste audits of the bins to see what the level of compliance was by patrons.

The brilliantly designed event bins used by Clean Event NZ funded by The Packaging Forum are some of the best I've seen. But sadly the visitors to the race village still managed to put the wrong thing in the bins. More than 60% of the

materials (by volume) placed in the general waste bins was actually either recycle or food waste which could be composted. The mixed recycling bins didn't fair as badly with 15% (by volume) incorrectly placed. Clean Event NZ's back of house triage recovered any incorrectly placed material.

Overall more than 80% of materials that went through the race village bins was recyclable or compostable and we believe that almost 100% of it was successfully segregated for onward re-processing. A fantastic result, which mostly falls on the shoulders of George from Clean Event NZ and their amazing crew onsite headed up by the energetic Peter! At the end of the day it's this individual passion that makes all the systems and planning actually work.

LET'S PUT LITTER IN ITS PLACE

IT'S JUST HOW WE DO THINGS AROUND HERE

New standardised bin designs are being introduced by councils as part of an on-going commitment to encourage people to dispose of their waste easily and correctly and to increase recycling. The new bins include wireless technology that increases the effectiveness of collection logistics. Early results show much reduced contamination of the recycling bins.

We're now looking for organisations to be part of the next phase piloting smaller sized bins in tourist regions and high foot traffic areas.

Contact: The Packaging Forum
donna@packagingforum.org.nz
Recycling.kiwi.nz





REBOOTING RECYCLING WHAT CAN AOTEAROA DO?

As referenced in the editorial, the discussion paper prepared by WasteMINZ identifies the issues which face the New Zealand recycling industry and the changes recommended to product stewardship.

The report explains the problem:

“At present, companies can place products on the market with little consideration of, or responsibility for, what happens to them once they have been used. This is at the root of the problem the recycling industry is currently facing. A long-term solution must involve manufacturers and distributors having greater responsibility for products through their life cycle. This will help incentivise better design and material choices, ensure appropriate funding is in place to enable effective recycling and help New Zealand move towards a circular economy.

“The different types of product stewardship programmes include advance disposal fees, deposit refund systems, licensing fees or material recovery notes. Schemes can also be voluntary or mandatory. Consideration should be given to the most appropriate types of scheme for each product or material type, as well as the designation of priority product status for the most problematic material types.”

The report’s authors set out the need for voluntary product stewardship schemes to become more accountable:

Voluntary commitments are just that. Such commitments have been made in the past and not met. Any future commitments need to have consequences for those who don’t meet them, otherwise they are simply a theoretical exercise.

Recyclability claims need to be evidence based and paired with standardised on-pack labelling to enable consumers to make informed decisions.

Recyclability targets need to be paired with requirements for manufacturers and brand owners to specify minimum recycled content in products (to create market pull through).

Where possible, on-pack labelling should clearly show levels of recycled content to help consumers make informed choices.

Ultimately, consideration may also need to be given to other measures such as actively restricting the use of products or materials for which there is no viable recovery pathway (such as some types of plastic).

Read the full paper here:
bit.ly/rebooting-recycling

INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE



NORTH SHORE DHB

Eyecatching new bins at North Shore DHB (note the use of blue for mixed recycling as yellow is used for medical waste in hospitals)

Event Round-up

AROUND THE COUNTRY: FUNDING BY THE PPRS



NELSON

Helped educate stall holders and visitors to Nelson Council’s Kaifest at Whakatu Marae about composting food waste and catering packaging.

DUNEDIN

Helped fund a waste service provider at the seventh Waitati Music Festival to improve the quality of recycling.

PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

\$919,000 direct investment in New Zealand recovery and recycling initiatives.

In the financial year to end March 2018, the Packaging Forum allocated \$919,000 in direct funding to support projects and initiatives which increase recovery and recycling. This excludes any funding received from the Waste Minimisation Fund.



Mayor Justin Lester and Associate Minister for the Environment launch the new bin infrastructure



Recycling just got smarter and brighter with new cleverly designed bins to improve recycling and collection. In the Wellington CBD Eugenie Sage launched a set of four smart bins, one of 10 sets being rolled out across the city under a pilot initiative, which is part of a \$1.7 million grant provided to The Packaging Forum in partnership with the Auckland Litter Prevention Steering Group from the Waste Minimisation Fund.

"The new locally made bins stand out from the crowd – their bright colours make it easy for people to understand which one to use for what and their smart design improves collection by letting operators know when it's time to empty them," Eugenie Sage said.

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Event Round-up

MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

Allocated funding to the Matariki Waitohi Picton Festival which will be held for the first time in Picton in July. Envirohub Marlborough plan to make this the first zero waste event in the region with our support promoting reusable drinks containers, educating visitors and food service providers.

Providing support for the Volvo Ocean Race making sure soft plastics got recycled including the shrouds around the yachts



Fifty sets of bins are being installed across five pilot regions: Wellington, Tauranga, Rotorua, Marlborough, and Queenstown Lakes. The Packaging Forum worked with local manufacturer AE Tilley to design the colour-coded recycling and rubbish bins.

“The bins feature eye-fi technology which lets operators know when they are getting full and need to be emptied. This should help keep city streets clean and reduce servicing costs for operators. The bin design will help people put the right containers in the correct place. New Zealanders and visitors want to do the right thing and the new bins make it easier.

“Keeping cans, glass and recyclable plastic clean and separate from food and landfill waste is crucial to making recycling viable. Mixing waste with recyclables reduces their value.”



PUTTING THE RIGHT BINS IN PLACE: FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY: BINS MANUFACTURED BY AE TILLEY IN WELLINGTON

FEATURES

1. Different size opening for recycling bins
 2. Introduction of smart technology to advise collector when bins are nearing fill level.
 3. Bookend the rubbish bins around the recycling bins to reduce contamination.
 4. Use of WasteMINZ approved colours for bins
 5. Cameras inside recycling bins to monitor contamination
 6. Signage in multiple languages
 7. Selection of bins i.e. use of glass only bins to match kerbside systems operated in region.
 8. Use of recycling and waste symbols on roof of bins
- Design Guidelines available from The Packaging Forum.



THE FORUM WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR **NEW MEMBERS**

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING

NZ Hothouse
Shardlows
Unilever NZ
Westpac
Z Energy

PUBLIC PLACE RECYCLING

Streetscape

We are seeking expressions of interest from councils to be part of the 2018/19 pilot programme. Please contact donna@packagingforum.org.nz for more information.



from left to right: Rob Langford, Chair GPF; Hon Eugenie Sage and Adele Rose GPF scheme manager

New Zealand's only voluntary product stewardship scheme for container glass has been given the green light for another seven years. The Associate Minister for the Environment Eugenie Sage officially re-accredited the scheme in May, much to the delight of the Board and scheme managers, 3R Group. The Minister went beyond simply granting re-accreditation and elaborated on her impressions of the scheme as a "showcase of the circular economy in action".

Minister Sage also pointed out that the scheme makes an important contribution to waste minimisation as well as helping to reduce CO² emissions. Using recycled glass in the manufacture of new bottles and jars requires less energy and reduces the need for virgin materials. In 2017, the average recycled glass content for New Zealand's only glass bottle and jar manufacturer O-I New Zealand was 69%.

One of the most significant points Minister Sage made was that the scheme supports New Zealand's commitment to Goal 12 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 12 being Responsible Consumption and Production.

Not only is this a great endorsement of the scheme, but also a very rare reference to the goals by a Minister, and further proof of the new sustainability-focussed approach of this government.

It goes without saying that the success of the scheme is largely down to all our members and their support and we thank you for this.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT FUNDING POUR IN

Our new funding round for grants saw 10 applications – collectively worth \$279,000 – come in over the course of May.

This year the GPF introduced a new funding process whereby there would be three funding rounds per year, with each round having a set period for applications to be submitted. This approach will improve efficiency and allows us to compare applications to ensure the best return on invested funds. The first application period was from 1 to 31 May.

Helping those involved in glass recycling improve the quality and quantity of glass going back to the furnace is the major focus of the GPF, and awarding grants for projects which do that is a primary way of achieving this. To date GPF member's voluntary levies have helped fund around \$2 million in grants, ranging from infrastructure to research.

The next funding round will be in September.



Lyn Mayes, Scheme Manager receives the certificate of accreditation from Associate Minister for the Environment Eugenie Sage. Left to right: Malcolm Everts, Cottonsoft; Neil Waka, CCA; Lyn Mayes; Tahira Widlof, Countdown; Hon Eugenie Sage; Mike Sammons, Foodstuffs; Lauren Mentjox, Frucor Suntory.



CHALLENGES

The impact of China's action on recyclables is also hitting our soft plastics recycling scheme. Processors have the choice of taking clean polyethylene products which means that the post-consumer plastic materials which we collect through the scheme are of little attraction. Our original processing partner Replas in Australia is inundated with plastic waste from Australian businesses and without real demand from New Zealand to buy the benches, bollards and decking which they manufacture, they will only be able to take from us the equivalent weight in plastic which NZ Inc buys from them in products.

The good news is that there are emerging processing initiatives here and overseas which we are trialling. We'll be telling you about some of these over the coming months. For example, the equivalent of 200,000 bags from the soft plastics collections in Australia have been used in the construction of a Melbourne road in an Australian first trial. This is a partnership between Downer and resource recovery companies Close the Loop and RED group which we are hoping to be part of.

It means a shift in our business model to include processing fees and it means we will be working with stores to improve the quality of the materials we collect and remove contaminated materials.

With greater communication and knowledge about the issues facing recycling, we hope that people understand that putting the wrong products in the recycling bin is putting recycling at risk.

SOFT PLASTICS RECYCLING SCHEME CELEBRATES ACCREDITATION

Following on from the re-accreditation of the GPF's glass recycling scheme, Minister Eugenie Sage also announced that the Packaging Forum's Soft Plastics Recycling Scheme has been made an accredited product stewardship scheme.

The Minister said: "The scheme means people can return soft plastics such as shopping and bread bags to supermarkets and other major retailers around the country. Plastic bags and other soft plastics are a hazard to marine life and because they can break down into microplastics in the oceans, are also a hazard to human health. Stopping plastics from getting into streams and the sea is the first step in reducing the ocean plastic problem."

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- **746 tonnes** of soft plastic materials **collected** since December 2015
- **269 tonnes collected** January to April 2018
- Average weekly collection = **14 tonnes per week**
- **350+ stores** now offer the service
- Accessible to over **74% NZ ratepayers** within 20km of home or work

More and more member brands are putting our soft plastics logo on their packs



INTERESTED IN RECYCLING SOFT PLASTICS?

We are interested to hear from New Zealand recyclers who can take soft plastic materials which are a mix of polyethylene and polypropylene.



COFFEE CORNER

The terms of reference for the Coffee Cup Working Group has been changed to a focus on identifying collection facilities and processing solutions for coffee cups and related products. This is to set clear boundaries from the work being conducted by the Compostable Packaging Standard Adoption Working Group (CPSA-WG).

We have around 25 members of the Packaging Forum that are involved in or interested in compostable packaging. If you want to be involved, get in touch with project leader Kim Renshaw kim@beyondthebin.org.nz

IN THE NEWS

LEITH HUFFADINE, STUFF: TAKEAWAY COFFEE CUP SOLUTIONS: FIXING THE PROBLEM

Kim Renshaw, from Beyond the Bin, said solutions weren't "one-size-fits-all" they had to be tailored to suit each region. Solutions are happening, "but it's piecemeal." The key - whether considering recycling or composting - was having the infrastructure to collect the cups and deal with them. The Packaging Forum's Lyn Mayes outlined a range of solutions being worked on by the packaging industry.

CPSA-WG: FACILITATED BY BEYOND THE BIN

The WG comprises representation from composters, packaging manufacturers, Scion, local and central government and WasteMINZ.

The rapid increase and variation in compostable packaging means

we need a standard that covers all types of compostable packaging which are connected to food or agriculture nutrients. The CPSA-WG will identify whether the NZ composting industry and other stakeholder requirements can be met by one of the existing international standards such as the well-known European EN13432 standard or the Australian AS4736 standard.

This involves comprehensive research and collation of requirements and a technical analysis of the existing international standards. Any recommendation will be followed by consultation and stakeholder engagement with the desired outcome to have a proposal in place by the end of the year.

The project scope has been agreed as:

Any compostable packaging item which was likely to contain food (including dry goods packaging) or other nutrients beneficial to compost (e.g. horticultural items). This includes film carrier bags on the understanding they should have a second life as containers for organic waste (e.g. in kerbside collection). Other in-scope examples could be compostable food insulation, expanded PLA where it contained food or other nutrients.

Out of scope included mailers, any other compostable containers (e.g. for shampoo) and nappies/sanitary items. Or any item which would require special consent to process it or its contents.

The WG is primarily looking at commercial composting solutions however, home composting is another challenge entirely with the diversity of home composting systems already available in some places.

The WG is now assessing the requirements of a NZ standard. This will be followed by practical testing of items in scope by Scion with items tested for disintegration in NZ compost environments to match the standard.

AND AROUND THE WORLD UK

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF A 'LATTE LEVY' IN UK?

According to an economic study by Ecuty, on behalf of the Paper Cup Alliance, a 25p 'latte levy' could result in the loss of 11,000 jobs as well as wiping £819m from the economy. It is claimed that only 5.7% of consumers would switch to re-usable plastic cups or crockery. The research also claimed that a levy "raises the prospect" of redundancies at cup manufacturing sites in towns such as Wrexham, Gosport and Huntington. A levy on disposable coffee cups has been backed by MPs on the Environmental Audit Committee. However, the government rejected a charge and said that it would prefer retailers to offer discounts to consumers who bring their own cups to outlets.

However, The House of Lords and Commons will introduce a 25p charge for using compostable cups, reusable coffee cups will be available to buy, and incentives will be offered to customers who refill them.



Drop off bin for coffee cups at UK recycling facility - the cups are taken to James Cropper Paper Mill

IN OTHER NEWS:

Starbucks has reported a 156.6% increase in reusable cup usage halfway through a 5p paper cup charge in select London stores.

Waitrose is to phase out all takeaway disposable coffee cups from its self-serve machines instore, saving more than 52 million cups a year.



The Sustainable Business Network is commencing work to diagnosis the plastic packaging system with a view to identifying the systemic issues and pathways to enable the recent 2025 NZ Plastic Packaging Declarations to be met in a way that creates a new plastic economy that works in NZ.

To get involved please contact james@sustainable.org.nz or phil@sustainable.org.nz.

AOTEAROA PERSPECTIVES ON PACKAGING

The annual survey about attitudes to packaging recycling conducted by Horizon shows kiwis want to be able to recycle and, as importantly, want to buy packaging which is made from recycled materials.

Highlights are:

84% people have access to kerbside recycling

58% would like their glass to be made into new glass containers in New Zealand and 45% would like their PET bottles to be manufactured into new PET packaging.

77% people say being able to buy packaging which is made from recycled materials is important in their decision making

81% say that being able to buy packaging that can be recycled in New Zealand is important

55% said they had public place recycling bins in their area.

Awareness of the Love NZ brand has increased to **40%** indicating around 1.27 million adults are aware of the Love NZ brand and the Be a Tidy Kiwi brand was recognised by 87% people.

65% people say that kerbside collection suits them best. 16% say they would pay an extra charge for every container purchased and drop them off at a collection point for a refund. 64% of people were not willing to pay more than 5 cents per container. The cost of a container deposit system is around 14 cents (deposit plus handling fee) and only 10.2% people say they would be willing to pay 15 cents or more for this. It's not until personal incomes exceed \$100,000 per annum that willingness to pay increases.

AROUND THE WORLD

IN EUROPE

PPRS Scheme Manager, Lyn Mayes took the opportunity whilst holidaying in the UK to visit recycling and waste facilities.

James Cropper Cup Cycling - Kendall UK

The British consume around 2.5 billion cups annually (38 cups per capita). Compostable cups are not typically being composted but either go to landfill or are used in waste to energy processes.

James Cropper has developed the technology to recycle disposable paper cups on a commercial scale, and partners with waste management companies, coffee chains and restaurants, enabling cup waste to be turned into beautiful papers. Coffee cups provide high quality fibres, which the company upcycles into a wide range of products, including luxury packaging. With partners Veolia they have established collection systems with retailers such as Costa Coffee; McDonalds and Selfridges. The cups are delivered to the mill in Kendall and the polyethylene lining and paper are separated before the paper fibre is turned into fine



papers. The company has also set up a programme with Selfridges collecting their cups and turning them into the iconic yellow Selfridges bags. Collections are either in cafe/store or in closed environments such as universities, offices etc. The plant has the capacity to process 500 million cups.

Recycling at the Veolia MRF at Gilmoor, Liverpool

The MRF opened in 2011 and has the capacity to process approximately 150,000 tonnes of mixed recyclables per year, as well as housing a state of the art visitor and education facility. The facility has a maximum process rate of 35 tonnes per hour. Mixed recyclables from the kerbside collections of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool and Sefton representing a population of around 1 million people are delivered to the MRF for sorting before being transported to the recycling plant.

Quality levels at the MRF have increased over the last four years with the introduction of new technology to remove glass at the start of the process. The plant is producing mixed paper to a quality of 99.2%; newsprint and pamphlets at 99.6% and OCC at 99.8% quality. Glass is processed in a joint venture with Knauf insulation into fibreglass. The MRF separates out PET and HDPE bottles but does not accept tubs, trays and pots which residents are asked to put in the waste to be turned into energy.

HDPE milk bottle to bottle processing at Biffa Polymers in Redcar

Biffa Polymers commenced work with dairies and HDPE milk bottle manufacturers in 2007. The plant now has two HDPE wash plants/ processing lines. In the UK the HDPE milk bottle recycling rate is now around 80%. Milk bottles contain around 30% recycled HDPE with this now approaching 40%.

The UK is one of a few countries (including North America, Australia and NZ) which uses HDPE natural.

Working with dairy brands and supermarkets has helped change the milk bottle design so that caps are now made from HDPE and see through with less pigment; labels are not glued.

The yield from HDPE bales received at the plant is around 70% with a further 15% of materials such as caps being recycled. The plant produces 18,000 tonnes of pellets per annum with around 80% destined for the dairy sector (rHDPE natural) with 20% for the cosmetic sector.

High-profile names from the hospitality and tourism industry have launched a campaign to make Greater Manchester the first UK city-region to ditch single-use plastics.

Ex-Manchester United player, Gary Neville, launched the ground-breaking 'Plastic-Free Greater Manchester' campaign at the recent Green Summit. The campaign is set to put Greater Manchester at the forefront of taking action to eliminate single-use plastics. The campaign targets businesses and local people, encouraging them to make the shift away from single-use plastics to renewable alternatives. Over the next six months these businesses will be setting out a plan to achieve their goal and, as a first step, are starting to replace plastic straws.

