

Waste & Recycling

Part 4 – Exploring What Happens in Our District?

Waste and Recycling Collections

Is waste and recycling from local households and businesses collected from kerbsides? Is this weekly or fortnightly? **Make a note here:**

Collection vehicles visit our suburb or township regularly **on these day(s):**

Place:

Day:



Example: The waste truck and recycling trailer used for the dual collections in Hurunui: one visit a week, on a regular day.

As well as collecting from the townships, waste and recycling is also collected from some rural addresses en-route and from Council designated rural pick-up points.

Waste Collections

Waste for landfill must be in official Council wheelie bins/refuse bags to be collected from the kerbside. The income Council receives from the sale of each waste bag contributes towards the cost of collection, transportation and disposal, ensuring the service is 'user pays' (or is it an opt-in Rates user charge to finance kerbside wheelie bins). **Which method is used here?**

What Happens to Waste once it's Collected?



Example: Tipping of kerbside collected pre-paid waste-for-landfill bags, at a transfer station.



Photo: A compactor bin of waste being loaded onto the hook truck at the transfer station, to take to a regional landfill.

Each bin holds approximately ten tonnes of compacted waste.

All waste from district refuse collections is disposed of at a managed landfill, which is a huge, lined hole in the ground capable of receiving thousands of tonnes of waste, intended to last for years. Each 'cell' of a modern landfill, once filled is capped with clay to seal it and then soil, to allow planting.

Where is this landfill for your area?

How soon might it be full up, at the present rate of fill?

What is collected in the Recycling Bins or Bags?

Check if it is possible for the following to be recycled in this District:

- Clean newspapers, magazines and telephone directories.
- Clean packaging cardboard, greetings cards, egg boxes and trays.
- Clean office waste paper, printed junk mail, magazines and envelopes.
- Clean food, drink and pet food cans.

- Clean plastic bottles (with or without lids?), plastic containers coded 1 and 2
- bread bags or other clear soft plastic.
- Clean polypropylene meat trays - the dimpled clear polypropylene trays, not expanded polystyrene.

Clear instructions are provided on the bins/recycling bags. It is important everything is loose when placed in the recycling bag or bin; otherwise it causes problems on the sorting line. *Do not bag together items such as within plastic carrier bags.*



Example: Council waste and recycling bags, each with clear printed instructions explaining the collection criteria.

What Happens to the Recycling Bin or Bag contents?

Recycling bags or emptied wheelie bin contents and bundles of cardboard are transported to a central transfer station or depot. Once there, materials for recycling are emptied from trucks and any contaminants removed. **Is there an automated facility for materials recovery?**

If used here, why are the Recycling Bags clear plastic and the rubbish bags opaque?

The Council would prefer clear recycling bags for two reasons:

1. To stop waste and other unpleasant or hazardous items being hidden e.g. used coffee cups, or broken glass. Examples of contaminants have included light bulbs, needles, clothes, shoes, cell phones and even ammunition! If possible the origin of the contaminated bag is identified and reported to Council for further action. When the Council used recycling bags which were **not** transparent, nappies and general household waste was frequently mixed with recycling. This contaminates the recycling, resulting in it having to be disposed of to landfill. The recycling is regularly audited and the Council has a permitted contamination level of 'under 10%', but achieves a monthly contamination rate of less than 1%. Some Councils which use wheelie bins for recycling (which are opaque), have reported nappies, dead animals, batteries and even gas bottles being found in these recycling bins.

2. Clear bags allow the collection crew to see what is in the bags before safely picking them up, which reduces injuries.

Council Transfer Station Locations

Our Council has transfer stations at the following locations.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. etc

Transfer station opening hours vary depending on usage and time of year, so it's advisable to check the Council's website or phone prior to visiting if you are unsure. Look up their Webpage: or you may find it on the Council pages at www.oneplanet.org.nz (if our Council is a participant in the website)

The following table can be used to record with a tick each of the recyclables which are accepted via the Council's transfer stations.

Recyclables accepted

	Location name 1	2	3	4	5
Glass Bottles					
Food & Drink Cans					
Paper & Card					
Plastic Bottles					
Scrap Metal					
Whiteware					
Green Waste					
E-waste & TVs					
Car Batteries					
Engine Oil					
Cooking Oil					

Paint					
Gas Bottles					
Toners					
Textiles & Shoes					
Lighting Tubes					
Energy Saving Lightbulbs					
Fire Extinguishers					
Tyres					

Staff on site are happy to help and consistent signage at all sites will help users understand what can be recycled.

Some recycling is accepted at no charge, so Council encourages people to separate waste and recycling prior to arrival at the transfer station e.g. ensure scrap metal and whiteware, tyres, E-waste, glass bottles and household recycling is not mixed with landfill waste. This will save money and make unloading quicker and easier.

Councils continually look to increase the range of materials accepted for recycling e.g. there has been a significant increase in e-waste over the last few years, and markets will have been found for everything that is being accepted for recycling.



Hurunui example: Culverden transfer station recycling container.

Household recycling; scrap metal, whiteware and e-waste are transported to Amberley in this shipping container.

Council – Public Recycling Bins

The Council's recycling bins are unmanned containers, through which paper, cardboard, food and drink cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles and containers can be recycled. The recycling bins are in convenient locations: **where have you seen them?**



Hurunui Example:
Recycling bins at
Amberley transfer station.

Outside opening hours, these are located outside the transfer station gates, which reduces littering.

What to Remember when Using the Recycling Bins

- **Always** deposit recycling in the correct area of the recycling bins.
- **Never** put waste into the recycling bin; this will contaminate recycling and could result in it all being sent to landfill.
- **Never** leave boxes or bags (of waste or recycling) on the ground around the bins.
- **Ensure** recycling items are clean e.g. wash food and laundry containers.
- **Always** follow written instructions on the recycling bins.