

The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY
RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ

Last year we collected enough plastic to fence the road from Auckland to Whangarei!!!

As we celebrate Matariki and start the Māori New Year, soft plastics celebrates a new milestone having reached 200 stores following the addition of drop off facilities at PAK'nSAVE and The Warehouse stores in Thames, the Thames Coromandel District Council office and its transfer station.

On 4 July we host our biggest launch this year with 15 new recycling locations in and around Tauranga, expanding the service in the region from the Countdown Bethlehem store.

The most frequently asked question on our Facebook page is "when are you coming to our region?" Well, over the last 12 months we have added 65 new locations in eight regions, and now around 78% of New Zealanders have access to soft plastic recycling within 20km of their home or work.

In July 2019 we restarted collections after putting the Scheme on hold

because we had nowhere to send our waste. Now, thanks to Future Post, after starting from scratch and rebuilding the Scheme, we are going from strength to strength.

In the year to 31 March 2022, we collected 331 tonnes of soft plastic despite putting collections on hold during Covid-19 lockdowns — that equates to more than 170km of fencing or the driving distance between Auckland and Whangarei.

With more stores, more regions, and the expansion of our service through initiatives such as the courier bag service, we are forecasting an annual collection of over 700 tonnes. Thanks, as always, to our partners and our Scheme members for making this happen.

Ngā mihi nui





NZ POST COURIER BAG SERVICE

On 22 April, we launched a three-month trial of our soft plastic recycling courier bag service. The bags are available in all The Warehouse and The Warehouse Stationery stores, selected NZ Post shops, and New World stores in the Manawatu as well as online at NZ Post and The Warehouse. At the halfway point in the trial over 5500 bags had been sold. Each bag can hold around 1kg of soft plastic which is around 125-150 bag wrappers — so that's approximately **5.5 tonnes of plastic we have diverted from landfill.**

bit.ly/TWU622-2

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING COMES TO THAMES

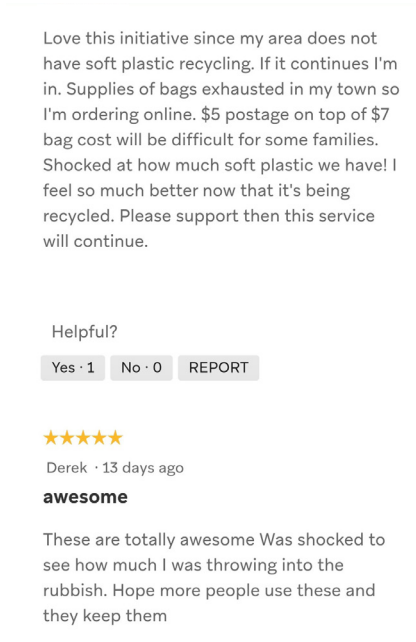
After our May launch in the Wairarapa, this month we are launching soft plastics in Thames through a partnership with Thames Coromandel District Council and Smart Environmental. Shoppers will be able to drop off their soft plastic recycling at The Warehouse and PAK'nSAVE, or when they go to TCDC offices or its transfer station.

We have limited the collection service to Thames initially because of the challenge in finding a transport solution which can collect from Coromandel town down to Whangamata without adding more trucks on the road. We would like to find reverse logistics/backhauling solutions so that we can recycle without adding to the region's carbon footprint. If any of our members can help, please get in contact.

"I'm very excited that we have the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme on the Peninsula," says Thames Ward Councillor, Robyn Sinclair. "Waste management is a big issue nationally and it's an important issue for our district too. This is one of a range of measures that can help safeguard our local and national environment from plastic pollution."

bit.ly/TWU622-1

“Great work. Be good when they are available all over NZ.”





A very popular soft plastics drop off point

ENVIRONMENT CENTRE HAWKE'S BAY

The Environment Centre in Hastings started collecting soft plastics a year ago. They have 200-400 people in the centre every day recycling a wide range of products including our soft plastics. 50% of what we collect in the Hawke's Bay region is dropped off at the centre.

IN THE NEWS

New recycling scheme comes to Wairarapa

Erin Kawaraghi-Hall
erin.kawaraghi-hall@pacifi.com.au

Wairarapa's newest recycling initiative set up shop in Masterton last week – and has already had an enthusiastic response from the community. The Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme (the Scheme), an enterprise dedicated to reducing packaging waste and landfill contamination, expanded into Wairarapa last week – with two soft plastic collection bins set up at Countdown Masterton and The Warehouse. Residents can use the bins to recycle any soft plastic packaging – which is then collected and repurposed into sought-after materials for the farming and building industries. Since 2017, the Scheme has partnered with Jerome Wainich, founder of

Auckland-based company Future Post, which crafts fence posts from domestic and commercial plastic waste. Joining up more recently is saveBOARD in Hamilton, which specialises in insulation board and other low-carbon building products using recycled plastics, paper, and cartons. Soft-plastic packaging – which includes bubble wrap, supermarket produce bags, frozen food packaging, chip packets and coffee sachets – is excluded from kerbside collections as it is incompatible with most recycling machinery. Nationwide, Scheme manager Lyn Mayes said, an estimated 8000 tonnes of soft plastic waste ends up in landfills each year. Thanks to the Scheme's recent expansion, however, almost 80 percent of New Zealanders now have access

to soft plastic recycling within 20km of where they live or work – with almost 200 drop-off locations throughout the country. Adam Hall, store manager at Countdown Masterton, said the initiative has had "amazing support" from customers – with the bin nearly at capacity at the end of its first week. "It's really exciting," he said. "Our customers have been asking about a soft-plastic collection for a long time – so to be able to help them, and our store, be more sustainable is a big win. "There is still a lot of plastic packaging around – but this us helps us provide another solution to that. The Warehouse Masterton store manager Richard Hamilton said his customers have been similarly enthused.



Countdown Masterton store manager Adam Hall and service manager Ellen Henderson with the store's new soft plastic recycling bin – courtesy of the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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The Scheme is funded by the voluntary contributions of 170 members organisations – including retailers, food and beverage manufacturers, hospitality providers, agriculture companies, and seawater. In fact, Scheme partner NZ Post is now providing purple postage bags for people to fill with soft plastic recycling, which they can courier to Future Post free of charge. "It's a great service for people who don't have access to a soft plastic recycling bin, or who are unable to get to their local store," Mayes said. Soft plastic deposited in the Scheme's drop-off points is collected and processed by Lower Hutt-based social enterprise Earthline – which compresses shopping bags filled with plastic into large bales. "Fifteen shopping bags of soft plastic waste can make up a half-tonne bale – so it goes a long way," Mayes said. "When people separate their plastics for recycling, they're always blown away by how much soft plastic there is – so they appreciate that their waste is going towards something useful, like farming and wind-producing regions. Wairarapa can absolutely benefit from a service like Future Post."

TAURANGA EXPANSION WILL MAKE IT THE CITY WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF BINS PER CAPITA

From July, Tauranga will have more places for recycling soft plastic than any other city in the Scheme. With 16 locations across the region, it equates to around one drop-off point per 10,000 people (compared to an average of 17,000 in other participating cities).

The recycling bins will be at PAK'nSAVE Tauriko, Papamoa and Cameron Road; New World Tauranga – Gate Pa and Mount Maunganui; Countdown Bethlehem, Bureta Park, Fraser Cove, Tauranga and Papamoa; The Warehouse Tauranga, Tauranga Crossing, Fraser Cove and Papamoa, and at two locations in the Bayfair Shopping Centre.

Bayfair will also be the first shopping centre to make soft plastic recycling available for its customers. The Packaging Forum has been working with Bayfair for over a decade. In 2010 Bayfair Shopping Centre signed up to the Government's Recycling in Public Places Initiatives and the Love NZ brand making it the first shopping centre in New Zealand to introduce recycling facilities for its shoppers.



MEMBER UPDATE

It's great to see how our members are reducing their use of plastic, as well as promoting and increasing soft plastic recycling.

Doing something amazing for Plastic Free July? We are celebrating member's activities in our next newsletter so please let us know!

ARE YOU USING PLASTIC PACKAGING WHICH WILL BE BANNED FROM 1 OCTOBER 2022?

The Government has announced, and approved, plastic ban regulations which mean that from **1 October, retailers can no longer sell or distribute, and manufacturers can no longer make:**

- 1 Plastic drink stirrers
- 2 Plastic stemmed cotton buds
- 3 Oxo- and photo degradable plastic products including bin liners, pet waste bags, litter tray liners, magazine wraps
- 4 PVC or PVDC food trays and containers — used for meat, fish, poultry (or substitute), fresh produce or baked goods
- 5 Polystyrene takeaway packaging for food and beverages (including office water coolers)
- 6 Expanded polystyrene food and beverage packaging. This ban includes all expanded polystyrene food and beverage packaging sold at retail including food service ware and grocery products — eg. instant noodle containers or a foamed cup multi pack.

If you have products which are included in the ban and are concerned about whether you can meet the October deadline, please get in contact so we can provide support.

Please be aware that the ban will be extended in **mid-2023** to include:

- 7 Plastic produce bags — under 70 microns thick without handles
- 8 Plastic tableware
- 9 Plastic straws
- 10 Non home compostable produce labels.

And from **mid-2025** the following products will be banned:

- 11 All other PVC/PVDC food and beverage packaging — this will include some biscuit trays; containers and films
- 12 All other polystyrene food and beverage packaging — this will include yoghurt and some dairy pottles.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE PACKAGING FORUM'S SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING SCHEME

CLEANERY – THE

SUSTAINABLE CARE CO

CHOBANI

COLGATE

HAPPY PET

NZ DEFENCE FORCE

“ About Saveboard — fab ideas, hopefully see them nationwide to help with material shortages for building — recycling win! ”

WORK

CAROILL ENTERPRISES COLLECTS BAGS OF SOFT PLASTIC FROM STORES

WASTE MANAGEMENT BALE THE SOFT PLASTIC

COTTONSOFT BACKHAULS BALES ON THEIR TRUCKS TO CHRISTCHURCH

GOODMAN FIELDER TRANSPORT TO AUCKLAND VIA THEIR NETWORK

Love NZ Soft Plastics Recycling

Recycling centre

Liked

Are you one of our 11,361 Facebook followers?

If not, head on over and like the Love NZ Soft Plastics Recycling Facebook page and keep up to date with everything happening in the soft plastic space as well as promoting your support!

[facebook.com/softplasticrecycling](https://www.facebook.com/softplasticrecycling)



NEWS FROM OUR PROCESSING PARTNER








Diana Jamieson, national sales manager for Future Post, who lives in North Canterbury, has welcomed the restart of soft plastic recycling in Rangiora, adding to the services in Christchurch, Oamaru and Dunedin. But she says the addition of the courier bag system for those people who can't get to these participating stores, makes recycling soft plastics much more accessible.

bit.ly/TWU622-4



Future Posts were specifically installed by **Mahurangi Oysters** for their non-corrosive, no rot, no CCA leach factors, making great use of a sustainable product with performance features that will last.

Future Post's garden beds are looking amazing.

-  Bio-Gro organic certified
-  CCA Free
-  No rot, impenetrable by insects and fungi
-  Smart modern looks
-  Homegrown right here in NZ!

AROUND THE WORLD

Sounds like our Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme...UK Government and industry launch nation's biggest flexible plastic packaging recycling pilot for homes

Households in Cheltenham will soon receive information on putting flexible plastic packaging out for recycling at kerbside, with public and private sector organisations collaborating on a £2.9m scheme to help stop this packaging ending up in landfill or incineration. The Flexible Plastic Fund is managed by Ecosurety and supported by environmental charity Hubbub. Brands backing the Fund include Mars UK, Mondelez International, Nestle, PepsiCo, Unilever, KP Snacks, McCain Foods and Ocado.

Residents will be asked to place flexible plastic packaging items in with the rest of their dry mixed recycling.

Europe reports increase in processing capacity for flexible plastics

Flexible polyolefins took a 22% share of overall installed recycling capacity reported by Plastics Recyclers Europe. Installed recycling capacity for flexible PE and PP apparently increased by around 10% in 2020. While flexibles are generally considered difficult to recycle, new technologies for collecting, sorting, and recycling are being introduced in a bid to improve recycling outcomes.

bit.ly/TWU622-3



SAVEBOARD TURNS SOFT PLASTIC INTO BUILDING MATERIALS FOR HOMES

Soft plastic from our Wellington collections is now being recycled by our new processing partner **SaveBoard** into building materials and insulation board. Great work by Paul Charteris and the team.

bit.ly/TWU622-5