

The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY
RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ

CELEBRATING SEVEN YEARS OF SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING!

This editorial comes to you from Worthing, England where I will be based until the end of the year. Like so many who have been separated from our loved ones since the onslaught of Covid-19, being able to spend this time with whānau is incredible.

It is also providing opportunities to see first hand how soft plastics are being collected and recycled in the UK and, more generally, to meet with processors and recyclers in Europe.

This is particularly relevant following the announcement on 23 September by Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker, that The Packaging Forum and the NZ Food & Grocery Council (FGC) will jointly lead the project to co-design a regulated plastic packaging product stewardship scheme (PPPS).

Plastic packaging was declared a priority product in July 2020 and, since then, we have been working hard to make sure that

The Packaging Forum has a leading role in the project, bringing our 15 years of experience in setting up and managing voluntary product stewardship schemes. The co-design process will involve multiple stakeholders over the next two years to identify the most fitting product stewardship scheme for New Zealand and recommend to the Minister the precise design and organisation structure.

Along with myself, the project management team includes Packaging Forum CEO, Rob Langford (project manager); Malcolm Everts (Packaging Forum lead) and Cameron Scott (FGC lead). Many others will be involved in the governance, steering and technical advisory groups which are being appointed.

We would like to highlight that at this stage, it is business as usual for the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme. Soft plastic is included within the definition of plastic packaging and is part of the co-design process; however, we



do not anticipate making any changes to the soft plastic scheme until 2025 when the mandatory scheme will be implemented. As already communicated, this includes no changes to the current material thresholds for acceptability in New Zealand.

We are also celebrating seven years since the first soft plastic recycling bins were trialled at participating Countdown, New World, PAK'nSAVE and The Warehouse stores in Auckland. The Scheme has over these years experienced a roller coaster journey with the impact of the China Sword policy on plastic recycling followed by Covid-19 but now the "only way is up" for soft plastic recycling, and the Scheme continues to go from strength to strength.

Ngā mihi nui



JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER

We have targeted some of our favourite summer holiday destinations to make sure they have soft plastics recycling ready for summer visitors.

This expansion means that more than 80% of New Zealanders now have access to soft plastic recycling within 20km of where they live or work, with almost 250 drop off locations.



THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT – SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING EXTENDING TO WHANGAMATĀ & WHITIANGA

Following the successful launch at PAK'nSAVE and The Warehouse stores in Thames, we have worked with our retail partners, Thames Coromandel District Council and Smart Environmental to develop a collection service for Whangamatā and Whitianga in time for summer.

This will help divert at least 1 tonne of soft plastic waste, or around 150,000 bags or wrappers from landfill every month. The bins are available at New World Whangamata and at the Council office and Refuse Transfer Station Whangamata; and at Countdown, The Warehouse and New World Whitianga as well as at the Council office.

MORE DROP OFF FACILITIES FOR NORTHLAND: WHANGAREI & KERIKERI

Soft plastic recycling bins can now be found at more locations across Northland – including Countdown, New World and The Warehouse in Kerikeri; PAK'nSAVE, The Warehouse,

Countdown and New World in Whangarei making it much easier for people to recycle their soft plastics.

bit.ly/TWU1022-11

Waste Management will be collecting the soft plastics from PAK'nSAVE, The Warehouse and New World stores and baling the plastic so it can be transported up to Future Post in Auckland where it will be turned into fence posts or to SaveBOARD in Hamilton to be turned into building materials.

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING ARRIVES IN TAIRĀWHITI FOR THE FIRST TIME

Since 17 October, Tairāwhiti residents have been able to recycle their soft plastic packaging for the first time at Countdown Gisborne, PAK'nSAVE Gisborne, The Warehouse Gisborne and Four Square Tokumaru Bay, Four Square Ruatoria, and Four Square Te Araroa. This has been made possible because local Tairāwhiti bakers Walter Findlay will collect soft plastic from participating stores and bale it ready for transport to Auckland leveraging Goodman Fielder's transport network.

bit.ly/TWU1022-2

MEMBER UPDATE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS – BRINGING US UP TO 180 ORGANISATIONS FUNDING THE COLLECTION SERVICE

ARNOTTS

GAULTS

GREGGS

HAPPY PET NZ

J&J

SUPER RETAIL (SUPER CHEAP AUTO/MACPAC)

YATES



Happy Pet are new members of the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme and their Ambassawoof Benson is very proud of his collection – just look at that face. Great work there Benson!

FOUNDATION COFFEE CASE STUDY: STUFF'S MOVE TO SOFT PLASTIC

Foundation Coffee introduced a new coffee machine at Stuff using powdered milk instead of fresh milk. By doing this, Stuff has removed over 55 milk bottles per week, or 2860 milk bottles per year from their waste stream. Plastic coffee and milk powder bags can also be processed through the Scheme, and all the used coffee grounds are used as garden fertiliser.



IN THE NEWS



LtOR Mike Pretty, Cameron Scott, Lyn Mayes, Rob Langford, Malcolm Everts, Tony Nowell

DESIGN BEGINS FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

At the end of September, Minister Parker told around 100 guests that the Government is providing \$994,900 from the Waste Minimisation Fund to support the design of a regulated plastic packaging product stewardship scheme over two years:

“Once in place it will require producers, brand owners, importers, retailers, and consumers to take responsibility for collecting and dealing with plastic packaging. An estimated 60% of plastics imported into New Zealand is used by the packaging sector. The project will

see representatives from across the plastic packaging chain come together to design a fit-for-purpose product stewardship scheme.”

Tony Nowell CNZM has been appointed the project’s Independent Chair and will oversee project management, governance, and delivery of the project. Tony is currently chair of Douglas Nutrition, and the Omega Lamb Primary Growth Partnership, and a director of NZ Food Innovation Auckland. He is past chair of Scion and represented New Zealand on the APEC Business Advisory Council and on the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Board. Tony chaired the NZ Packaging Accord between 2004 and 2009.

bit.ly/TWU1022-3

bit.ly/TWU1022-4

AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA

Investment in soft plastics recycling in Victoria

\$14.26 million of funding has been allocated by federal and state government for new recycling infrastructure projects in Victoria. The governments will also jointly invest \$3 million to IQ Renew for a large recycling facility in Altona, which will recycle 30,000 tonnes of soft plastic into food grade soft plastic and washed flakes of low-density polyethylene. Australians use around 70 billion pieces of soft “scrunchable” plastics including food wrappers every year, but as little as 4% is recycled with the rest ending up as landfill or litter in the environment.

UNITED KINGDOM

Aldi rolls out ‘soft plastic’ collections

Supermarket chain Aldi is rolling out recycling bins for front-of-store soft plastics at more than 800 of its shops. By the end of the year customers will be able to return clean soft plastic packaging including crisp packets, salad bags, bread bags and carrier bags at “most” of its UK stores. Aldi is working with Jayplas which is commissioning a washing and pelletising plant for used film in Loughborough.

The Flexible Plastic Fund’s FlexCollect project

The FlexCollect project is trialling flexible plastic household collection and recycling pilots between 2022 and 2025. The FPF was founded by Ecosurety in collaboration with Mars, Mondelez, Nestle, Pepsico and Unilever. The first collections took place in Cheltenham in early October, part of nine trials which Suez UK will be running with local councils along with Ecosurety, RECOUP and Wrap to develop a blueprint for introducing soft plastic recycling.

FROM OUR PROCESSING PARTNERS – LEADING THE WAY TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR PLASTIC



Looking for fun, educational entertainment for the kids in the Auckland region? Future Post is part of the interactive "Switch Up: Sustainable Solutions" exhibition at MOTAT (Museum of Transport and Technology).

bit.ly/TWU1022-5



Vibrating digger installing 100% recycled 116mm/2.4m vineyard posts at Cloudy Bay, Central Otago.



SAVEBOARD TURNS SOFT PLASTIC INTO BUILDING MATERIALS

saveBOARD has created a one-off run of 200 sheets of saveBOARD Exposed Chocolate Milk internal lining. Made from 4000kgs of chocolate milk cartons saved from landfill. You can't drink it; however, you can look at it every day whether it is lining the wall of your house or garage. These one-off saveBOARD panels are mainly white with a brown and creamy finish.



AROUND THE WORLD

Yes Recycling Fife

Yes Recycling Fife and Fife Council with significant funding from Morrisons and Nestle UK & Ireland have introduced kerbside collections for soft plastics for households in Fife. Cierco Scotland collects, sorts and bales the plastic which is processed at the Yes Recycling Facility in Dunfermline into Ecosheet – which is a plastic alternative to plywood. Check out the video:

vimeo.com/646561874



RECOUP CONFERENCE

Lyn Mayes was invited to join a panel discussion at the RECOUP Conference in the UK to discuss the Right Material, Right Place, Right Approach for plastic packaging. RECOUP is the UK's leading authority on plastic recycling. The conference was chaired by Tom Heap from the BBC's Countryfile, Sky News' The Climate Show and BBC 4's Costing the Earth. There were more than 400 people attending in person, and over 200 in the virtual audience. Attendees represented organisations from across the plastic value chain, including all the main food & grocery chains Aldi, ASDA, Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsbury, Waitrose and M&S.

There was significant interest in our soft plastic scheme and the New Zealand policy framework. The speakers and delegates agreed that compostable plastic is problematic and should only be used for food contact in closed loop situations. There was also discussion about liquid paperboard with Morrisons moving from plastic milk bottles to LPB whilst other supermarkets, including Tesco, are not advocating use of LPB.

Such a great feeling being responsible for our rubbish recycling. We do our best to get all our clients aware too! Need to ensure children in the house see their parents making good efforts and explaining the "why".



Are you one of our 11,684 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



TE HANGARUA
KIRIHOU

HURIHIA TĀU KIRIHOU HEI POUAKA WHAKATUPU (HEI POU TAIAPA RĀNEI) MĀ TE HANGARUA KI KONEI

HANGARUATIA AHAU

PĒKE PARARĀOA • WHAKATUPU
MĀOTA • PĒKE KAI WHAKAMATĀTAO
• PĒKE • TĀKAI WHĒRU • PATA KAI •
KAI TIMOTIMO • NGĀ HUA MIRAKA •
PĒKE PEPAKONU • PĒKE KOTAKOTA
RĪWAI • WAINENE • PĒKE KARERE •
TĀKAI MIRUMIRU • PĒKE PARUPARU
MĀRA • PĒKE KAI MŌKAI

TIROHIA TE PAE TUKUTUKU
RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ/FAQS



KIA KORE AI TĀTOU E
TĀHAWAHAWA I TE
KIRIHOU, KAUA E
RAU ATU I ĒNEI MEA
KI NGĀ PĒKE KARERE

PĒKE ONEPŌPOPO

ĀRAI KANOHI, KARAPU E ĀHEI ANA KI
TE POROWHIU, TĀKAI 'RAT TEST'

RĀPAHI

IPU KAI, POUNAMU INU
PEKAKONU ME TE MĒTARA

MAHIA MAI TE
WHAKAMĀTAUTAU
KOPAKOPA!

KOPENUTIA TŌ
KIRIHOU HEI
PORO, Ā, KA
HANGARUATIA E
MĀTOU!



RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ/STORE-LOCATOR