

# The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ

## AND THAT'S A WRAP FOR 2022

All of us at The Packaging Forum's Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme wish you a safe, peaceful and restful summer break, and a very happy Christmas. If you are spending your holiday in Aotearoa, we now have more recycling drop off points in our holiday destinations.

As we approach the end of 2022, we thought it would be nice to have a little reminder of the year that was for soft plastics...

Meri Kirihimete and best wishes for the new year.

Thank you again to all our members, collectors and processing partners for making this scheme possible.

We've continued to increase our membership by **20%** to over **180** members and **1 in 5** of our members is now from outside the food and grocery sector.

We've added **76** new stores – that's a **74%** increase and we now have collection bins at more than **250** locations.

This year New Zealanders have recycled over **500** tonnes of soft plastic, which is the equivalent to **76 million** bags or wrappers; and **50,000** Future Posts have been produced – enough to fence **250km** of roads all the way from Auckland to Kerikeri.

## JANUARY

### INCREASING PROCESSING CAPACITY IN NZ

**Future Post** added a second production line at its Auckland plant doubling its processing capacity.

**saveBOARD** opened its plant in the Waikato to turn liquid fibreboard cartons and soft plastic into low carbon building products.



## FEBRUARY

### INTRODUCING SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING IN HAURAKI DISTRICT

Hauraki District Council celebrated the introduction of soft plastic recycling at Ngatea Four Square, Waihi New World, Hauraki Repair & Reuse Centre, the council's two refuse transfer stations, as well as Countdown in Paeroa.

Deputy Mayor Paul Milner (Paeroa Ward) gets behind soft plastic recycling

## MARCH

### CHANGING BEHAVIOUR

Around **2.17 million** kiwis now know about soft plastic recycling (Source Horizon Research).

Soft plastic recycling returned to Dunedin thanks to local business partnerships with collection bins at eight participating Countdown, New World and The Warehouse stores across Dunedin and Mosgiel. Since March we recycled 12 tonnes of soft plastic, or around 2 million bags or wrappers. However, we had to suspend the service in November because we no longer have access to a baler to compact the plastic for safe and efficient onward transport. We are working on an alternative solution for 2023.

The Ministry for the Environment also released its Transforming Recycling Consultation documents, to which the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme submitted a response on behalf of members.

## APRIL

### NZ POST COURIER BAG SERVICE - 100% SOFT PLASTIC 0% CONTAMINATION

Partnership between NZ Post, The Warehouse, New World & Sealed Air opens the scheme to communities currently without access to a SP recycling bin, or who are unable to get to their local store to drop off their soft plastic. So far 1000s have sent filled bags back via the NZ Post courier network, with the bags being picked up by Abilities Group; baled and transported to Future Post for recycling



## MAY

### THE CLEAN, DRY + EMPTY MESSAGE IS WORKING

The Waste Not Consulting audit finds a big annual drop in contamination levels from **8.7% to 4.2%**. The main items for contamination were rigid plastics, paper, and compostable bags.



## JUNE

### CONTINUING OUR EXPANSION

Our community partner **Earthlink** extended its collection network to enable collections in the Wairarapa; and we finally got to Thames via a partnership with the Thames Coromandel District Council and Smart Environmental. The Thames service has proved so successful that we have expanded collections to Whangamata and Whitianga – just in time for the very busy festive holiday season.



## JULY

### MORE BINS PER CAPITA IN TAURANGA

We celebrated mid-winter and Plastic Free July on a beautiful sunny day in Tauranga. Tauranga is now the city with the most collection points per capita – **one bin per 10,000** people compared to an average of one bin per 17,000 in other participating cities.

Hon Todd Muller launches collections in Tauranga.

## AUGUST

### BUILDING PROCESSING CAPACITY

Jerome Wenzlick founder of **Future Post** welcomed Manawatu Mayor Helen Warboys, MP's Tangi Utukere and Ian McKelvie, as well as TPF's Rob Langford and Malcolm Everts, to a factory visit to demonstrate the waste plastic to post recycling process.



## AUGUST

### BUILDING PROCESSING CAPACITY

And in Hamilton, **saveBOARD** turns our soft plastic into building materials by mixing it with liquid paper board, and using the soft plastic as the glue to bond the products to create low carbon building materials.

## SEPTEMBER

### DESIGN BEGINS FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING PRODUCT SCHEME

The Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker announces that TPF and the NZ Food & Grocery Council will jointly lead the project to co-design a Plastic Packaging Product Stewardship Scheme. The co-design process will involve multiple stakeholders over two years to identify and recommend the most fitting scheme for NZ.



## OCTOBER

### SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING ARRIVES IN TAIRĀWHITI

Tairāwhiti residents are now able to recycle their soft plastic packaging for the first time. Thanks to local Tairāwhiti bakers Walter Findlay who collect the soft plastic from six participating stores and bale it ready for transport to Auckland leveraging Goodman Fielder's transport network.





## NOVEMBER

### A REMINDER THAT WE ARE NOWHERE WITHOUT OUR PROCESSING PARTNERS

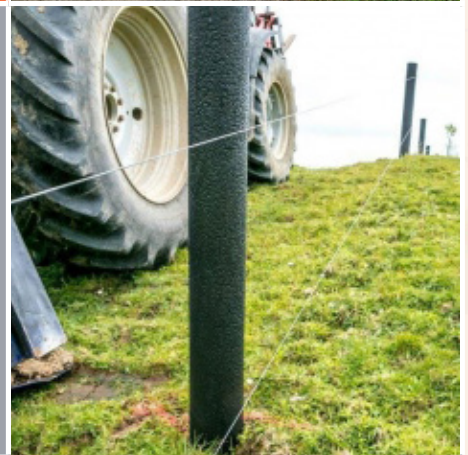
The temporary cessation of collections by REDcycle in Australia is a reminder that we need to invest and grow our NZ processing capacity. Three years ago, we had to stop our store collection service because we had nowhere to send the plastic. We are now back at 80% coverage, the result of working together with our processing partners, **Future Post** and **saveBOARD**.



## DECEMBER

### CELEBRATING SEVEN YEARS OF SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING

We have worked hard in 2022 to bring soft plastic recycling to our hot spot tourist destinations with the distinctive recycling bins now available in Paihia, Kerikeri, Tauranga, Hawke's Bay, Tairāwhiti, Taupō, Whitianga, Whangamatā, Waihi, Kapiti Coast, Wairarapa and Akaroa.



### SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING POSTER

Our Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme poster, which is ideal for businesses, schools, workplaces and organisations promoting soft plastic recycling, is now available in te reo Māori. This can be downloaded, alongside the English version at [recycling.kiwi.nz](http://recycling.kiwi.nz)



# RECYCLE YOUR SOFT PLASTIC THIS SUMMER



THERE ARE NOW OVER **250** LOCATIONS TO DROP OFF YOUR SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING. MOSTLY IN THE NORTH ISLAND, GOOD COVERAGE IN CANTERBURY TOO.

IN 12 MONTHS KIWIS HAVE RECYCLED **500 TONNES** OF SOFT PLASTIC = **76,000,000** BAGS OR WRAPPERS + MADE **50,000** POSTS. ENOUGH TO FENCE 250KM OF ROADS FROM AUCKLAND TO KERIKERI!

We've worked hard to bring SP recycling to our tourist destinations. Our cool bins are now available in...

WE TEAMED UP WITH **NZ POST** & INTRODUCED A **SP COURIER BAG SERVICE** - BUY + FILL + POST = EASY!! PEOPLE FROM CHATHAM ISLANDS TO CAPE REINGA HAVE BEEN SENDING US THEIR PLASTIC TO BE TURNED INTO POSTS AT **FUTURE POST** OR INTO BUILDING MATERIALS AT **SAVEBOARD**. NICE!

DOWNLOAD OUR POSTERS TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN RECYCLE AT [RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ](http://RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ)

THE PACKAGING FORUM

USE THE STORE LOCATOR TO FIND OUT WHERE YOUR NEAREST DROP OFF IS (MORE THAN JUST RETAIL OUTLETS NOW!)

