

The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY
RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ

Kia kaha whānau



2023 has not started the way any of us would have wanted. We hope that you, your whānau, and teams are safe and well.

The devastating weather with January's flooding followed by the massive impact of Cyclone Gabrielle is the most appalling reminder of the impact of climate change. When I was Chair of the Auckland Conservation Board a critical part of the Department of Conservation's work was considering how climate change would erode our coastline and how to mitigate this. It wasn't a matter of if, but when. The cyclone has ripped into the dunes at my nearby beach in Orewa moving them back several metres and putting the wildlife that inhabits the dunes at risk.

The "future generations" we often speak of are definitely wondering why we didn't act over 35 years ago when the Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development.

The adverse weather conditions did impact our ability to collect and transport soft plastic for recycling, certainly in the regions most impacted. Thanks go out again to all our retail partners that are supporting their communities by providing them with essential supplies over this time.

BUSINESS FUNDING RECYCLING

Check out and share our latest soft plastic recycling video [here](#).

The problems which have beset Australia's Redcycle soft plastic scheme continue to make news. A more insightful article points to the solution in mandatory product stewardship and investment in processing capacity, read it here bit.ly/TWU223-1.

We know only too well that a successful scheme requires effective collection systems matched by processing capacity. This is why our partnership with Future Post which started in 2018 and more recently saveBOARD is so important.

Our funding model is actively supporting Future Post's expansion into the South Island just as last year we supported their investment in an additional Auckland processing line. Future Post's second plant will open in Blenheim in July 2023 with two production lines and a processing capacity to match their Auckland plant.

Jerome Wenzlick, Founder of Future Post explains how important the scheme is to his business "We have been working with the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme since 2018 and, since this time, the Scheme has gone beyond being a supplier to being a real partner supporting our expansion. We haven't received funding from central or local government and so the support we get from the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme is invaluable."

As our processing capacity increases, we need to build our collection systems. As a result of investment in and advancements to collection technology, other countries are trialling or operating kerbside collection systems for soft plastics. I am now on a UK working group which is running trials in England, Wales and Scotland. You can read about some of these trials on page 3.

Ngā mihi nui
Lyn



ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

563

TONNES OF POST-CONSUMER
SOFT PLASTIC COLLECTED
FOR PROCESSING INTO
PLASTIC FENCE POSTS AND
CABLE COVERS

100%

OF WHAT IS COLLECTED IS
PROCESSED IN AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND

78%

POPULATION HAS ACCESS TO
COLLECTION SERVICE - 250
PARTICIPATING STORES

“A wonderful initiative! It's very reassuring to see Kiwis making a difference.”

RAMPING UP

In 2022 we got back on track after COVID, doubling the amount of soft plastic collected; increasing the number of collection points by over 50%; and adding Kerikeri, Masterton, Tairāwhiti, Tauranga, Thames, Waihi, Whangamatā, Whangārei and Whitianga and to the network.

More than 80 million soft plastic bags and wrappers were dropped off by consumers and recycled through the Scheme – that's the equivalent weight of four Boeing 757's worth of soft plastic diverted from landfill.

PLANNING FOR 2023

Future Post plans to open the doors to a new plant on a 2200 sq m site in Blenheim in July. The site is more than almost double the size of the Waiuku site and Future Post will operate two processing lines which will take soft plastic and HDPE milk bottles/ janitorial from the South Island to make posts for vineyards and farms across the mainland.

This is a significant step allowing us to create a circular economy for soft plastic in the South Island. We have minimised the footprint of moving soft plastic around by utilising both stores and members' backhauling networks, as well as through benefiting from Goodman Fielder's transport organisation and network to maximise efficiencies.

The stark truth remains, however, that transporting waste from south to north and then transporting posts from north to south is not the solution.

We will be working hard to reshape our logistics and where possible to add new South Island regions into the network.

CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR EXPANSION PROGRAMME?

Putting a soft plastic recycling bin in a store or other location is the easy bit. It's the logistics which make this challenging.

To start a collection service in a new region we need:

To **collect** recycling bags of soft plastic from stores on a **weekly** basis

A **baler** and **people to bale** - and space for around 70 large bags of soft plastic which need to be compressed into a 450kg bale

A **forklift** to load the bale onto vehicle

Transport to one of our processors (currently Waiuku and Hamilton, and soon to be Blenheim)

We put collections in Dunedin on hold because we lost access to a baler.

The Scheme can help finance balers, but we do need somewhere to put it and someone to operate it.

Key target regions: Manawatu, Marlborough, Dunedin



WELCOME TO OUR NEW
MEMBERS - BRINGING US UP TO
189 ORGANISATIONS FUNDING
THE COLLECTION SERVICE

THE NEAT MEAT GROUP
PRECINCT PROPERTIES
KAIPARA KUMARA

DARK HORSE COFFEE
SECRET KIWI KITCHEN





INVESTIGATING KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS OF SOFT PLASTIC – WE ARE SEEKING COUNCILS TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW ZEALAND TRIAL



In the UK, councils will be required to collect soft plastic from kerbsides by 2027. Producers, recyclers, re-processors and councils have formed a working group to help the industry get ready for this roll out. There are two trials underway in England in Cheltenham and South Gloucestershire.

In Wales the Welsh Government is looking at four different trials:

- Bagged soft plastic combined in bin at kerbside
- Bagged soft plastic in a separate bin at kerbside
- Bagged soft plastic in a combined bin but sorted into separate compartment in truck at kerbside
- Loose in a combined bin

In Scotland, Fife is the first council to collect soft plastic from 185,000 households combined with rigid plastic and metals in a recycling bin. Plastic and metals are collected one week with paper and cardboard collected on the alternate week. Glass containers are dropped off at bottle banks so do not go through the kerbside collection system. The materials recycling facility is run by CIRECO and has been fitted out with additional TOMRA optical sorters and a ballistic separator to separate out the flexible plastic from the mixed plastics. The soft plastic is then washed, flaked and turned into pellets which are compressed to form Ecosheet which is an alternative to plywood by Yes Recycling.

IF ANY COUNCIL IS INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF A NEW ZEALAND TRIAL FUNDED BY THE SCHEME, PLEASE GET IN CONTACT WITH US.

MEMBER NEWS



OCEANIA MEADOWBANK LIFESTYLE CARE AND VILLAGE – DOING THEIR BIT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Recognising that soft plastic is a growing source of waste, and not being able to recycle it in kerbside recycling in Auckland, the residents of Meadowbank Village worked with the village operator to join the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme. Abilities Group collects and bales the residents' soft plastic for shipment to Future Post to be turned into fence posts for farming and horticulture and other premium products.

The residents' efforts are now coming full circle and Future Post has supplied the residents at the village with two new garden beds, made from the recycled soft plastics. The village will be replacing all the garden beds over time using Future Post. Instead of disposing of food waste in the bin or their insinkerator, the residents of Meadowbank Village partnered with commercial gardeners (Grasshoppers) to establish seven worm farms where food waste can now be disposed of. The by-products of the worm farms are then used in the garden beds. These garden beds are used to grow vegetables year-round. As part of their environmental improvement plan residents are also collecting used batteries and sending them to recyclers reducing the volumes going to landfill.

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



FUTURE POST EXPANSION TO BLENHEIM

Future Post will soon be manufacturing its products in the South Island. That means collection points for the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme are expected to be re-established across Nelson and Marlborough. Future Post managing director Jerome Wenzlick said the company started making fence posts nearly five years ago in Auckland, using soft plastic waste.

bit.ly/TWU223-2



SAVEBOARD OPENS IN AUSTRALIA

saveBOARD Australia opened its Western Sydney plant on 21 February.

saveBOARD would like to acknowledge the massive financial support received from the Australian Government's Recycling Modernisation Fund (AUS\$1.74M). saveBOARD has also been awarded AUS\$1 million from the Victorian State Government towards opening a plant in Melbourne in 2024.

MEMBER NEWS



THE WAREHOUSE

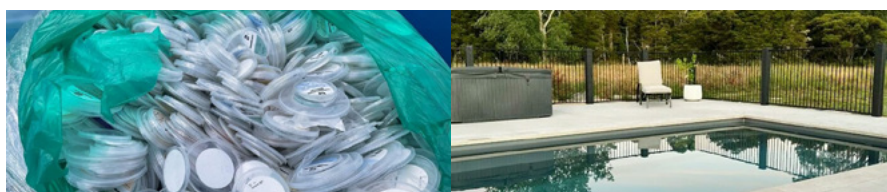
The Warehouse has launched a new Recycle Hub at The Warehouse Royal Oak, as the first of many exciting customer solutions where 10 different types of hard-to-recycle items can be recycled.

Called 'My Recycle Hub', the innovative new format was designed after customer feedback showed 47% of Kiwis wanted to be able to recycle 'hard-to-recycle' packaging items that can't be done kerbside.

Coffee capsules, hair care, skincare, beauty products, apparel, plastic bags, writing instruments and toys are just some of the items that can be recycled in the My Recycle Hub. This is free for Kiwis, and the design of the hub includes carparks for convenient drop offs.

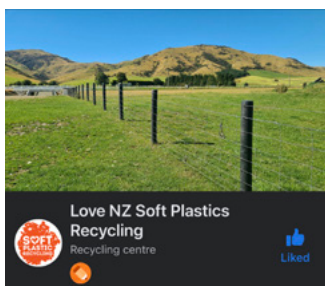
The Warehouse Group Chief Sustainability Officer, David Benattar says the initiative not only helps solve a problem for Kiwis and New Zealand when it comes to waste and recycling but helps us all make more sustainable choices every day.

My Recycle Hub was developed in partnership with global and Kiwi recycling organisations TerraCycle and the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme, which will collect the items when the hub is full. The Warehouse is also partnering with Brita, Olay, Mattel, and Colgate to deliver the solution.



Square 1.8m Future Posts in use as pool surrounds

Great to see **Woop** customers supporting their "Back To Base" scheme and returning cleaned food packaging for recycling, which comes to us and is processed into 100% recycled Future Posts!



Are you one of our 11,839 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