

The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY
RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ

How do we improve and increase access to soft plastic recycling?

In the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme's submission to the Ministry for the Environment's proposals for Transforming Recycling in May 2022, we supported the kerbside collection of a standard set of materials by every council and, on top of this minimum set, advocated that councils should be able to choose additional materials based on their own collection systems and available end markets. We also asked that soft plastic packaging should be considered for collection given the success of trials being conducted in other countries.

The Government's recently released Waste Strategy and the announcement on standardised kerbside collections will require all councils to collect a prescribed set of materials from February 2024 without any ability for councils to add materials they can recycle. The materials which can be collected are glass bottles and jars, paper and cardboard, plastic bottles and containers marked 1, 2 & 5, and aluminium and steel tins and cans. We are seeking more information on the details relating to the collection of caps, tops, and lids.

It is disappointing that despite compelling evidence that source separated materials collections reduce contamination and increase the quality of recyclables, commingled collections including glass will continue.

We are also seeking clarity as to whether soft plastic kerbside collection trials can be conducted. As Australia, UK, Ireland, Belgium, and other countries trial and ultimately introduce kerbside collection of soft plastics through investment in collection, sortation, and processing technologies, we must be able to investigate and implement options for New Zealand. This is particularly important as the design of a Plastic Packaging Product Stewardship (PPPS) Scheme for New Zealand will leverage best practice solutions.

The Packaging Forum is working with the Ministry for the Environment on a webinar for our members to discuss the implications of the new legislation. More details regarding that will be provided shortly.

Ngā mihi nui
Lyn



ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REPORT

We recently released the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme's annual report required as an accredited scheme under the Waste Minimisation Act (2008). The report covers our performance during the calendar year 2022 detailing the tonnes collected for recycling and processed by Future Post and saveBOARD, our geographic footprint and the scheme's availability to consumers. The report also includes analysis of the amount of soft plastic packaging in New Zealand using unit sales data from IRI against the main categories where soft plastic is used as well as the broader dataset provided through the Food & Grocery Council led research.

[Read the report](#)



CIRCULAR ECONOMY SOLUTIONS FOR AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND'S SOFT PLASTIC PACKAGING | REPORT BY NEXTEK

The Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme commissioned Nextek to consider options for New Zealand's soft plastic packaging over the next 5-10 years. We encourage you to read the report.

Nextek reviewed:

- Collection systems for soft plastics.
- A potential network of processing plants for NZ.
- Mechanical recycling options – including technology to recycle soft plastic film back into film.
- Advanced recycling options – where plastic is turned into oil and refined into polymers for remanufacture in plastic packaging.

In summary the report recommends:

MAXIMISE THE COLLECTION OF POST-CONSUMER FILMS UTILISING THE KERBSIDE COLLECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

- Develop a “bag in bag” or other system and educate consumers on its use so film materials can be more easily separated in the commingled recycling bin.
- Upgrade MRF's to separate bags and loose film to a separate stream using learnings from “Flexcollect” trials in the UK.

- Facilitate the continued market development of using post-consumer film in a wider range of durable products as this is currently the lowest carbon footprint process option.

DEVELOP HUBS TO COLLATE MATERIALS AND PROVIDE A MECHANICAL PRE-TREATMENT PRIOR TO PYROLYSIS AND OTHER RECYCLING APPLICATIONS

- Design to enable processing additional materials from post commercial, agricultural, post-industrial MRF's to supplement the post-consumer film volumes.
- Hubs can process materials for direct use back into products and material for pyrolysis by using essentially the same process equipment.
- Pre-treated plastic materials for pyrolysis may be able to be exported, while a domestic capability is developed, or where internal freight is not a viable option.

DEVELOP HUBS TO CO-LOCATE CHEMICAL RECYCLING PYROLYSIS PROCESSING TO PRODUCE LIQUID HYDROCARBONS FOR RE-POLYMERISATION

- Recycling of carbon via pyrolysis back to polymers and film is currently the only technology option for post-consumer film to food grade applications.

- Although pyrolysis has a higher carbon footprint than mechanical recycling, it delivers circularity for these complex compositions.
- Technologies for mechanical recycling post-consumer films to food grade are currently being investigated but are several years from potential commercialisation.
- A specific study of the business case and technology selection is required; a range of small-scale process options are commercially available.

[Find the report here](#)

FEASIBILITY STUDY - PLASTOIL

Plastoil already operates a plant in Melbourne and will be introducing more plants in a range of sizes working together with industry and government in Australia. We have provided funding to Plastoil to commission a feasibility study for introducing the Plastoil pyrolysis technology in New Zealand.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS - BRINGING US UP TO 190 ORGANISATIONS FUNDING THE COLLECTION SERVICE

DAIRYWORKS
DUNNINGHAMS
FLIGHT COFFEE

GIANNIS
SCALZO FOODS



MEMBER NEWS

COTTONSOFT GIFTS PRE-LOVED BALERS TO THE SCHEME

As readers will know, one of the major challenges we face in setting up soft plastic collections is that the bin liners collected from stores need to be baled for efficient transport, and also because the plastic needs to be compressed to be suitable for processing. Cottonsoft has kindly gifted several of its “pre-loved” balers to the Scheme, and we are currently identifying good homes for these balers where they will be used to support soft plastic collection services. The first of these balers will be off to our community partner, social enterprise Earthlink in the Hutt and we will also be providing Future Post with a baler for its new Marlborough plant.

Please get in contact if you are interested or know of an organisation that can benefit from a baler to support the growth of soft plastic collections.

Thanks again Cottonsoft!



NEW MEMBER DUNNINGHAMS MAINTAINS ITS TOITU ENVIROMARK GOLD

One of our newest SPR Scheme members, Dunninghams, is proud to announce it has maintained its Toitu Enviromark Gold for another year. “We’re proud to be ramping up our environmental responsibility via soft plastics recycling,” says Jade Jones. “A fantastic step forward for our New Zealand environment.”

FROM OUR PROCESSING PARTNERS

LEADING THE WAY TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR PLASTIC



FIELD DAYS TO SPEED FENCING

Future Post went on the road in March to three regional field days and The Ford Ranger New Zealand Rural Games where Future Posts were used in the speed fencing competition. If you don't know what speed fencing is check it out [here](#).



SAVEBOARD STARTED IN HAMILTON BUT IS GETTING THE BACKING OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL & STATE GOVERNMENTS

It's great to see saveBOARD will be adding a Gold Coast facility with a \$1.7 million grant from both the Federal and the Queensland State Government. This will add to the company's existing plant in Western Sydney and the new plant to be constructed in Melbourne. saveBOARD CEO Paul Charteris said “This project is providing an opportunity for Queenslanders to help transform the construction industry.”



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS - ENGLAND

Maldon District Council has started a soft plastic kerbside collection trial which will cover a sample of family sizes and housing types before being extended across the district by December 2024. The initial trial collects soft plastics fortnightly on a separate vehicle, but will transition into a twin stream glass out collection service.



MORE PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THE SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING BINS!

Horizon Research surveyed 1092 people nationwide in April.

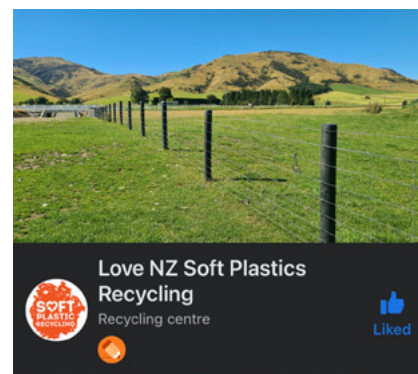


CHANGES TO THE ANNUAL RECYCLING AUDIT

Since we started auditing samples of collected soft plastic, the number of product categories (including non-food and grocery) which our members are involved in has increased. Many products have simply been categorised as "other" and while this made up around a third of soft plastics in 2018, last year "other" represented over half. At the same time the number of members' brands monitored in the secondary sortation

has more than doubled from 150 to over 370 brands with the increase in Scheme membership.

This year we have decided to increase the number of categories in the audit with a range of non-food and grocery categories introduced. We will not be conducting the branded audit but will conduct a secondary audit of materials to see which are using the ARL on pack or our Soft Plastic Recycling logo.



Are you one of our 11,883 Facebook followers?

If not, head on over and like the 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

WE DO LISTEN

I am glad to see that the soft plastics I collect & take to New World collection bin, are being made into these durable fence posts.

Check out all of the locations you can recycle at recycling.kiwi.nz/store-locator

Have you provided any soft plastic bins to businesses yet? Just wondering as we are looking at our options to reduce waste.

Yes businesses that join the Scheme can also pay for a weekly collection service in the regions where our collectors operate.

Any luck getting things up and running again in Dunedin?

Not yet – we are still struggling to find an organisation that can accommodate and operate a baler. We can supply the baler.