

The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY
RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ



Opening of Future Post's new Blenheim plant

Springing back!

Four years ago, we started The Wrap Up to celebrate the return of soft plastic recycling and to provide our members and partners with regular news updates. In the first edition, we showcased our partnership with Future Post. It was a momentous occasion to restart collections, albeit on a small scale with just 39 stores in the Auckland region in 2019, and to know that the materials collected were being recycled in Auckland into fence posts.

Following the decision to stop collections at the end of 2018 when we lost access to overseas markets for post-consumer soft plastics, we knew there would be

scepticism about whether soft plastic recycling in New Zealand would be, or could be, sustainable.

And that was before the Covid years with its stop/start of collections as we traversed those lengthy lockdowns.

A year ago, we were faced with another challenge and had to stop collections in Dunedin and Mosgiel because we no longer had a facility to store and bale the plastic. We know from experience, that to be sustainable, all parts of the supply chain must be working.

In this our 24th edition of The Wrap Up, we are celebrating another "restart" having found a viable logistics solution in

Dunedin, the bins arrived back in stores on 14 September. We are also announcing plans to restart collections in Queenstown, and introducing soft plastic recycling in Wanaka, Alexandra, and Cromwell. Exciting times for Otago!

This brings soft plastic recycling back to the bottom of the South Island, as well as returning collections at the top. Importantly all the soft plastic collected in the South Island now gets recycled in Blenheim at Future Post's new plant, which formally opened on 28 July.

Ngā mihi nui
Lyn



BRIEFING WITH ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT HON RACHEL BROOKING

Following The Packaging Forum's political panel discussion in June and Ministry webinars on the new waste strategy, we organised a briefing for members and for the wider industry with Minister Rachel Brooking and her officials. Minister Brooking spoke about the decisions behind the new waste strategy, with a focus on those relating to kerbside collections which she acknowledged were of concern for many members. In terms of soft plastics, she reiterated that changes can be made to the accepted materials over time and with evidence supporting their inclusion.

If you missed this event members can watch it here bit.ly/TPF-RB

We will continue to monitor the success of kerbside collections overseas and work with NZ councils interested in trialling similar solutions.

The Government has confirmed which materials will be accepted at kerbside from 1 Feb 2024. Soft plastics are excluded. [More here](#)

The Packaging Forum's comments can be found [here](#)

STEERING COMMITTEE 2023/24

At the AGM, the new Steering Committee with newly nominated members was announced. We welcome Mao Mao (Kmart); Michael Steed (Pepsico) and Robert Lethridge (Griffins) to the committee. The full committee for the 23/24 financial year in alphabetical order is:

- Catherine Langabeer** Countdown
- Colin Benzie** Caspak
- Debra Goulding** Foodstuffs
- Huzaifa Mohsinally** Goodman Fielder
- Jamie Galloway** Foundation Coffee
- Keri-Anne Martin** Nestle
- Malcolm Everts** Cottonsoft **Chair**
- Mao Mao** Kmart
- Michael Steed** Pepsico
- Paul Bonini** Westpac
- Robert Lethridge** Griffins
- Stuart Burt** Amcor

The Steering Committee has nominated Malcolm Everts; Keri-Anne Martin and Jamie Galloway to The Packaging Forum Board.

PLASTIC CONSUMPTION SURVEY - DEADLINE 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Government's waste action and investment plan will be based on what we know about the plastic placed on the market and our known processing capacity. Without good data, we will make poor decisions in the design of a Plastic Packaging Product Stewardship Scheme.

The Packaging Forum is working closely with the NZ Food & Grocery Council to encourage all members to provide their plastic consumption data to the 2023 Dynata survey. The survey is not just for the food and grocery sector – we need to understand how much plastic is used across the retail, hospitality, and service sector.

If you have any questions or have not received your company's individual link to the survey, please contact carole@packagingforum.org.nz



ALL ABOUT SOFT PLASTICS - LABELLING

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING SCHEME MEMBERS ONLY

MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2023 | 1-2PM

Scheme members are invited to join a webinar with Sarah Sannen, Head of Operations at APCO on 25 September.

Register your interest with donna@packagingforum.org.nz



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BACK TO THE FUTURE

Back in 2018 we were collecting 55 tonnes per month from 350 stores, with access to around 74% of the population. It's worth remembering that back in 2018 over 700 million single use plastic bags were used annually and these represented 12% of what was dropped off for recycling.

As soft plastic recycling returns to Otago, Nelson, Marlborough, and Tasman in the South Island, 83% New Zealanders will have access to a drop off point within 20km of their home or work.

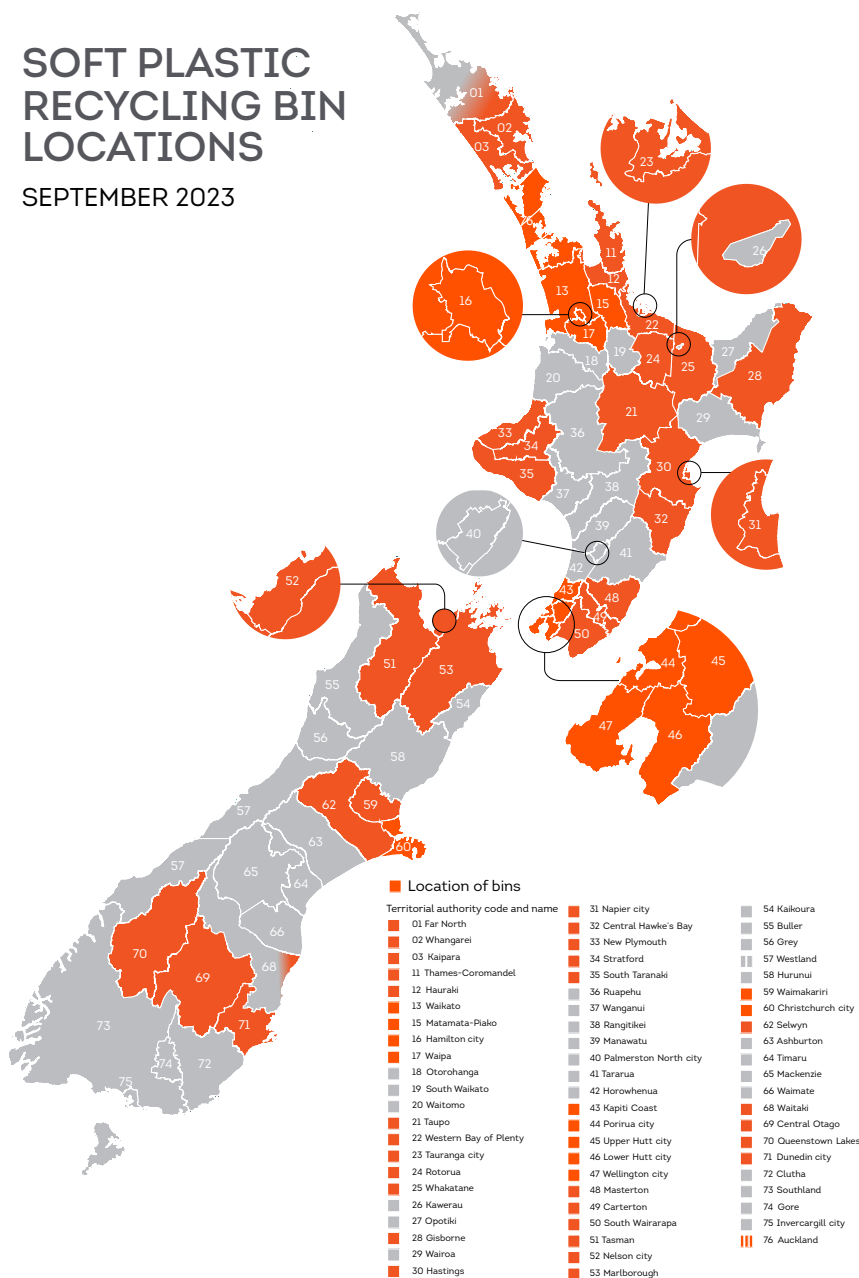
There are 275+ stores in our network collecting around 60 tonnes of soft plastics every month, the equivalent to almost 10 million bags and wrappers diverted from landfill, every month, and turned into posts and other products right here in New Zealand.

This is a major achievement which represents a huge effort from our collection and processing partners, and participating stores.

Most importantly it couldn't be done without the support of all our members that fund the recycling service.

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING BIN LOCATIONS

SEPTEMBER 2023

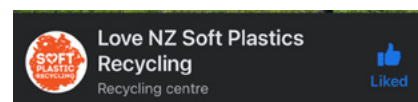


OTAGO

It's been challenging finding a sustainable logistics solution to bring soft plastic recycling back to Dunedin and Mosgiel. However, we're pleased to say that on 14 September the recycling bins returned to Countdown Dunedin South, Dunedin Central, Mailer Street, Anderson Bay and Mosgiel; The Warehouse Dunedin South; and, New World Centre City, Gardens and Mosgiel.

Waste Management will collect from stores and have allocated space for storing and baling the soft plastics which we will move quickly through the system up to Future Post.

From October we will commence collections from stores in Queenstown, Wanaka and Alexandra, partnering with Allwaste. Allwaste will bale the plastic and organise transport up to Future Post in Blenheim.



Are you one of our 11,900+ 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

FROM OUR PROCESSING PARTNERS

LEADING THE WAY TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR PLASTIC

Future Post



Launch of Future Post's new operation in Blenheim – Stuart Smith, MP for Kaikoura, Jerome Wenzlick, founder of Future Post, Malcolm Everts, chair Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme and marketing & sustainability manager Cottonsoft, Hassan Wong, Future Post general manager.

SOUTH ISLAND LAUNCH

Future Post celebrated the opening of its new Blenheim factory on 28 July. Exciting times ahead as Future Post expands its recycling capacity and fence post output in the mainland. All soft plastic collected in the South Island will now be processed and recycled at Future Post Blenheim – a brilliant example of a local circular economy in action!



Preferred supplier to DOC

Nice work from Dan and the team at the Palmerston North DOC office who recently installed 125mm/2.1m Future Posts along the coastal section of the Himatangi Reserve to protect the boundary and restrict vehicle access.

saveBOARD

Transforming waste to walls. The boards are made from composite packaging such as milk cartons, ingredients bags, coffee cups and soft plastics. The same materials you trust to keep your food and drinks safe and hygienic are what the boards are made from. Nothing added, just everyday packaging waste under pressure, heat and time to make our saveBOARD products. See [Material Safety Datasheet](#)

PRODUCERS INVESTING IN AND SUPPORTING PLASTIC RECYCLING AROUND THE WORLD

INVESTMENT IN RECYCLING FACILITY FOR MELBOURNE

Amcor and Mondelēz are investing in the construction of one of the first advanced recycling facilities in Australia. Licella will use its innovative, Australian-developed Catalytic Hydrothermal Reactor technology, which will recycle end-of-life plastic back into a crude oil substitute suitable to produce new food-grade plastic packaging. The new facility in Melbourne, called Advanced Recycling Victoria, will initially process 20,000 tonnes per annum of end-of-life plastic, with plans to scale up to 120,000 tonnes per annum. [Read more](#)

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GREENBACK, ENVAL & NESTLE IN MEXICO

In June, Greenback Recycling Technologies opened its first recycling plant using the Enval™ technology to turn hard to recycle plastics into pyrolytic oil. The plant which initially comprises one Enval model will process flexible plastic packaging waste generated from 250,000 people in Cuautla, Mexico. The process also allows recycling of another valuable raw material, aluminium, when this is present in multi-layered flexible packaging.

HANDEE, PUREX AND SORBENT – USING MORE RECYCLED CONTENT IN PLASTIC PACKAGING!

Handee, Purex & Sorbent are transitioning to 30% recycled plastic in their outer packaging! By using 30% recycled content they will save 60 tonnes of virgin plastic per year; the equivalent weight of around eight large African elephants. The plastic will continue to be recycled through the Scheme. Check out the new TVC which describes why Handee, Purex & Sorbent are the environmentally friendly choice. [View here](#)



IN THE NEWS

RADIO NZ FEATURE

Lyn was interviewed by Radio NZ about the soft plastic recycling scheme and shared her insights of trials for kerbside collections being conducted in the UK.

[Read more](#)

MARLBOROUGH WEEKLY

Plastic fantastic as recycling scheme returns

[Read more](#)

NELSON MAIL

Recycling scheme for soft plastics starts in Blenheim

[Read more](#)

BLENHEIM SUN

Soft plastic recycling returns to Blenheim

MARLBOROUGH EXPRESS

How your chip packet could end up in a Kiwi fence post

[Read more here](#) and [here](#)

The Guardian
Motueka and Golden Bay
Wednesday 16 August 2023

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Soft recycling bins are back

JO KENT

It's been five years since locals in the region have been able to recycle their soft plastics, but with eight new collection points across Richmond, Nelson and Motueka, that's all changed.

Soft Plastics Recycling Scheme manager Lyn Mayes says with Future Post's new processing plant in Blenheim, transporting the bales has put Nelson Tasman back on the recycling map.

"We launched the recycling scheme in 2015 but had to stop it in December 2018 when offshore plants processing New Zealand's plastic no longer wanted it."

That's when the scheme started a supply agreement with Future Post, who make fence posts from soft plastic.

"They were just setting up production in Auckland, so we resumed collections on a limited basis in Auckland in mid-2019 but, sadly, not

from the Top of the South as the logistics of transporting the soft plastics back to Auckland were too difficult."

The recycling scheme takes bread bags, frozen food bags, toilet paper packaging, confectionery and biscuit wrap, chip bags, pasta and rice bags, courier envelopes, shopping bags, and sanitary hygiene packaging – basically anything made of plastic which can be crunched into a ball.

The scheme collected 500 tonnes of plastic last year, which is around double what was collected in 2021 (260 tonnes). This year, they expect to double the volume again to 1000 tonnes of soft plastic.

Future Post managing director Jerome Wenzlick says the company has built their own machinery and figured out how to use all the different types of waste plastic that

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Countdown Motueka's Subash Kulatunga, Carleigh Hutchison and Todd Hamilton with the store's soft plastic recycling bin. Photo: Sara Hollyman.



THERE'S A NEW DROP OFF POINT AT THE HABITAT HUB IN NELSON

Waimea Weekly
Locally Owned and Operated
Wednesday 16 August 2023

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SOFT RECYCLING BINS ARE BACK: Assistant customer service manager at Countdown Richmond, Christy Richardson, holds a soft plastic bag.

Shooting clubs take aim at noise complaints

GORDON PREECE

Target shooting clubs at Golden Downs have taken financial hits and reduced their activities after prolonged noise complaints. Nelson Pistol Club and Nelson Waimere Clay Target Club say the complaints made by a neighbour, who resides at and operates a nearby accommodation facility, has resulted a point where Tasman District Council (TDC) has threatened to close the only side and secure practice shooting facilities in the district. However, a Tasman District Council spokesperson says while threats have not been made by council to close either club, it may take formal enforcement action if it considered that unreasonable noise levels were continuing. Nelson Waimere Clay Target Club president, Martin O'Connor, says the club, which has between 60 and 100 members, had received communication from council about noise complaints lodged by the neighbour for about five years, which had recently been "pretty bad". "You only have to fire two shots to get a complaint, so it's a bit ridiculous really," he says. "We have email contact [with the neighbour] and we have us down and spoken with