

The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY recycling.kiwi.nz



STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT FINDING SOLUTIONS

In April 2023, the Government released its Waste Strategy and announced the prescribed set of materials for kerbside collection which came into force in February this year. Since the initial proposals on “Transforming Recycling” were released in 2022, the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme has supported a minimum set of materials to be collected at kerbside with councils able to choose additional materials based on their own collection systems and available end markets. We have questioned the decision to exclude caps and lids of all sizes and shapes unless tethered and championed allowing trials of soft plastic collections at kerbside.

We know that the **Standard Materials for Kerbside Collection** has a major impact on our members in terms of labelling, but also how companies meet commitments made under the 2018 New Zealand Plastic Packaging Declaration. Just as when it developed a solution for soft plastics nine years ago, The

Packaging Forum is working hard to find alternative solutions for collecting “excluded” materials which have recycling markets. This includes the recently launched Food and Beverage Carton Recycling Scheme; and also the design of a “Caps & Lids” scheme to provide drop off locations for these materials. If you are interested in either of these programmes, please contact donna@packagingforum.org.nz for more information.

We have also continued to seek clarity around what the gazette notice means for trials of soft plastic at kerbside. The Ministry for the Environment has advised that:

The gazette notice is a performance standard for Territorial Authority waste management and minimisation plans. It only applies to kerbside services managed by Territorial Authorities. Privately managed and funded kerbside services are not obliged to follow the performance standard and may collect other materials e.g. soft plastics. This should

not prevent close cooperation with any relevant Territorial Authorities, or promotion of the service by a TA as they do for other recycling or product stewardship options. However, care should be taken to ensure the service remains distinct from the regular TA managed kerbside recycling service in the district.

International trials of soft plastic collections at kerbside—where the soft plastic is collected by the household in a “scheme” bag which is tied off and put out with the kerbside recycling—are proving successful in increasing recovery rates and making it easier for consumers to recycle.

The purpose of New Zealand trials is to test the feasibility and effectiveness of collecting soft plastics at the kerbside, increase recovery and making it more convenient for consumers to recycle. The trial will help determine if kerbside collection of soft plastic material is a viable option for recycling, and if it could be implemented on a larger scale.

We are delighted that the **first trial in New Zealand** has been welcomed by Hon Nick Smith, Nelson City Mayor.

Before I sign off, I would like to acknowledge a recent article published in the Sunday Star-Times that discussed Future Post, and the supposed discarding of plastic waste to landfill by the organisation.

Future Post has confirmed that none of the plastic mentioned in the article was soft plastic collected through the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme. In fact, Future Post is always asking the Scheme for more soft plastic as what we send to them is of a high quality, and we are continually working on how we can collect more soft plastic for recycling.

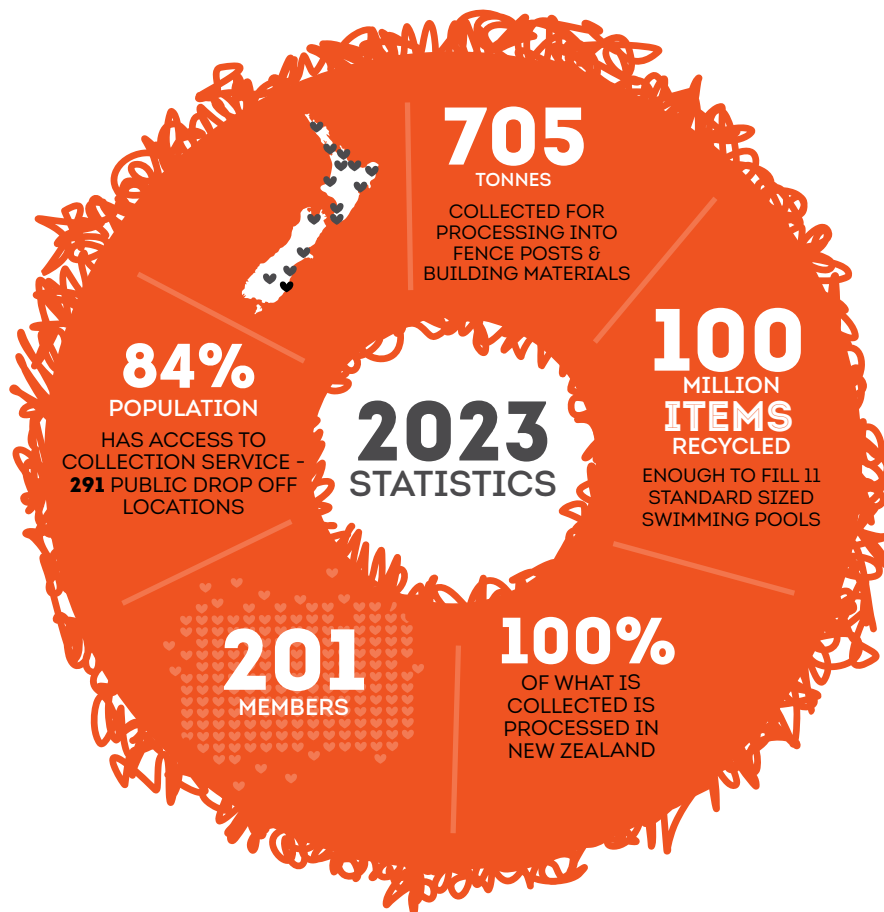
In addition to our Scheme materials, Future Post recycled over 2800 tonnes of plastic waste from their other clients providing a valuable service recycling janitorial plastic and other rigid plastics as well as conducting R&D to determine if plastic products (not packaging) can be processed at their plant. 95% of all the plastic waste they received last year was recycled into new posts and other products.

The material that Future Post did send to landfill was non-recyclable material such as wooden pallets and other general waste (including waste 'dumped' outside their gates); non-recyclable plastic sent to them in error or trial plastic material; and contaminated plastic material.

If any one has any questions about our soft plastics material please get in touch.

Ngā mihi nui
Lyn

CREATING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR SOFT PLASTIC IN NEW ZEALAND



ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REPORT: HIGHLIGHTS

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 2023.

The Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme collected 705 tonnes of post-consumer soft plastic in 2023, and expanded its collections to Dunedin, Marlborough, Nelson, Tasman, and Golden Bay, Queenstown, Arrowtown and Wanaka.

The Scheme has invested in supporting alternative technologies including a feasibility study by Callaghan Research into a Plastoil pyrolysis unit, and with Pre One to understand how their Hydrodyn clean technology could be introduced to purify post-consumer or contaminated flexible plastic.

[Read the report here](#)

More bins in more communities



Soft plastic recycling launches in Whanganui

On 12 April, we launched soft plastics in Whanganui bringing members, community groups and council representatives together at The Warehouse in the Trafalgar Square Shopping Centre. We celebrated the occasion by gifting a garden bed made out around 14,000 plastic bags or wrappers to The Warehouse's chosen recipient, Women's Refuge, so they can start their own garden with products supplied by The Warehouse.

Starting collections in Invercargill

We are very happy to be extending soft plastic collections to the Invercargill region in early May. We are holding an official launch by Mayor Clark at The Warehouse Invercargill on 10 May. Local business, council representatives and community members will be there to celebrate the launch in the region. With the extension to Invercargill, this will mean more than 87% of New Zealanders will have access to a soft plastic recycling drop off point within 20km of their home or workplace.



Lower North Island Plastic Forum: Developing Partnerships

Friday 12 April was certainly a busy day for Lyn who also spoke at the Lower North Island Plastic Forum in Feilding, before driving to Whanganui for the launch.

The Forum brought together council officials from around the lower North Island to look at a regional approach to managing plastic waste. The event was organised by Manawatu District Council and Future Post. Hamish Waugh, general manager infrastructure, Manawatu District Council set the scene for the day before introducing Jerome Wenzlick, founder and CEO, Future Post to talk about the company's plans to collaborate

with the Council using the Resource Recovery Centre to bale HDPE plastic and other plastic materials. Initially, the plastic will be transported to one of Future Post's plants, with the intention of adding another plant in the region once supply has been established.

Lyn then presented the soft plastic journey to date and the plans for the future – to grow the Scheme including in the Manawatu region to meet the increasing demand from our processors. There was huge interest in the Scheme by councils in the region and we are now looking at opportunities to add to our collection network.

Webinar


On 22 April we held a webinar for members on the soft plastic collection at kerbside trials which have been underway in Australia and the UK for more than a year. Barry Cosier, director sustainability at the Australian Food & Grocery Council, summarised the key findings from trials at eight councils in Australia, and Lyn provided insights into trials at eight councils in England. These trials provide important learnings for New Zealand as we implement our own pilot programmes.

Presentation to Nelson Council – mayor & council meeting

Following an earlier meeting with Mayor Nick Smith, Rob Langford, CEO The Packaging Forum and Lyn Mayes, scheme manager presented at the meeting of the mayor and Nelson Council on the opportunity to trial soft plastics collections at kerbside. This received unanimous support from the elected officials. Work is now underway to put in place the logistics to commence a trial later this year.

[Watch it here](#)

NAU MAI TO
OUR NEWEST
MEMBERS



BRAEMAR HOSPITAL
HARRAWAYS
JUST LEMONS
MARKETING
MERCY HOSPITAL -
DUNEDIN

Are you one of our 12k+ 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](https://www.facebook.com/softplasticrecycling)

PROMOTING SOFT PLASTICS - IN THE NEWS

Nelson to trial kerbside soft plastic recycling

NELSON WEEKLY

Great news. I'm recycling mine but drop at The Warehouse. Be great to have kerbside pickup. Nelson is set to lead the country with the introduction of the first kerbside recycling trial of soft plastics, which could be in place as early as June.

Kerbside soft plastics collection

GREYMOUTH STAR

Nelson is set to be the first region in the country to test out the kerbside collection of soft plastics as part of a trial by The Packaging Forum.

NELSON MAIL

That collection of plastic bags you keep forgetting to drop off at a recycling point could soon be picked up at the kerb.

RADIO NZ - NATIONAL

Nelson will be the first region in New Zealand to test out the kerbside collection of soft plastics due to a trial by the Packaging Forum. The mayor, Nick Smith, says the current recycling scheme relies on people dropping off their soft plastic into recycling bins ... which is not very convenient.

Soft plastic recycling comes to Whanganui

NEW ZEALAND HERALD

Whanganui now has a soft plastics recycling option, with a bin appearing outside Woolworths at Trafalgar Square. Scheme manager Lyn Mayes said she was delighted to get it up and running in Whanganui. "Judging from our Facebook page and emails, a lot of people there have been waiting for this so we're expecting lots of plastic to be coming through."

[Read more here](#)



TREAD LIGHTLY

The Packaging Forum has provided funding to the Tread Lightly Caravan to develop a resource recovery resource for primary schools in the Auckland area. We often get approached by schools who would like to have a soft plastic recycling bin and collection service for their communities but do not have budget to pay for the collection.

If your organisation is interested in funding a collection service for your local school, [get in contact](#).

MEMBER NEWS - THANK YOU!



Mondelēz New Zealand supporting the Halberg Games and soft plastic recycling

Mondelēz New Zealand has been a Halberg Games partner for a number of years, and this year made sure that only smiles were left behind at the games by ensuring a Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme bin was on hand to collect soft plastic waste at the venue. About half a bin bag of recyclable plastics, that otherwise would have ended up in landfill, was collected for recycling through the Scheme.

The Halberg Games is a three-day festival of sporting activities, open to young people (aged 8-21) with a physical or visual impairment. Each year it attracts more than 200 participants, along with parents, caregivers and supporters; and was held in April at Kings College, Auckland.

Nice work Team Mondelēz!

Joint feasibility study

A joint feasibility study is being undertaken to determine the technical, economic, and environmental benefits of establishing a local advanced recycling industry in New Zealand using Licella's innovative Australian Cat-HTR (Catalytic Hydrothermal Reactor) technology. The study will evaluate potential sites in New Zealand for the establishment of an advanced chemical recycling facility. The joint research is funded by Licella, Oji Fibre Solutions, Plasback, Silver Fern Farms, and Woolworths New Zealand with additional support from the Ministry for the Environment's Plastics Innovation Fund.

[Read more](#)

RECYCLING SOLUTIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UK - Aldi

Aldi has become the first supermarket to use the UK Flexible Plastics Fund's tracking system for soft plastic collected front of store, enabling it to provide "full transparency". The group has an AI-powered 'evidence system' called eco2Veritas, developed by Greenback Recycling Technologies.

This system tracks and certifies the amount of flexible plastic collected, shows how much of it is sorted and into which polymers and finally, how much is reprocessed and into what end products.

[Read more](#)



FROM OUR PROCESSING PARTNERS

LEADING THE WAY TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR PLASTIC



Future Post

Future Post's new recycled rail on show at Central Districts Field Days and members of the New Zealand Police equine team seemed to approve.

Installed around five years ago, Future Posts were chosen for their suitable no rot, CCA-free, 100% locally recycled features for this kiwifruit orchard in Auckland. The posts have been combined with regular kiwifruit trellis and are load bearing heavy fruit canopies without any issue.



saveBOARD panels are tough!

Did you know that saveBOARD's multi-use panels used for hoardings have been shot at and hit with sledgehammer-sized loads?

There is an engineering standard (AS 4687:2022) and a method of testing to see if a temporary hoarding will meet the requirements and protect the public from flying objects around sites. The official testing report says that **'saveBOARD multi-use panels are considered of sufficient rigidity to prevent errant ballistic projectiles...'** If your organisation has a need for these panels, please get in touch with the team.

