

The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY recycling.kiwi.nz

WHAT IN THE WORLD

This edition of The Wrap Up comes to you from the village of Ferring in West Sussex, UK. I am living and working in the UK until the end of the year to fulfil family responsibilities as well as benefiting from spending time with producers, recyclers and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) organisations in this part of the world.

During a stopover in Vancouver, I caught up with the fantastic team at Recycle BC. British Columbia has a population similar in size to New Zealand with a landmass four times our size so also has challenging logistics to deal with. Currently soft plastic is dropped off at transfer stations or community recyclers; however,

they are putting in place kerbside collections for soft plastic and this provides a great opportunity for us to share learnings.

The Packaging Forum is a member of **Recoup** – the UK's peak body for plastics – and there are many common areas of work and so attending their annual conference is a great way to network. I was particularly interested in the sessions on new technologies and to hear about the success of the Flexcollect soft plastic kerbside collection trials.

Valpak welcomed me to their offices in Stratford on Avon to discuss how they manage their compliance system in the UK. Those who attended the Packaging Forum's Summit in

September will know that the issue of most concern across the packaging value chain is the lack of robust data.

Looking at the data and transaction platforms which Valpak and Recycle BC operate, gives us a clear pathway to what good looks like for our own scheme. Valpak share a demo of their platform [here](#).

It's evident that the world is embracing EPR whether across Europe, North America and in Africa PAKPRO Kenya is driving "producer pay" systems in that part of the region.

Ngā mihi nui
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SOFT PLASTIC KERBSIDE COLLECTION TRIAL IN NELSON GETS OFF TO A FLYING START

Our kerbside collection trial in Nelson is off to a great start. Collections are carried out by Enviro NZ on a Thursday and Friday every other week from the 1000 households that signed up to the trial in the Nelson and Stoke area.

After three rounds of collections, a total of 1,633 orange bags have been collected with an average weight per bag of 554 grams per bag. Contamination has been minimal with only eight out of the total bags collected containing non soft plastic materials.

What's even more impressive is that whilst there has been a slight decrease in retail drop off in Stoke, overall, there has been a growth

in soft plastic recycling across the 12 drop off locations indicating that the publicity relating to the kerbside trials has had a positive impact on consumer awareness in the Nelson region.

The Packaging Forum CEO, Rob Langford travelled to Nelson to meet with Nelson Mayor Nick Smith and witness the first of the collections happening in the city. The trial was well received by locals and media alike with several interviews taking place to highlight the launch of the trial.

[Watch here](#)



HOW DOES OUR NELSON TRIAL COMPARE WITH OVERSEAS TRIALS?

The UK's Flexcollect trials reported an average weight per bag of 291 grams with contamination levels of less than 2%.

In Australia, the average weight of the bags ranged from 360 grams to 490 grams.

We continue to advocate for change to the kerbside gazette notice so that we can trial our "orange" soft plastic bags in the kerbside commingled bins and collection trucks.

Whilst other countries are actively encouraging trials using the normal kerbside collection infrastructure, we are confined by legislation that only allows us to collect in a separate crate using a separate pass-through vehicle.



CAPS & LIDS RECYCLING

The Packaging Forum has launched its newest scheme, the Caps & Lids Recycling Scheme, to help fill the gap left because metal and plastic caps and lids (unless tethered) are no longer accepted in kerbside collections. It's estimated that approximately 16,000 tonnes of metal and plastic caps and lids are in circulation annually – that's approximately 900 trucks loaded with waste. Metal lids will be sent to metal recyclers in New Zealand for processing and recycling, with the Scheme partnering with the Association of Metal Recyclers

and their members including Simms Metals and Hayes Metals. The plastic lids will go to PACT Recycling in Auckland to be locally granulated, washed, and dried then sent to Australia to be sorted and recycled to make a range of new products including wheelie bins, flowers pots, slipsheet and cable covers.

Around 60% of household grocery items have a cap or lid to contain the product safely and securely. If your packaging includes HDPE or PP caps or lids, this scheme will provide a recycling service for your customers.

capslids.recycling.kiwi.nz | [facebook](#)



SUPPORTING SOFT PLASTIC IN TAURANGA

Redline Transport collects soft plastic from 20 stores around Tauranga every week, bales the soft plastic and delivers to Future Post in Waiuku. In the past 12 months, Redline has moved 65 tonnes of soft plastic which has been dropped off at stores in Tauranga. That's equivalent to 12 million plastic bags or wrappers and enough to make 7700 fence posts.

Redline is a family owned business operated by Greg Hutchinson and his son Sam and is a vital part of our scheme's network.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

To ensure the Nelson trial runs smoothly, Carole Inglis from The Packaging Forum is on hand to answer questions from households. Carole is also the person who answers emails that come in via our recycling.kiwi.nz website, meaning there is always someone from our team on hand to help.

“Kerbside would be great, I take 2-3 bags to Woolworths every week”

“Can't wait for it to be rolled out nationwide”

MEMBER NEWS



Harraways supports “buy recycled” Future Post garden beds

Harraways Oats customers consume approximately 2.2 million bags every year in New Zealand. This year the company changed from using plastic laminated paper, which is not recyclable, to using soft plastic film which can be recycled through the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme.

To promote the recyclability of their bags, and to incentivise people to actively seek out products made from recycled plastic, Harraways is partnering with The Packaging Forum and Future Post with a special summer promotion of Future Post’s garden beds. Every

person that purchases a garden bed between 9 December 2024 and 31 January 2025 will receive a FREE 800g bag of Harraways Rolled Oats. And one lucky winner will receive a Future Post garden bed delivered to their door. Each garden bed contains around 110kg of soft plastic waste.

The Warehouse

The Warehouse put together a video following the journey of soft plastics collected through the Scheme from the Red Sheds. Since The Warehouse started collecting - 262 tonnes have been dropped off by customers across 51 stores.

[Watch it here](#)

AROUND THE WORLD PACKAGING POLICIES

Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – reform of packaging regulation consultation

In October 2024, the Australian Government’s **DCCEEW** published proposals for reform of packaging regulation. The consultation process seeks views on the potential options for a reformed system for regulation packaging in Australia, including reform to a full EPR approach for all packaging materials.

The Packaging Forum has submitted on the Australian Government’s consultation on its reform of packaging regulations because our members have stressed the need for alignment of EPR systems, reporting and labelling.

The EU’s premise is that “recyclability is a market access condition” for all member countries and that recycling markets are not limited to any one country. In the context of scale, aligning recyclability and recycling opportunities in New Zealand and Australia as well as the wider Pacific Islands region is critical, particularly with respect to anticipated costs, risks and benefits.

We agree with the proposals to reform the system to a full EPR approach for all packaging materials.



NAU MAI TO OUR
NEWEST MEMBER

BON ACCORD

FROM OUR PROCESSING PARTNERS

LEADING THE WAY TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR PLASTIC



FUTURE POST

If you are looking for Christmas gifts this year, buy recycled...

Garden beds

Future Post's garden beds are an ideal gift. Made entirely from a blend of soft plastic and HDPE, they contain over 250kg of waste plastic. They come in kit form with the smaller box 1960x1040x405mm costing \$430 plus GST & delivery.

Looking for an awesome looking retaining wall solution?

There is a lot more to the Future Post range than just round posts. Check out this fantastic looking retaining wall constructed using Future Post square posts and rails. It looks great right now and will continue to do so for decades without painting or maintenance. Loving the way this area has been put together to follow the contour and create space for gardens to finish things off – a premium retaining solution to an amazing house. Finally, the plastic weight that has been diverted from landfill for this construction is a whopping 162,000 milk bottles and 650,000 bread bags!!!

Order from futurepost.co.nz

saveBOARD

saveBOARD plays a crucial role in New Zealand's recycling infrastructure helping power the Packaging Forum's Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme and the Food & Beverage Carton Recycling Scheme

With both carton and soft plastics recycling volumes growing steadily, it's important to remember that recycling only works if there's demand for the finished products. That's why saveBOARD and the Packaging Forum are committed to driving sales of sustainable building products.

So, next time you're choosing building materials, consider saveBOARD – a product that not only supports recycling initiatives but also helps keep materials out of landfills and in use for longer.

Watch here

Congratulations to saveBOARD: for achieving CodeMark certification in NZ for their betterBRACE rigid air barrier.

and here

AROUND THE WORLD PACKAGING POLICIES

UK Government scraps plan for on pack mandatory labelling

The requirement to include labels indicating suitability for recycling had been planned as a key part of the UK Government's EPR strategy, however, has been dropped as the proposal is not harmonious with EU labelling plans.

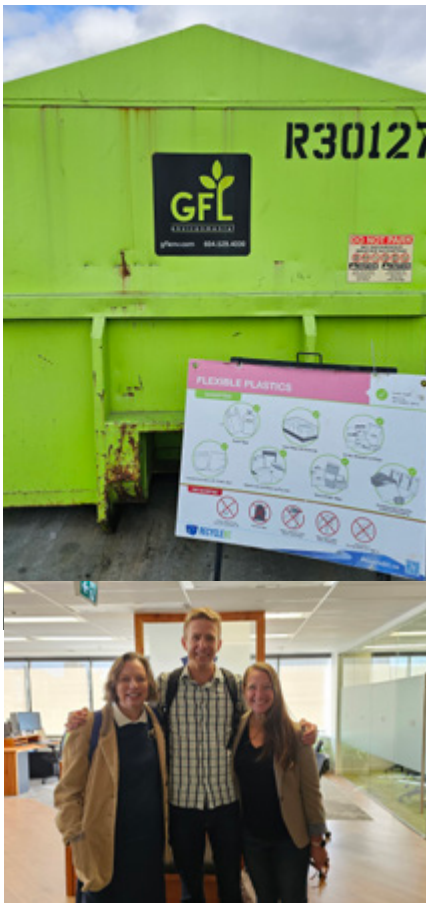
The EU has mandated harmonised labelling systems to help consumers sort recyclable packaging and identify if packaging is reusable and if it has recycled or bio-based content. Sorting and reusability labels will be mandatory with some use of digital labels. It will be mandatory to use digital watermarking to indicate the presence of substances of concern.

**IF YOU ARE
NOT BUYING
RECYCLED,
YOU ARE NOT
RECYCLING...**

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!

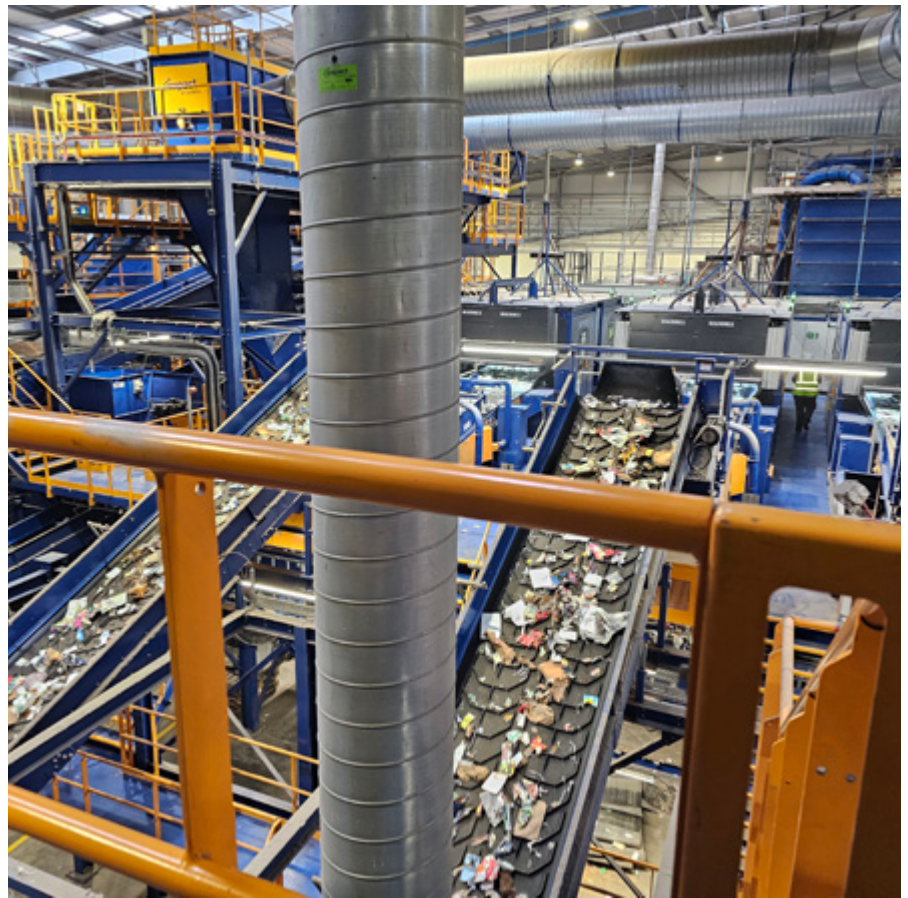
[facebook.com/
softplasticrecycling](https://facebook.com/softplasticrecycling)



RECYCLE BC, VANCOUVER

Recycle BC is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for residential packaging and paper product recycling throughout British Columbia, servicing over two million households through kerbside, multi-family and/or depot services. CEO Tamara Burns set up the scheme which has recently celebrated 10 years. Soft plastic is dropped off for recycling at either transfer stations or community recyclers. Flexible plastic goes to a range of uses including being pelletised for remanufacture with local markets in British Columbia or the Pacific Northwest.

Recycle BC is planning to start kerbside collections of soft plastics using the “bag in bin” approach and we have shared our orange bag and artwork with them.



LOOKING AT THE FUTURE OF SORTATION SYSTEMS

Sherbourne Recycling is jointly owned by eight local authorities across the West Midlands that is changing the face of waste management with a state-of-the-art 12,000 square metre Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Coventry. The most advanced MRF of its kind in the UK, the plant utilises specialist AI technology and optical sorters to process 47.5 tonnes dry mixed residential kerbside recycling every hour in the most sustainable and efficient way possible. The MRF opened earlier this year with the plant installed and commissioned by Canadian company Machinex Sorting.

Ian Smith, business development manager for Machinex UK and Sherbourne Recycling’s Greg Paradowski, technical and operations director and

Layla Shannon, new business development director, explained how the plant’s sortation system operates. There are 14 robots trained to pick out contaminants in the various streams of cardboard, paper, aluminium, steel, PET bottles and PET rigid containers, HDPE natural bottles and HDPE rigid containers. There are also six human pickers. All the materials are sorted at least twice through the system.

Sherbourne Recycling is already sorting soft plastic collected loose in the commingled bin. The Machinex sortation system could easily accommodate a pre-sort of our “orange soft plastic bags” either through a manual pick or robots at the start of the sortation process. The soft plastic is being used to make “bags for life, boxes, bins and agricultural and construction materials.