

The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY
RECYCLING.KIWI.NZ



Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme Steering Committee and team

It was great to see our members at the Packaging Forum's What's your policy? discussion MCed by the fantastic Kerre Woodham. Angie Warren-Clark, Labour; Hon Scott Simpson, National; Hon Eugenie Sage, The Green Party and Simon Court, ACT answered questions with passion, rigour, and humour for nearly two hours. The area of most concern for our members is the impact on their business from the recently announced kerbside collection policy.

A key issue is why the new policy does not require separate glass collections to improve the quality not only of recovered glass but, as importantly, reduce

contamination to fibre collections as well as plastics. It was fantastic to get a show of hands from all the politicians to support "keeping glass out".

There was also a robust discussion around the proposals to exclude all caps and lids (plastic and metals) from collections irrespective of material type or size. As we pointed out this could immediately exclude around 12,000 tonnes of recyclable material annually from collections and will confuse the consumer who wants to put the can lid back in the can or the tub lid back on the container before recycling.

In terms of soft plastics at kerbside, we need to demonstrate

that what is working in other countries can work here. To that end I took the opportunity whilst visiting family to see at first hand the soft plastic collection trial in Somerset UK with Suez Recycling and Flex Collect. Somerset Council joined the trials in May this year and has six vehicles collecting soft plastic in blue bags from 3600 households in Mendip with the second stage expanding to 20,000 households. More about what's happening in England in this newsletter.

Ngā mihi nui
Lyn

AVAILABILITY OF SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING

With five new drop off points coming to Blenheim and expansion into Nelson and Tasman district later this month, there are now over 260 stores or other drop off points around the country. We have added 63 new public recycling locations in the past 12 months.

What you may not know is that there are over 90 locations including offices, small businesses, service industries, councils and retirement villages that are members of the scheme and provide soft plastic recycling for their staff.

SOUTH ISLAND UPDATE

Since May our logistics partner, Scheme member Goodman Fielder, has been sending the soft plastic collected by Kilmarnock Enterprises in Christchurch and Canterbury to the new Future Post plant in Blenheim. This means we no longer need to transport plastic from the South to the North Island.

We have signed a service agreement with JBL Environmental who collect from stores in Blenheim and deliver the soft plastic to the new Future Post plant.

Countdown Blenheim, Countdown Redwoodtown, The Warehouse Blenheim and New World Blenheim now offer soft plastic recycling for Blenheim residents and there is an additional drop off point opposite Marlborough's Hazardous Waste Centre.

We have also been working with Enviro NZ, Nelson and Tasman District Councils to commence collections in Nelson and Tasman, and the soft plastic recycling bins will be at The Warehouse stores in Nelson, Richmond and Motueka; Countdown Nelson, Richmond and Motueka and New World Stoke and Motueka later this month.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts we have still not been able to find a solution to allow us to restart collections in Dunedin. This remains a priority for the team.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Cottonsoft pre-loved balers off to their new homes – thank you Cottonsoft!

Earthlink in the Hutt – collects all of our soft plastic in the Wellington – Kapiti Coast region

Redline collects soft plastics from Auckland down to Tauranga

Future Post – Auckland & Blenheim sites

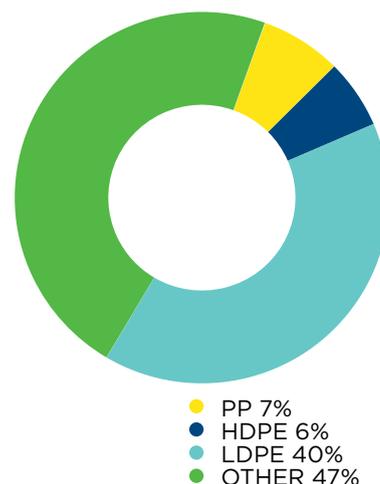
Nelson (Location TBC)

PLASTIC CONSUMPTION SURVEY

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.

From the 2022 survey, 30% of the total plastic consumption by the food & grocery sector was soft plastics (soft HDPE/LDPE/PP/multi layer #7 plastic). Please do complete the survey so that we have a comprehensive picture of soft plastic consumption.

The chart below shows that other soft plastic exceeds LDPE soft plastic.



Are you one of our 11,912 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



AIMING TO REACH THE 200 MEMBERS CLUB!
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS -

BOSTOCKS
BROKEN HEART SPIRITS
HEALTHY KELSI

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CURRENT SITUATION



AUSTRALIAN PACKAGING CONSUMPTION RECOVERY DATA (APCO): FLEXIBLE PLASTIC MATERIAL FLOWS IN AUSTRALIA

Thanks to APCO for providing fact sheets relating to flexible plastics:

- 8% of packaging placed on market (POM) in Australia is flexible plastic, comprised of 538,000 tonnes.
- The volume of flexible plastic packaging POM grew 44.4% in the 2017-18 to 2020-21 period; the Australian population grew 4.4% during this same period.
- The volume of flexible plastic POM is expected to rise by 8.3% over four years to 2024-25, compared to expected population growth of 6.4%.
- Despite making up 46% of all plastic packaging POM, flexible plastic made up only 19% of all plastic packaging recovered.
- Flexible plastic packaging has the lowest recovery rate for any material category, at just 7% or 40,000 tonnes.
- Australia has a current recovery shortfall for flexible plastic packaging of 498,000 tonnes.
- Plastic packaging POM in 2021 was made from 95% of virgin sources, 2% pre-consumer sources, and 3% post-consumer sources.

POLICY WEBINAR WITH MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

If you missed this webinar you can view it [here](#)

There were numerous questions about what materials are being excluded and why, and the Ministry will be providing responses to these.

For soft plastics, there was a common theme – why when other countries are finding ways to collect plastic at kerbside, are soft plastics being excluded. For other products and materials, the key concerns are:

- Excluding a range of metal packaging including aerosols, foil and metal lids
- Excluding plastic tubes made from rigid PE
- Lack of harmonisation with Australia
- How this impacts use of the Australasian Recycling Label.

Please get in contact with any specific concerns that you have. Contact rob@packagingforum.org.nz or lynmayes@madworld.co.nz.

IN THE NEWS



STUFF ARTICLE WHERE HAS MY SOFT PLASTIC COLLECTION GONE?

Katy Jones, Stuff interviews Lyn Mayes about reestablishing soft plastic collections at the top of the South Island.

PLASTIC FANTASTIC AS RECYCLING SCHEME RETURNS

The return of soft plastic recycling to the Blenheim region covered in Marlborough Weekly.

1 NEWS - PLASTIC'S OUT, RECYCLING'S IN

Lyn Mayes and Jerome Wenzlick interviewed by TV 1 about soft plastic recycling and the opportunities to increase volume.

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



South Island launch

Future Post will celebrate the formal opening of the new Blenheim plant on 28 July.

Exporting our Future Posts

The second shipment of 125mm/2.1m posts to Vanuatu are currently being installed on a large organic cattle station and looking great.

Field days

Jerome and the Future Post team reporting a very busy Fielddays 2023 at Mystery Creek and proud to be a part of the new Fielddays® Sustainability Trail showcasing sustainable practices and products at the show.



ANNUAL AUDIT SNAPSHOT

At the end of May, Bruce Middleton and his team from Waste Not Consulting collected bags of soft plastic from Auckland supermarkets and Abilities Group and sorted 80kg or 4737 items of soft plastic packaging into 32 primary categories.

This year we have increased the number of categories to include a range of non-food and grocery categories, and this has reduced the soft plastic attributed to "other" from 55% to 14% of the total sort.

From the audit, 316 items were checked to see if the packaging has the ARL or NZ Soft Plastics ARL style label on pack. 23% items now have the ARL or recycle at store label with bread, paper hygiene products and pet food having the highest use.

Contamination increased from a low of 4.4% to 7.2% with this largely due to paper, rigid plastic, compostable plastic.

A full report will be released.

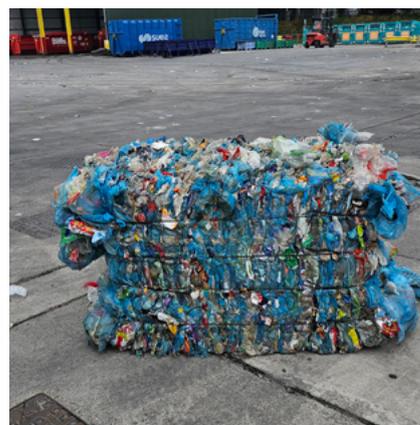


Packaging Forum CEO Rob Langford visiting SAVEboard Hamilton plant

saveBOARD

Lyn Mayes and Rob Langford called in to see the team at saveBOARD whilst in Hamilton for the Wasteminz conference. It's a secret recipe to mix liquid paper board, soft plastics and other products, such as Lotto tickets, into interior and exterior board.

To increase the amount of soft plastic and liquid paper board that saveBOARD processes, they need to sell more of their insulation board. So it's quite simple – if you are doing renovations at work or in your home garage, check out the range of products on saveboard.nz/shop



SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING IN ENGLAND

Lyn met with Oliver Morrall, delivery manager of the Flex Collect Project at Suez Recycling and the operational team at the company's Somerset MRF. Steve Morgan, head of policy and infrastructure at Recoup provided further insights into the Flex Collect programme with Recoup coordinating the processing trials underpinning the programme.

There are five trials currently underway in England at Cheltenham, South Gloucestershire, Maldon, Somerset and Newcastle. All the trials work with households given blue bags which they fill with soft plastic and place in their existing recycling bin or crate.

In Cheltenham, Somerset and South Gloucestershire collections are on compartmentalised vehicles—Romaquip—with the soft plastic collected in blue bags with rigid plastic and metals. In Maldon a separate vehicle is collecting the soft plastic bags from households and in Newcastle where the trial started last month, residents put the blue bag (which uses a higher density plastic) in the commingled recycling bin which all goes into the standard recycling collection vehicle.

The Somerset trial is going well and will be rolled out to additional households with around 250,000 households in the county. Currently 3600 homes in Frome are participating collecting around 450kg per week. Residents were given 40 blue bags at the start of the trial as part of a major communications exercise. There was an initial high volume in week one as people had started collecting well ahead of the trial starting (something we know about in New Zealand).

Collections are on six vehicles/routes and plastic and metals are put into a separate compartment in the vehicle, lifted into the top of the Romaquip and offloaded at the MRF into the loading bay.

The metals and plastic, including the blue bags full of soft plastic, are conveyed up into the sortation plant where pickers remove them from the conveyor and put the bags down a chute into IBCs (intermediate bulk containers) which are used to transport the bags of soft plastic to be baled.

Capacity on each route is typically driven by the cardboard and glass so



adding soft plastic to the collections has not increased the fleet or trip requirements.

Recoup has conducted audits of the bales finding low contamination of around 4% in the 450kg bales. There are 15 processors targeted for the Flex Collect trials including a mix of mechanical and chemical recycling.

The team say they are delighted with the way the trial is progressing and that residents love being able to recycle their soft plastics at kerbside.