



SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Sustainable waste management: overview

Every community produces waste. Sustainable waste management means giving careful consideration to both the production and disposal of waste, and applying the principal of 'Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle' whenever possible.

Each year since 2002, an average of around 70,000 tonnes of waste goes to the landfill. This includes waste from litter collections, domestic and commercial refuse, and sewage sludge from the wastewater treatment plant. At present the key component of Council's waste disposal system is the landfill site.

On average over 20,000 tonnes of materials are recycled each year. Council and the community have a commitment to recycling, demonstrated by the In Town Recycling Centre, which is currently visited by over 1000 cars every day.

The Sustainable Waste Management theme has three environmental indicators- solid waste to landfill, recycling and hazardous substances.

How are we going?

Overall waste management is improving in the district. The long term trend for the amount of "waste to landfill" is decreasing. However, since the 2002 report, "waste to landfill" statistics have remained steady.

Since recycling became available, the amount of recycling has steadily increased each year. More people are choosing to recycle and more people are reducing the amount of packaged goods they buy as a commitment to the environment.

What are we doing?




In 2004 the Rotorua Solid Waste Strategy was reviewed and aligned with the national strategy and regional waste strategies.

A comprehensive survey of the waste that enters the landfill is undertaken approximately every three years. This information is used to assess how well the Rotorua Waste Strategy is working, and whether it requires amendments.

Since 2002 the recycling centre has been extended and now includes a glass processing facility on site. To ensure that recycling services are effective an informal survey at the 'In Town Recycling Centre' is undertaken annually. Two new waste transfer stations with recycling facilities have also been established at Okere Falls and Tarawera.

New technologies are being explored as possible solutions for sustainable waste management. At the time of report preparation plans were underway to introduce a sludge strategy and a trial project for leachate stripping. Investigations are still underway for waste to energy technologies, including the harvesting of landfill gas to produce electricity and sludge pelletisation for use as biofuel.

Sustainable waste indicators are:

Indicator	State
Solid Waste: Waste (kg) per person per week that is disposed to landfill	 STEADY
Solid Waste: Recycling (kg) per person per week	 GETTING BETTER
Hazardous Incidents	 GETTING BETTER

