



ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

TE KOHINGA PARAROPI ORGANIC WASTE COLLECTION

TE

Rotorua Lakes Council is looking at introducing a kerbside organic waste collection service to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. We want your views to assist with decision-making.

Reducing the amount of organic waste going to landfill is a key goal of Rotorua's Waste Management & Minimisation Plan 2022-2028. It is driven by rising landfill costs, emerging government regulations and our commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions from waste.

HE AHA TĒNĀ MEA TE PARAROPI? WHAT IS ORGANIC WASTE?

Organic waste is usually derived from plant or animal products, which can be easily broken down into natural materials. Most of the organic waste produced by households can be categorised as food organics (e.g. kitchen scraps) or garden organics (e.g. lawn clippings). Some other biodegradable materials such as animal waste (e.g. cat litter) and paper packaging (e.g. pizza boxes) are also considered organic waste.

Organic waste in Rotorua

Based on kerbside waste audits carried out in 2020 and 2021, organic materials (excluding paper) make up 54-56% of Rotorua's household waste. Compostable paper, such as cardboard, tissues and towels makes up an additional 5-10% of household waste. Overall, organic waste (including paper) makes up more than 60% of Rotorua's household waste, which is equivalent to about 10,000 tonnes per year. On average, every household in Rotorua puts about 350 kg of organic waste in their red rubbish bins every year.

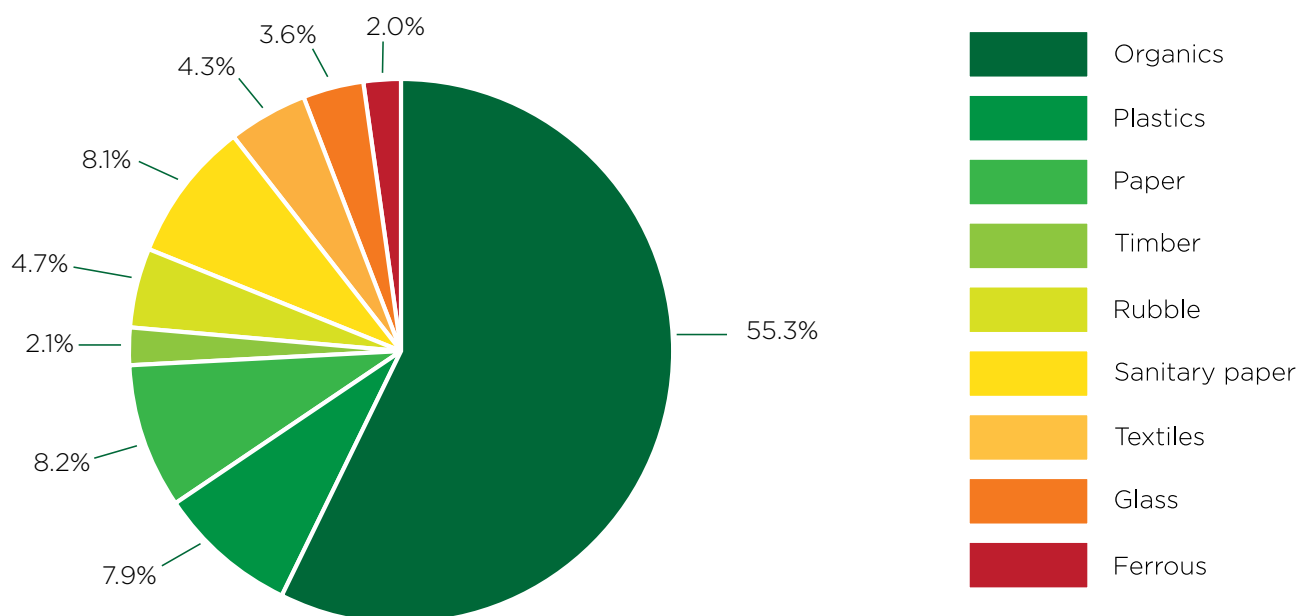


Fig 1. Main composition of kerbside rubbish – Dec 2020 – June 2021

Source: Composition of Rotorua Lakes Council Kerbside Rubbish and Mixed Recycling Collections, Waste Not Consulting, June 2021

HE AHA NGĀ PAINGA O TE ARA PARAROPI

WHY ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION?

- **Rising waste generation and disposal costs:** During the past 3 years, the total amount of household solid waste being sent to landfill from the Rotorua district has increased by 28%. At the same time, the government has been increasing landfill taxes (e.g. landfill levy and emissions trading scheme). The result is that Rotorua faces increasing costs for the disposal of the district's waste.

Kerbside recycling was introduced in Rotorua in 2016, which has enabled the diversion of 25% of household waste from landfill.

The diversion of organic waste has the potential to reduce our waste to landfill by up to a further 55%.

- **New or emerging regulations:** The government is committed to tackling Aotearoa New Zealand's significant waste challenges, through:

- A change in the waste disposal (landfill) levy which was announced in 2020: The levy, which was \$10 per tonne of waste in 2020, is set to increase gradually to \$60 per tonne of waste by 2024.
- Changes to the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in 2020, which are applicable to landfills: This resulted in a steep increase in carbon trading costs, from below \$25 in 2020 to over \$70 per tonne of CO₂-e (carbon dioxide equivalent) in April 2022. The ETS has a significant impact on the cost of our waste going to landfill.
- The government recently started public consultation on 'transforming recycling' in New Zealand: The plan proposes mandatory household kerbside organic waste collection by councils, as well as mandatory separation of food waste from general waste for all businesses.

**Rising
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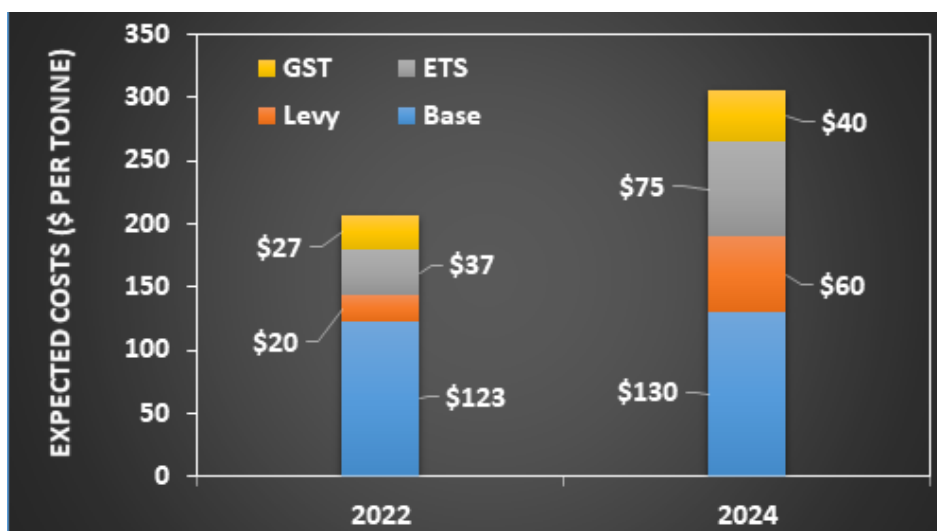


Fig 2
Expected \$ cost per tonne of
waste to landfill 2022 vs 2024

- **Climate change considerations:** In a landfill, with low or no oxygen availability, organic waste degrades naturally to produce methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas (GHG) with very high global warming (or climate change) potential. Waste is the third biggest source of GHGs in the Rotorua district, mostly from landfilling of organic waste. Households and businesses can help reduce GHGs by reducing wastage in the purchasing, preparation and use/selling of food. Food waste that does occur can be diverted from landfill.
- **Kaitiakitanga and sustainability:** The government is looking to transition Aotearoa New Zealand from a linear economy to a low-emissions circular economy. This involves keeping resources in use for as long as possible; extracting the maximum value from them while in use and then recovering and regenerating them.



Source:
Ministry for the Environment
Webpage, Sept 2021

- **Economic opportunities:** The establishment of an organic waste collection/processing infrastructure could create an opportunity for a new sustainable industry and jobs in Rotorua.
- **Council's commitment:** Council has signalled an intention to introduce kerbside organic waste collection in the Long-term Plan 2021-24, the district's Waste Management & Minimisation Plan 2022-2028 and the Rotorua Climate Action Plan 2021.

MĀ TE AHA KA KOHIA AI TE PARAROPI? HOW WOULD ORGANIC WASTE BE COLLECTED?

It is proposed that all urban households that currently receive the kerbside (yellow bin) recycling service would receive an additional (green) bin for organic waste. This bin would be picked up regularly and transported to a processing facility for resource recovery. Drop-off facilities would also be made available.



It is proposed that businesses would also have the opportunity to access organic waste collection from the service provider.

There are two important steps in considering the diversion of organic waste: collection and processing.

1. Collection considerations:

What to collect	Frequency of organics collection	Frequency of rubbish (red bin) collection
Food Organics (FO) only	Weekly	Weekly
Garden Organics (GO) only	Fortnightly	Fortnightly
Both food organics and garden organics (FO and GO)	FO weekly GO weekly/fortnightly	Fortnightly

Food organics (FO)

Food organics makes up about half of the organic waste currently being put in household (red) rubbish bins. This includes:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Meat, bones and fish
- Bread and pastries
- Dairy products
- Coffee grinds and tea bags

This waste would need to be collected weekly to avoid odour nuisance and pest concerns.

Garden organics (GO)

Garden organics makes up most of the rest of the organic waste currently being put in household (red) rubbish bins. This includes:

- Cut flowers, pruned branches and leaves
- Grass clippings

This waste could be collected fortnightly as it does not decompose as quickly as food waste.

Food organics and garden organics (FO and GO)

FO and GO can be collected and processed separately, which would provide greater flexibility to households. Alternatively, both FO and GO can be collected and processed together in one bin, which could be a 'one stage' solution to all the organic waste.

Organics currently make up more than half of the average household's weekly rubbish (red bin) collection.

Having a weekly pick-up of food organics and garden organics would reduce the volume that needs to go in the red bins and rubbish collection could be reduced to fortnightly.

2. Processing considerations:

Council would look to partner with facilities for resource recovery from organic waste. Three different technologies are being considered for processing this waste.

Processing technology	Location
Composting (aerobic biological process widely used to recover resources (e.g. soil and minerals) from organic waste)	No facility within the district. Existing facilities within 150 km
Vermicomposting (process by which worms breakdown organic materials; end-product can be used as fertiliser or soil conditioner)	Existing facility within the region
Anaerobic digestion (anaerobic biological process widely used to recover resources (e.g. energy and minerals) from food waste)	Existing facility within the district

HE AHA NGĀ ARA E WHAKAAROTIA ANA?

WHAT OPTIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

The rates provided here have been calculated using an estimate of future costs; to be confirmed through the procurement process.

Option	Organics (green) bin collection frequency	Rubbish (red) bin collection frequency	Maximum diversion from landfill	Current waste collection rate per household	Estimated annual rate increase per household	Proposed waste collection rate per household	
1. No organics collection	-	Weekly	-	\$221.27	\$17 (waste levy increase)	\$238.27	
2. Garden organics only (GO)	Fortnightly	Weekly	25%	\$221.27	\$43	\$264.27	
3. Food organics only (FO)	Weekly	Weekly	25%	\$221.27	\$94	\$315.27	
4. Separate food and garden organics (FO) & (GO)	FO weekly/ GO fortnightly	Fortnightly	55%	\$221.27	\$91	\$312.27 *	
5. Mixed food and garden organics (FOGO)	Weekly	Fortnightly	60%	\$221.27	\$51	\$272.27 *	

* If weekly rubbish collection is required, this would cost an additional \$35 per household per year.

HE AHA NGĀ WHAKAAWENGA KI A KOE? WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

1. Business as usual (no organics collection)

- No change to current kerbside waste (red bin) and recycling (yellow bin) collection services
- No new kerbside organics collection service
- Full impact of increase in government taxes on landfills (changes in landfill levy and emissions trading scheme) so the waste services targeted rate will increase by up to \$17 per household per year
- Lost opportunity to reduce district's waste and carbon footprint

2. Garden organics (GO) collection only

- No change to current kerbside waste (red bin) and recycling (yellow bin) collection services
- New fortnightly kerbside collection service for garden organics only
- Potential to reduce waste to landfill by up to 25%
- Waste services targeted rate would increase by \$43 per household per year
- Based on emerging government regulations, Council would have to consider food waste diversion in future

3. Food organics (FO) collection only

- No change to current kerbside waste (red bin) and recycling (yellow bin) collection services
- New weekly kerbside collection service for food waste
- Potential to reduce waste to landfill by up to 25%
- Waste services targeted rate would increase by \$94 per household per year
- A large amount of garden waste would continue to be disposed of to landfill

4. Separate food organics (FO) and garden organics (GO) collection

- No change to current kerbside recycling (yellow bin) collection service
- Kerbside waste (red bin) collection frequency changes from weekly to fortnightly
- New weekly kerbside collection service for food waste
- New fortnightly kerbside collection service for garden waste
- Potential to reduce waste to landfill by up to 55%
- Waste services targeted rate would increase by \$91 per household per year

5. Mixed food and garden organics (FOGO)

- No change to current kerbside recycling (yellow bin) collection service
- Kerbside waste (red bin) collection frequency changes from weekly to fortnightly
- New weekly kerbside collection service for mixed food and garden waste
- Potential to reduce waste to landfill by up to 55%
- Waste services targeted rate would increase by \$51 per household per year

HAI Ā HEA TĪMATA AI TĒNEI KAUPAPA? WHEN WOULD THIS BE HAPPENING?

The following is the likely timeframe for the rollout of an organic waste collection service, if the decision is made to proceed.



2022

May - June 2022
Public consultation

July 2022
Council decision on
consultation

August 2022
Procurement planning,
tendering

2023

March 2023
Council's decision on
procurement

June 2023
Preparation for service
delivery

2024

March 2024
Collection and
processing systems
ready

June 2024
Bin delivery, ramped up
education, trials

1 July 2024
Organics diversion
service commences

Ongoing public communication & education

TUKUA MAI Ō KORERO

HAVE YOUR SAY

We would like to know what you think about an organic waste kerbside collection service and encourage you to let us know which option you prefer.

You can have your say in a number of ways:

- Submit online on council's consultation platform - Kōrero mai/Let's Talk at: rotorualakescouncil.nz/letstalk
- Remove the feedback form at the end of this document, fill out and email to letstalk@rotorualc.nz or drop it in to Rotorua Lakes Council Customer Centre, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua
- Post your completed form to:
Organic Waste Consultation
Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua 3046

Further information on organic waste diversion and the options being considered is available online at: rotorualakescouncil.nz/letstalk

We will also be running public talks:

Date	Time	Venue
18 May 2022	12.30pm – 1.30pm	Community Pride Space, Te Aka Mauri (Rotorua Library) 1127 Haupapa Street
31 May 2022	5.30pm – 6.30pm	Linton Park Community Centre 16 Kamahi Place, Pukehangi
7 June 2022	5.30pm – 6.30pm	Ngongotahā Bowling Club 11 Domain Avenue, Ngongotahā
8 June 2022	5.30pm – 6.30pm	Rotorua East Bowling Club 26 Warwick Drive, Lynmore

Please send us your feedback by 5pm, Thursday 16 June 2022.

TUKUA MAI Ō KORERO HAVE YOUR SAY



Email your completed form to
letstalk@rotorualc.nz



Drop completed form to the Rotorua Lakes
Council Customer Centre,
1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua or post to:

Organic Waste Consultation
Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua 3046



Kia ora

Rotorua Lakes Council is looking at introducing a kerbside organic waste collection service to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. We would like your views to assist with decision-making.

Submissions can be made online at rotorualakescouncil.nz/letstalk or complete and return this form.

Further information on the options being considered is available at:
rotorualakescouncil.nz/letstalk

Ingoa Name:	
Īmēra Email:	
Nama waea Phone number:	

1. What is your preferred option for organic waste collection?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Option 1. Business as usual (no organics collection) | ☐ |
| Option 2. Garden organics collection only (GO) | ☐ |
| Option 3. Food organics collection only (FO) | ☐ |
| Option 4. Separate food organics (FO) and garden organics (GO) collection | ☐ |
| Option 5. Mixed food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection | ☐ |

2. If you have selected Option 1, what are your main concerns about an organics collection service?

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3. If you have selected Options 4 or 5, do you agree with fortnightly rubbish collection, or would you want to pay an extra \$35 per year for weekly rubbish pick-up?

I agree with fortnightly rubbish collection

☐

I would prefer to pay \$35 extra for weekly rubbish collection

☐

4. Anything you would like to add?

5. Do you wish to present your comments to Council in person at a hearing?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(If yes, please make sure you have supplied your contact details above)





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