
Activity Group Two Waste Management

- Waste Management
- Summary of Wairoa District Council Waste Management Plan

WASTE MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND – OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY AND COUNCIL'S INVOLVEMENT

This Activity is responsible for the management of waste in the Wairoa District. Council owns and operates (through private contractors) a central landfill and recycling facility.

There is a strong legislative basis for Council's involvement in the Waste Management Activity. The main legislation that Council operates under in relation to waste management services is:

- The Health Act 1956
- Local Government Act 2002
- Litter Act 1979
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act
- Waste Minimisation Act 2008

Other relevant legislative, regulatory and advisory documents include

- Council's Waste Management Plan 2005
- National Waste Management Strategy
- Wairoa District Council Solid Waste Bylaw

The Waste Management webpage:

www.wairoadc.govt.nz/servicesregulatory/waste can be accessed through the Wairoa District Council website www.wairoadc.govt.nz

1.2 COMMUNITY OUTCOMES TO WHICH THE ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTES & HOW IT CONTRIBUTES

Community Outcomes	How the Activity Contributes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Safe And Secure Community.• A Life Time Of Good Health And Wellbeing.• An Environment That Is Appreciated, Protected And Sustained For Future Generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By ensuring commercial, industrial and private consumers have a means of waste disposal to facilitate business operations.• By minimising public health risks that could arise from uncontrolled disposal of waste.• By providing a means of waste management and facilitating education of the community in responsible waste management.

1.3 ACTIVITY GOAL AND PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

- a) To ensure that relevant legislation, regulations and bylaws are monitored and enforced such that Council meets its requirements.
- b) Zero waste to landfill by 2015 (refer discussion below)
- c) To ensure that waste is handled in appropriate and environmentally sound ways consistent with all consent requirements
- d) To ensure that individuals within the community understand the options and choices they can make for the disposal of waste
- e) Council and community work together to minimise waste and create a clean environment
- f) Waste is recognised as a valuable resource that can be diverted from landfill for beneficial use (eg greenwaste into mulch/compost).

Note: Zero Waste to Landfill is a worthy goal taken on board by Council some years ago. The initial target was for zero waste by 2010 and while this will not be achieved some significant improvements have been seen during the past 5 years. This LTCCP adopts a revised aspirational goal of zero waste to landfill by 2015 which will serve to maintain a focus on waste minimisation activity in all its forms. However – a conservative approach has been taken to budgeting for waste management with revenue streams and expenditure being held based on an average of 3000 tonnes per year.

1.4 HOW DO COMMUNITY OUTCOMES LINK TO WHAT YOU PAY?

Council manages a process for the Community to identify its desired Outcomes and that process is described in more detail elsewhere in this LTCCP. Having identified the desired outcomes the Council, in consultation with the community, decides how it will contribute to those outcomes. It is not all about Council, some outcomes are delivered mainly by other organisations, but for each Outcome there will be one or more Activity of Council that contributes in some way.

Having decided what Activities it needs to be involved with, or what services it needs to provide, Council establishes the objectives it has for those Activities or services (refer Sections 1.2 & 1.3, above).

The Objectives identified in Section 1.3 form the basis of our statements of Level of Service, which are detailed in Section 2, below.

There is a cost associated with delivering the Levels of Service described and those costs are what are presented in the 10 year budgets in Sections 4 & 7.

Council also determines who should carry the cost. For the Waste Management Activity this is a combination of user-pays and general rates which is described more fully in Section 8.

For the Waste Management Activity most of the costs are based on tendered rates to provide the desired service. Council prepares a contract that describes what we want to achieve (e.g. recycling collected weekly in Wairoa township or vermin control at landfill) and we ask Contractors to provide a price. The Contractor who offers the best value gets the work.

2.0 LEVELS OF SERVICE AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS

(Unless otherwise stated the performance measures for years 1-3 are the same as those for years 4-10)

Community Outcomes	Service Category	Proposed Future Levels Of Service (Status Quo)	Customer Performance Measures & Targets	Management Performance Measures
<p>The Community Outcomes to which this activity primarily contributes are:</p> <p>a) A Safe And Secure Community. b) A Life Time Of Good Health And Wellbeing. c) An Environment That Is Appreciated, Protected And Sustained For Future Generations.</p> <p>The ways in which the activity contributes towards the achievement of these Outcomes include:</p> <p>a) By ensuring commercial, industrial and private consumers have a means of waste disposal to facilitate business operations. b) By minimising public health risks that could arise from uncontrolled disposal of waste. c) By providing a means of waste management and facilitating education of the community in responsible waste management.</p>	<p>Demand, Accessibility and Reliability</p>	<p>a) Council will provide a landfill facility for disposal of domestic and commercial refuse b) Domestic refuse will be collected weekly from the urban areas and townships of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wairoa; • Frasertown; • Mahia (Including Mahanga & Te Mahia), Nuhaka & Morere; • Tuai & Onepoto; • Raupunga, Mohaka & Kotemaori; and • Ruakituri & Te Reinga <p>Collection will also be made from State Highways and rural roads connecting the above settlements.</p> <p>c) Recyclables will be collected weekly from the kerbside at Wairoa and Frasertown. Fortnightly recyclable collections will be undertaken at specified drop-off points in Mahia, Nuhaka, Tuai, Raupunga, Mohaka and Te Reinga.</p> <p>d) The generators of commercial and industrial refuse are expected to arrange for disposal of the refuse that they generate, themselves.</p> <p>e) All types of refuse will be accepted at the landfill, except hazardous wastes. (Persons wishing to dispose of hazardous waste should direct their enquiries to the Regional Council.)</p>	<p>Customers are satisfied with the availability of the Landfill – Refer customer satisfaction targets below.</p> <p>Collections are carried out weekly with all approved bags being collected, provided they are at the roadside by 7:30am on the day of collection. Measured primarily via the CSR complaints system – target is no valid complaints received.</p> <p>Changes to collection days (eg for public holiday) are notified in the Wairoa Star in the week prior to the changed day. (record of changes held on file with copies of advertisements).</p> <p>All approved recyclable material deposited kerbside in approved bins is collected weekly on the designated collection day. Measured primarily via the CSR complaints system – target is no valid complaints received.</p>	<p>A long term plan for the landfill is developed and capital works requirements programmed through the LTCCP</p> <p>Council will work with HBRC to ensure Wairoa people have some way to dispose of hazardous waste.</p>
	<p>Quality</p>	<p>The landfill and recycling centre will be well maintained, clean and tidy at all times.</p>	<p>Refer customer satisfaction measures below</p>	<p>Contractor appraisals carried out as per contract requirements. Results held on file and any issues addressed and recorded on file.</p>

Community Outcomes	Service Category	Proposed Future Levels Of Service (Status Quo)	Customer Performance Measures & Targets	Management Performance Measures
	Environmental – Including Negative Effects	<p>a) The Council will aim to reduce the volume of waste going to the landfill.</p> <p>b) The Council will meet all environmental standards in its management of the activity.</p> <p>c) The Council will actively promote and educate the public about ways and means of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing; • re-using (including composting); • recycling; • recovery; and disposal of the waste. <p>d) The Council will implement measures to prevent the spread of litter.</p> <p>e) The Council will ensure that the landfill does not detract from the amenities of the neighbourhood, and that it is maintained in a clean and tidy state.</p> <p>f) The Council will take prompt action whenever refuse that has been put out for collection is spilt, or has been interfered with by dogs.</p> <p>g) The Council will provide an adequate number of litterbins in streets and public places, and will not allow them to overflow.</p>	<p>Waste Volume Trends Target: - A reduction in the total volume of waste (i.e. excluding diversions for reuse and recycling) going to the landfill. Not more than:- 2009/10 – 3000 tonnes 2010/11 – 2900 tonnes 2011/12 – 2800 tonnes From 2012 reducing annually to zero waste in 2015.</p> <p>(zero waste by 2015 is an aspirational goal and it is not reflected in the financial forecasts)</p> <p>Target:- The Council has current consents for all required purposes, and there has been full compliance with all of the conditions of them throughout the year.</p> <p>Every rural school will have the opportunity to be involved in waste reduction, re-use, recycling and recovery. Measured by having a contractual arrangement in place for delivery of education programmes.</p> <p>A bi-annual newsletter for waste education</p> <p>Litter control bylaw in place</p> <p>Fencing and screen planting along Fraser St will be maintained.</p> <p>Scrub and/or long grass will be managed to maintain amenity of the site. As a minimum, vegetation clearance will be undertaken twice annually.</p>	<p>To be developed.</p> <p>Satisfactory feedback provided by schools regarding the Zero Waste Education project.</p> <p>Regular reports provided to Council regarding waste minimisation education in schools and the community</p> <p>Screen planting in accordance with Resource Consent will be established on boundary with Hillcrest Road residences. Planting will be undertaken progressively from 2006 – 2008 and reviewed after 2008.</p> <p>Contractor assessments carried out 6 monthly. Results on file. Any issues addressed and recorded on file</p>

Community Outcomes	Service Category	Proposed Future Levels Of Service (Status Quo)	Customer Performance Measures & Targets	Management Performance Measures
			<p>Council will arrange for the removal of spilt refuse and will take action as provided for under litter control bylaws where consistent offending by residents warrants action.</p> <p>At least the current number of bins will be maintained in Wairoa township. Litter bins will be maintained at Mahia Beach on Pohutukawa Reserve. Elsewhere Council will progressively remove refuse bins from reserves. Signage will be erected advising /encouraging reserve users to take refuse away with them.</p> <p>Litter bins are maintained and emptied frequently. Target is for no complaints received via CSR system.</p>	
	Health and Safety	a) The Council will ensure that the whole solid waste activity is managed in a safe manner.	No safety incidents reported through the CSR system.	Risk management plan addresses health and safety risks. No action taken against Council in relation to H&S matters arising from this activity.
	Costs and Funding	The cost of service will be publicly consulted on annually – via either the LTCCP or Annual Plan preparation process. As part of that process the component funded from general rates versus user fees will also be available for public comment.	Budgeted expenditure (including any Council-approved additional expenditure) not exceeded	Waste Management Services carried out under contracts that are awarded in accordance with accepted procurement processes.

Community Outcomes	Service Category	Proposed Future Levels Of Service (Status Quo)	Customer Performance Measures & Targets	Management Performance Measures
	Customer Relations, Consultation, Council Responsiveness and User Satisfaction	Customers will receive prompt and efficient service.	Improve the satisfaction rating each year from 2007 score of 50% up to 80% by 2012 and maintain at 80% or above thereafter.	Maintenance contracts contain minimum response time standards and these are monitored. All customers who contact Council will be responded to within the response times laid out in Council policy.

How did we come up with these Proposed Levels of Service?

The levels of service detailed above have been arrived at through a process of many years’ discussion between Council and the community that has complied with the consultation requirements of the time. These levels of service were last formally consulted on during 2006 for the 2006-2016 LTCCP. Given the continued levels of dissatisfaction with the current services Council is presenting a number of options for consultation in this LTCCP.

Council can elect to undertake service level reviews at any time if there is reason to do so. Such reasons could be new legislation requiring a higher standard of service, or the community signalling a desire for change. There are no ‘external’ drivers for service level review such as new legislation etc at this time however Waste management is known to be an area of significant concern to the community. This was reinforced during Council’s programme of community meetings (the ‘Tea & Scones’ meetings) during 2007/08, and again when Council undertook a district-wide survey on Waste Management issues (“What a Load of Rubbish”). Both the Tea & Scones meetings and the Survey were valuable sources of feedback. The survey received a great response with over 200 surveys returned. Results from the survey are included in the Options discussions below. Following the survey Council convened a forum of respondents who worked through some of the issues in more detail to develop some of the options below. It must be noted that we can expect those taking the time to return the survey are probably more likely to have a responsible outlook on waste.

What are the options?

The budgets provided in Sections 4, 6 & 7 allow for us to provide the levels of service detailed in the table above. This is the Status Quo and if it continues we can expect the landfill to continue to operate as it does now, the refuse collection to continue to be user-pays, and rural services for recycling to remain as they are. There are many aspects to the waste management activity and the following sections address many of those aspects by presenting options for increased or decreased service levels, and associated costs. The areas where options are presented are those that have been highlighted to Council as the main concerns through informal and formal consultation processes.

LEVEL OF SERVICE – COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE A LANDFILL FACILITY FOR DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL REFUSE

Level of Service Component – Long Term Disposal Options

Option	Option Description	Annual Cost Estimate Total	Per Ratepayer (assumes Uniform Charge on 5400 Ratepayers)	Discussion (Risks & Opportunities)
Option 1 - Close Landfill	Landfilling operation ceases. All residual waste is transported out of district. Recycling centre still in operation.	650000.00	120.00	Cheaper than status quo. Subject to cost fluctuations in fuel for example. Relies on 'permission' of other landfill operator. For example doubling the distance of cartage would increase the cost to around \$800,000
Option 2 - Status quo	Will require a new cell every 5 – 6 years. Current gate charges not covering all costs. Waste Management Specialist report indicates gate charge would need to increase to \$245 per tonne.	860000.00	160.00	In control of our own destiny for the foreseeable future - landfill site capacity in excess of 100 years at current volumes. Costs will always be higher than elsewhere because of our small volumes of refuse. Note that under the current user-pays refuse collection system this cost would not be seen on rates but it would increase the cost of a bag of rubbish by about 80 cents.
Option 3 – Enhanced Landfill & Recovery Centre	Develop advanced municipal waste management facility - includes acceptance out of district waste (for example Gisborne)	300000.00	60.00	No guarantee Gisborne want to do this. Higher volumes reduce the cost per tonne considerably. More trucks coming to town.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

If the full cost recovery model is implemented for any of these options then there would be no charge on rates for waste disposal but Recycling would still incur a cost depending on the market rate for recyclable products. Similarly refuse collection will still incur a cost, whether that be through rates or user-pays services.

What did the survey tell us?

Slightly more people were 'for' the acceptance of out-of-district waste (ie Option 3) than against. Interestingly Wairoa people who responded to the survey were overwhelmingly against us trucking our waste out of the district. Comments suggested Wairoa people want to deal with our own waste problems, particularly when rising fuel costs make the future of road transport costs uncertain.

Level of Service Component – Landfill hours of operations

Option	Option Description	Annual Cost Estimate Total	Per Ratepayer (assumes Uniform Charge on 5400 Ratepayers)	Discussion (Risks & Opportunities)
Option 1 - Status Quo	Landfill and recycling centre open 11am - 5pm every day except some public holidays	320000	60	Missing early risers and late finishers. Survey results suggest earlier start desirable and many people have said they'd like to be able to go after work.
Option 2 - Increased weekend hours	Increase weekend hours to cater for 'early risers'	360000	70	Allows 8am - 6pm on weekends for landfill and recycling centre. Greater utilisation of services. More convenient services. Focuses primarily on urban residents doing weekend 'clean-ups'
Option 3 - Increase hours throughout the week	Increase daily hours to cater for 'early risers', rural residents bringing refuse to town, commercial operators	460000	90	Allows 8am - 6pm every day for landfill and recycling centre. Greater utilisation of services. More convenient services. Focuses on rural residents dropping waste of before work, urban residents able to visit landfill after work and commercial operators able to 'get going' earlier in the day.

What did the survey tell us?

This survey question resulted in the most diverse response. When collated the results indicated that overall people wanted the landfill open 7 days per week and anywhere from 7am to 7pm. Interestingly the vast majority of those that wanted longer hours did not want to pay anything extra to fund that improved service, with only 25% indicating a willingness to pay \$50 more per year.

Level of Service Component – Accepting Waste at the Landfill

Option	Option Description	Annual Cost Estimate Total	Per Ratepayer (assumes Uniform Charge on 5400 Ratepayers)	Discussion (Risks & Opportunities)
Option 1 - Compulsory to sort refuse	Only sorted waste to be accepted at landfill. Greenwaste and recyclables must be separated. If not separated customers guided to sorting area before waste is accepted.	May reduce costs from status quo - greater recycling volumes will make recycling more sustainable and may enable this activity to subsidise refuse disposal		Reduces waste stream and landfill costs, may encourage indiscriminate dumping, will require education and a phasing-in period, drives waste management responsibility into the household
Option 2 - Status quo	Individual choice whether to recycle - if you want to pay to dump in landfill it's up to you.	status quo - pay for what you dump		Allows opportunity to choose not to recycle, some diversion is carried out at tip face but this is not commercially successful. Reduction of waste and sorting before disposal is the most cost-effective method.

Option 3 - Encouragement to sort refuse.	All landfill traffic directed to recycling centre prior to weighbridge	No extra cost - diversion staff become recycling staff	Customers are encouraged to drop off recyclables and sort waste. At the same time educated about cost savings etc. This forces recycling to become systematic with landfill process but landfill service will take longer, recycling pressure could have adverse reaction
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What did the survey tell us?

80% of respondents felt that compulsory sorting of refuse should be implemented, through a bylaw if necessary.

LEVEL OF SERVICE – THE COUNCIL WILL ACTIVELY PROMOTE AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT WASTE MINIMISATION

Option	Option Description	Annual Cost Estimate Total	Per Ratepayer (assumes Uniform Charge on 5400 Ratepayers)	Discussion (Risks & Opportunities)
Option 1 - No Waste Education	Discontinue education programme in schools and general education initiatives for general public	\$0 direct cost.	0.00	\$0 direct cost - potentially substantial future cost as the next generation not equipped to make responsible choices. Contrary to Council's strategies for waste reduction. Contrary to National Standards and guidelines
Option 2 - status quo	Education programmed focussed on schools with some initiatives moving into marae, businesses, general public	30000	5.60	Innovative programmes in schools - zero waste education and 'paper for trees'. Education coming into marae and businesses. Leveraging nation-wide initiatives. Events such as E-Day coming to Wairoa. Agrecovery programme in place
Option 3 - More expenditure	Increase spending on education to target a broader cross-section of the community	50000	9.30	Spending more will enable more initiatives such as recycling at district events, education programmes as part of sporting events etc.

What did the survey tell us?

85% of respondents felt we should spend the same or more on education. Comments indicated many respondents thought education of the next generation is key to changing our communities' attitudes towards waste.

LEVEL OF SERVICE – THE COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF LITTERBINS IN STREETS AND PUBLIC PLACES

Option	Option Description	Annual Cost Estimate Total	Per Ratepayer (assumes Uniform Charge on 5400 Ratepayers)	Discussion (Risks & Opportunities)
Option 1 - Status Quo	Litter bins in place as per Council policy - CBD, rural reserves where picnic tables and toilets are located. Rural shops and urban shops outside CBD not serviced.	90000.00	17	Current situation prevails - business as usual - risk around litter at 'hot-spots' - eg Mahia at christmas time. Not driving personal or producer responsibility for waste that is generated.
Option 2 - More litter bins	Extend policy areas to include more bins in rural areas, mainly Mahia. Service bins outside all shops and takeaways	130000	24	Risk - more litter on streets to be picked up. Opportunity to reduce costs and encourage less litter being generated - encourage supplier responsibility, encourage personal responsibility.
Option 3 - Less litter bins	Reduce number of bins, for example perhaps removing every second bin in CBD main street? Or remove bins from most rural areas to encourage consumer responsibility	50000	9	No encouragement for personal or producer responsibility. In some ways this is 'going backwards' from the direction of the past few years which was tending towards encouraging individual and business responsibility - encouraging people to view waste as their own problem - NOT the Council's problem. Servicing bins at all shops, takeaways etc would reduce litter problems but is the 'ambulance at the bottom of the cliff'

What did the survey tell us?

65% of respondents felt Council should provide and service bins outside all dairies and takeaway shops. A further 4% thought it should only apply to rural shops.

LEVEL OF SERVICE – THE COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE A DOMESTIC REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

Option	Option Description	Annual Cost Estimate Total	Per Ratepayer	Discussion (Risks & Opportunities)
Status Quo	Fully user pays refuse collection. Customers have the option of using the Council Contractor's collection service, using a different supplier or taking their own refuse to the landfill.	no impact on rates	Urban \$120 (\$2.25/bag) Rural \$200 (\$3.90/bag) Based on 1 bag per week	Impact on rates is \$0. Cost to individuals for using the service are as shown. Cost to travel to the landfill yourself and dump is approximately \$100/year when you take account of vehicle costs and dumping fees although for rural users this would be higher if a special trip was needed. There is a community risk that non-users utilise inappropriate refuse disposal methods (for example dumping over the riverbank).

				<p>There are real community costs of vehicle use if it is more convenient for people not to use collection. Increased vehicle use by individuals creates more CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Poor utilisation of collection service affects economics with hidden costs passed onto general waste management costs.</p> <p>On the plus side the service is there and available for all.</p>
Partially subsidised system	Bag rate set at \$1.00 (for example) Remainder of costs funded via a uniform charge on rates	\$250,000 taken from rates plus \$1.00 per bag	\$50 on rates. \$52 to purchase 1 bag per week. Total of \$102 per year.	Encourages people to use collection service resulting in less CO2 emissions, more efficient use of resources (collective approach), retains an element of user pays to encourage continued recycling. May make recycling collection service more sustainable also.
Fully subsidised	Full collection service funded through rates.	\$370,000 - \$500,000	\$70 - \$100 (see note 2)	Dis-incentivises recycling but minimises inappropriate disposal. Contrary to New Zealand Waste Strategy.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. If the full cost recovery model is implemented for any of these options then the cost would increase by around \$20 - \$30 per ratepayer per year.
2. The figures above are sensitive to changes in variables such as the number of people using the service, the weight of refuse disposed per property per year and external factors such as fuel costs.

What did the survey tell us?

62% of respondents are happy with the status quo where they either use the user-pays service or take their own refuse to the landfill. The 38% of respondents who preferred a return to rates funded services highlighted the fact that while responsible residents would make one of those choices, a minority of residents are making poor choices that are resulting in environmental damage through uncontrolled and illegal dumping.

OTHER OPTIONS

Possible Level of Service – Council will operate a 3-Bin Collection System (Wairoa Urban area)

Council provides a 3-bin service for collection of Organics (green waste, kitchen scraps etc), Recyclables, and Residual waste, Approximate cost of \$150 per year.

What did the survey tell us?

35% of respondents felt this was a good idea, 60% felt it was either not a good idea or simply wouldn't work for Wairoa.

Possible Level of Service – Stop urban recycling collection service

The majority of urban residents do not use the recycling service with the most common reason being that they take their recycling to the recycling centre when they take their waste to the landfill. This is partly because they do not use the user-pays collection service for domestic refuse (ie they are visiting the landfill anyway).

Potential saving of \$30 per year for urban customers. The down-side is that people without vehicles will struggle to recycle. Consideration would also need to be given to how this scenario fits with other decisions around the refuse collection service. For example removing the recycling collection and reinstating a rates funded or subsidised refuse collection would almost certainly increase the amount of waste to landfill.

What did the survey tell us?

40% of respondents did not use recycling service but feedback to most questions indicates recycling is a good thing to have in some form.

Possible Level of Service – Rural recycling drop-off centres

This service would see recycling stations set up in rural areas for the collection of paper, glass, cans, plastics etc. Each set-up would cost around \$20,000 initially with an estimated annual cost of \$2,000. If we had 5 such recycling stations and loan-funded the set-up over a 10 year period the annual cost would not be significant – approximately \$10 per rural ratepayer (3000 rural ratepayers). However, the key to success would be user behaviour and if the stations were to become dump sites then closure would be inevitable. If the stations were to be manned and monitored continuously then costs would increase significantly – up to \$70 per ratepayer for 40hrs per week manning.

One thing to consider would be that IF stations were to be set up and manned on a full-time basis then with some extra investment they could be made into transfer stations. Again user behaviour would be key to success as if the sites are abused they quickly become health and environmental hazards

What did the survey tell us?

30% of respondents felt recycling drop-off stations could work while 60% felt they would not work or would need to be manned in order to be successful.

Possible Level of Service – Increase rural recycling pick-up frequency

Rural areas currently receive a fortnightly recycling service where recyclables can be taken to a designated location twice a month (1st & 3rd Sunday) and a truck will be there to collect them. During summer holidays the frequency at Mahia is increased to weekly. To increase the service to weekly throughout the year for all rural areas would cost approximately \$60,000, which equates to around \$20 per rural ratepayer.

What did the survey tell us?

There was no specific question related to an increase of the service but over 65% of respondents indicated they were happy with the rural recycling service. That is not to say they couldn't be more happy if the service increased to weekly.

Possible Level of Service – Greenwaste Service for Mahia

A greenwaste facility could be set up for Mahia either on a rates-funded or user-pays basis. One consideration is that if such a service were commercially viable on a user-pays basis then a commercial entity would have established by now. A rates funded service could cost up to \$50 per ratepayer (Mahia area) per year. Some combination of user-charge and rates funding could reduce that cost.

What did the survey tell us?

Over half of respondents felt services were needed, particularly in Mahia. Respondents were overwhelmingly against rates-funded service and thought it should be user-pays. The question then is should Council be the entity to take the commercial risk setting up user-pays service? One option may be for Council to assist a local business to set up the service with a view to then taking it over when it is up and running.

Possible Level of Service – More Bins and/or a Litter Warden for Mahia at Christmas Holidays

A litter warden would travel around Blacks Beach, Waikokopu, Opoutama, Mahia Peninsula and Mahanga picking up litter and monitoring litter bins, ensuring they were emptied when required. A visible presence may encourage more responsible behaviour from tourists and residents. The service would be in place over summer (December/January/February) but could be implemented during other holidays also.

Most people feel the need for more bins at peak times even while many acknowledge this does encourage dumping of domestic refuse. Many comments suggested that until people were sufficiently educated and motivated to take their rubbish home (as they must in Te Urewera National Park and many other DoC estates) then Council and ratepayers must take care of the problem to keep our environment clean and green. Increasing the number of bins over summer, and emptying them frequently enough (sometimes up to 3 times per day!) will cost several thousand dollars per year.

What did the survey tell us?

The vast majority of respondents felt more bins were needed over the holiday period at Mahia. Most respondents also felt the idea of a 'litter warden' over summer would be a good initiative and they would be comfortable paying \$10 extra on rates to fund that service.

How does the Level of Service relate to the Cost?

The options detailed above highlight quite well how increasing or decreasing a particular level of service can impact on the cost of the service. Without any significant changes in consumers or producer/manufacturers behaviour it is unlikely we will see any significant changes in costs of this activity. We have seen promising reductions in waste to landfill but this will only go so far. The real cost of disposal to our landfill is around \$245/tonne. As a district we produce some 3000 tonnes of refuse per year which equates to a true cost of around \$750,000. Providing a refuse collection service will add around \$300,000 to that cost and providing recycling services adds another \$200,000 or so. In total then, waste management in our current environment will cost the community around \$1,300,000 each year – approximately \$260 per ratepayer. Under existing Council policy various proportions of those costs are transferred from ratepayers to users of services through gate charges, user pays services etc. Another component of the 'true cost' is potentially being deferred into the future because part of the \$245/tonne recommended gate charge would be allocated for the future when the current cell is full. Our current gate charge is \$130/tonne. As stated above, unless there is real change in the way we view waste and the choices we make in our purchases then the cost will remain around the same order of magnitude.

3.0 THE EXISTING SITUATION

3.1 ASSET DESCRIPTION

Council does not yet hold a specific asset inventory for the Waste Management Services facilities and assets. Asset information is generally taken from base data and historic information such as maintenance and renewals records. A complete asset inventory is to be developed for the Waste Management Services Activity, which forms part of the Improvement Plan for this Activity. More detail on the improvement plan can be found in the Waste Management Asset Management Plan. A list of Council owned and waste management facilities is shown in the table below:

Facility	Location	Buildings / Structures/Facilities
Wairoa Landfill	Fraser St, Wairoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building• Weighbridge office, computer hardware and software• Weighbridge pit and plant• Leachate System• Drainage systems• Access road / handling areas• Fencing
Wairoa Recycling Centre	Fraser St, Wairoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling building• Concrete recycle/bottle bins• Access road / handling areas
Mahia RTS (closed)	Kaiwaitau Rd, Mahia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not Council owned anymore but an ongoing obligation for aftercare

3.2 ASSET VALUATION

The last valuation of Council's waste management assets was completed in June 2003. The valuation was undertaken in accordance with New Zealand International Accounting Standard 16 (NZ IAS 16). The valuation generally included the following assets:

- Land
- Buildings although they were not broken down into components as they are of a relatively simple construction form and do not involve significant mechanical plant or ancillary services.
- Fencing

Land values were assessed on the basis of fair market value at the time. Structural improvements were valued primarily on the basis of depreciated replacement cost, but with regard to fair market value in the event that sale was possible or considered. The replacement value of the waste management assets is based upon replacing like with like. The cost of design, construction, contract administration and supervision has been factored into the rates used to derive values. Any new assets are valued at their purchase value and are depreciated every year on a straight-line basis. The total value of all waste services assets as at 2002 was \$301,900. This total valuation can be split as follows:

• Wairoa landfill and recycling centre:	\$237,900
• Rural Transfer Stations:	\$64,000 – all physical assets now disposed. Land value remaining but not part of Waste Assets

3.3 ASSET CONDITION AND REMAINING LIFE

Condition assessments are based on visual assessments only. The general condition of the facilities is monitored on a regular basis by Council's Engineering staff and contractors. Customer feedback is also a useful source of information.

Council recognises the need to better determine the age and condition of all assets to enable forward planning to be effectively implemented to replace and repair assets at the most appropriate time. A study is to be undertaken to better determine the condition of the assets and to produce a forward works

programme. The study will cover the landfill and recycling centre and all assets within those facilities. At this stage, it is considered that visual assessments will be adequate for most aspects but some more detailed condition assessment may be required for some assets.

Below is a general outline of the existing condition of assets:

Land

Council owns all the land on which the waste management facilities are located. All land is maintained in a satisfactory condition by the waste management contractor.

Sealed Areas

Sealed areas essentially comprise access roads within the waste management facilities and work is undertaken as required, generally on a reactive basis following observation by Council staff or users. Condition is generally deemed to be adequate for the next 10 to 15 years.

Buildings

Landfill:	All buildings maintained by the contractor in good working order and in a neat and tidy condition
Recycling Centre:	Receiving area for depositing of recyclable materials by the general public maintained in a user-friendly and tidy condition All buildings maintained by the contractor in good working order and in a neat and tidy condition

Based on a visual assessment only, the buildings are deemed to have a remaining life greater than the 10 years and to be adequate for current and likely future usage.

Other Assets

Fencing:	Boundary fencing is typically wire mesh or post and wire. Condition is poor and requires replacement in the short term. All fencing at the now-closed RTSs is to be removed. Maintenance is generally reactive with repairs, replacements and upgrades on an 'as needed' basis.
Weighbridge:	Weighbridge is maintained in a good condition and is regularly calibrated to ensure fit-for-purpose
Leachate system:	Leachate system is maintained by the waste management contractor in a satisfactory and working condition
Stormwater system:	Stormwater system is maintained by the waste management contractor in a satisfactory and working condition
Tipping wall:	Tipping wall maintained in adequate condition by the contractor.

3.4 ASSET CAPACITY, UTILISATION AND PERFORMANCE

Performance and capacity of the asset relates to the capability of the asset to meet defined service criteria. Utilisation relates to current usage of the facilities by the public.

The landfill is primarily used by waste management contractors as well as the local public. Opening hours at the landfill have been extended to meet demand and requests from the public. Capacity and performance of the existing assets at the landfill have been assessed as outlined below:

Sealed Areas:	The existing facilities are adequate to meet the present and predicted future demand for at least the next 10 years. A reactive maintenance regime ensures that any performance issues are dealt with effectively and efficiently.
Buildings:	The existing facilities are adequate to meet the present and predicted future demand for at least the next 10 years. Routine maintenance ensures that user groups are generally

	satisfied with current level of service and performance of the facilities.
Weighbridge:	Weighbridge regularly calibrated to ensure accurate performance
Leachate system:	Adequate for current number of cells
Stormwater system:	Adequate for current number of cells
Tipping wall:	Adequate for position of current cell

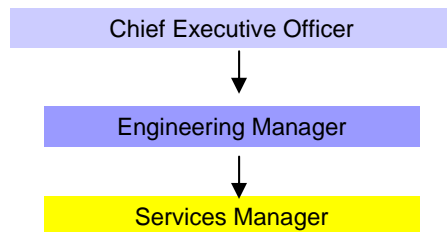
which involves engagement with schools, community groups and the general public to improve waste minimisation throughout the district.

4.0 **MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING**

4.1 **HOW OWNED**

The Waste Management activity is operated within the Engineering Department of the Wairoa District Council. Council owns all land and facilities associated with the Wairoa Landfill. Council retains ownership of some rural transfer station sites while others have reverted to previous owners.

4.2 **HOW MANAGED AND CONTROLLED**



Administration of maintenance contracts is carried out by the Engineering Department. The physical works for waste management is undertaken by a private contractor through a term maintenance contract. Also as an addition to that maintenance/service contract the Contractor provides the educator function

4.3 ESTIMATED COSTS NEXT TEN YEARS

The operating cost projections for the next 10 years are shown below:-

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Expenditure										
Operational Costs	747,700	834,723	853,535	873,100	894,170	912,983	932,548	953,618	976,193	999,520
Interest	-	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
Overhead Allocation	196,000	215,100	194,000	230,200	223,500	228,900	248,300	243,900	248,800	272,800
Depreciation	22,000	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
Total Operating Costs	965,700	1,113,323	1,111,035	1,166,800	1,181,170	1,205,383	1,244,348	1,261,018	1,288,493	1,335,820
Activity Income - Service Charges	330,000	365,970	374,220	382,800	392,040	400,290	408,870	418,110	428,010	438,240
Less depreciation not funded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost of Service	635,700	747,353	736,815	784,000	789,130	805,093	835,478	842,908	860,483	897,580

NOTE: This LTCCP adopts an aspirational goal of zero waste to landfill by 2015 which will serve to maintain a focus on waste minimisation activity in all its forms. However – a conservative approach has been taken to budgeting for waste management with revenue streams and expenditure being held based on an average of 3000 tonnes per year.

5.0 FUTURE DEMAND

Future demand for the Waste Management Activity is expected to remain at present day levels. It is Council's goal that over time the provision of service will move away from simple disposal of refuse into landfill to focus on education for waste reduction and facilitation of re-use and recycling initiatives.

Council's goal is zero waste to Landfill by 2015, however Council is realistic to the extent that if this is not achieved then some provision must be made to extend the life of the landfill as may be necessary.

6.0 NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The proposed new capital works programme for the next ten 10 years is shown in the table below:-

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Capital Expenditure										
New Capital										
New landfill Cell	500000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recycling Centre Upgrade	100000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

7.0 RENEWALS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The table below indicates the proposed future renewals programme:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Capital Expenditure										
Renewals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

No Renewal Capital Expenditure projects are programmed for the term of this Long Term Community Council Plan 2009 – 2019.

8.0 FUNDING THE ANNUAL NET COST – ‘WHO PAYS’

Operation and maintenance of the Landfill is funded through a targeted rate based on a fixed charge with a location differential for rural and urban ratepayers. The rate burden is offset by gate charges that provide an income to part-fund the disposal cost.

Refuse collections are a user pays activity funded through the purchase cost of approved refuse bags.

Recycling and waste education is part of the overall operations and maintenance activity and so is funded through the targeted rate.

Options regarding allocation of costs are discussed in Section 2, levels of service.

9.0 THE PROJECTED OVERALL FUTURE FINANCIAL SITUATION

The projected overall financial situation for the next 10 years is shown in the table at the end of this Plan.

10.0 RESOURCE CONSENTS

Resource consents from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council held for Waste Management are shown in the table below:

Site	Consent no.	Consent for	Expiry date
Wairoa Landfill	DP980240L	To discharge contaminants (municipal waste and leachate) into or onto land where they may enter water	2031

Site	Consent no.	Consent for	Expiry date
Wairoa Landfill	DP980244A	To discharge contaminants (landfill gas) into air	2031
Wairoa Landfill	WP980241D	To divert and discharge stormwater into water	2031
Wairoa Landfill	LU980242C	To construct a culvert into an existing drain	2031
Mahia Closed Landfill	DP950126La	Discharge to groundwater.	

11.0 DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Significant effort is put in to demand management for this Activity, perhaps more so than any other Council Activity. In 2005 Council adopted a new Waste Management Plan which, amongst other things, signalled the closure of rural transfer stations and their replacement by a roadside collection. This has seen huge reduction in waste into the landfill and it is hoped the reduction is in large part due to better choices being made by individuals.

User pays is widely acknowledged as a prime incentive to responsible waste management and is a key aspect of Council's current demand management processes. Other demand management techniques that Council will be implementing are Council facilitated community education programs to empower communities to make responsible choices about waste management.

12.0 SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE EFFECTS

- Loss of potentially productive land. However this is offset by the economic benefit to the community at large by having an accessible and affordable landfill facility.
- Leachate and gas discharges, however if operated in accordance with legislative constraints and recognised engineering standards the risk of negative impacts are minimised.
- Noise and odour associated with landfill operations.
- Potential vermin problems, including seagulls, rats and cats.

12.0 SIGNIFICANT FORECASTING ASSUMPTIONS & UNCERTAINTIES

Key assumptions relating to all Council activities are presented in Volume 1 of this LTCCP. Significant assumptions and associated uncertainty specific to the Waste Management Activity are related to how any changes are received by the community and whether the community can encourage responsible use of waste management service.

14.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

In 2005 Council adopted a Risk Management Policy, which provides the framework for assessing and managing risk in an integrated way across the organisation. This was followed in 2006/07 by the development of an integrated risk register for all infrastructure activities including Waste Management. Council's Integrated Risk Management Framework is one way in which we ensure resources are allocated in the most effective manner in order to assist with meeting objectives of Council and hence most effectively contributing to Community Outcomes. Refer to the full Risk Register for Infrastructure Activities for more detailed discussion.

Key risks for the Waste Management Activity are based around our knowledge of what the community wants and the community's knowledge of the services we provide and how to access those services appropriately. Risk treatments include development of consultation/communication plans and also resourcing plans for the activity. One of the most significant risks is the cost of the service – to that end Council needs to look at alternative funding and also closely monitor the level of service provision, looking for efficiencies on a continual basis.

15.0 SUSTAINABILITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Council's Integrated Risk Management Framework also provides the platform for moving towards sustainability and for demonstrating a sustainable development approach. Because risks in each area of Council's operations are assessed within the context of the 4 well-beings, we can be assured that we are addressing the most important impacts on the community, whether they are social, environmental, economic or cultural impacts. By managing risks in this integrated way Council is moving towards a more sustainable position.

Sustainable development is embodied in Council's activities through legislation. The primary Council document that drives Council's sustainable development approach is the District Plan. This impacts on the Waste Management Activity to the extent that any new facilities will need to demonstrate compliance with the District Plan, or demonstrate why any deviation from the District Plan is consistent with a Sustainable Development approach.

16.0 BYLAWS

The Wairoa District Council Solid Waste Bylaw will control this Activity. The Bylaw will be consulted on during late 2008 early 2009 and adopted (with necessary amendments) around April 2009.

17.0 IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Task Description	Action	Timing
Risk Management Manual	Risk register for waste management services to be reviewed and updated	2009/10
Risk management	Implement key mitigation measures identified in Risk Management Plan	2009/10
Asset Inventory	Improve asset inventory and condition information to an appropriate level of detail to assist valuation and depreciation calculations.	Ongoing
Depreciation	Undertake a review of depreciation practices at an asset component level to optimise depreciation funding.	2009/10

PROJECTED 10 YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY - WASTE MANAGEMENT

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Expenditure										
Operational Costs	747,700	834,723	853,535	873,100	894,170	912,983	932,548	953,618	976,193	999,520
Interest	-	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
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Less depreciation not funded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost of Service	635,700	747,353	736,815	784,000	789,130	805,093	835,478	842,908	860,483	897,580
Capital Expenditure										
Renewals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loan Repayments	-	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
New Capital	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	600,000	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
Funding Required	1,235,700	752,853	742,315	789,500	794,630	810,593	840,978	848,408	865,983	903,080
Funded by:										
Rate Income	635,700	752,853	742,315	789,500	794,630	810,593	840,978	848,408	865,983	903,080
Reserves- Operational Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves- Capital Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	1,235,700	752,853	742,315	789,500	794,630	810,593	840,978	848,408	865,983	903,080

Summary of Wairoa District Council Waste Management Plan

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This Waste Management Plan has been developed by Council to address how the Wairoa District will deal with its solid waste now and into the future.

This plan is based upon a Draft that has been subject to change based on community input and a Hearing of submissions based upon the Special Consultative Procedure as prescribed in Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

In simple terms a Waste Management Plan defines how the community will deal with its waste. Under the Local Government Act 2002 and the National Waste Management Strategy, a Waste Management Plan must incorporate the hierarchy of:

- Reduction;
- Reuse;
- Recycling;
- Recovery; and
- Residual Disposal.

This hierarchy is commonly referred to as the 5R's.

The Waste Management Plan will take into account all waste generated within the community. **However Council's focus is on providing options for the disposal of domestic waste as its first priority.**

Council is required to have a Waste Management Plan. Beyond that, having a Waste Management Plan gives the community assurance that

Council is managing solid waste effectively in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy and its development also provides the Community with an opportunity to advise Council what they want to achieve as a result of waste management activities.

Legislative Framework

The following legislation guides waste management planning for Council:

Local Government Act 2002	Requires all Councils to adopt a Waste Management Plan and sets out the requirements of the Waste Management Plan.
Resource Management Act 1991	The RMA places obligations on Council's to promote sustainable use of resources, as well as the sustainable disposal of residual waste.
The Health Act 1956	The Health Act places a duty on local authorities to promote and conserve public health, including providing for solid waste collection and disposal.
Other Legislation	Other legislation impacts on Waste Management to a greater or lesser extent. Examples include the Litter Act and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act.

General Waste Management Plan Goals

Council has set the following goals for **“Solid Waste Management: Zero Waste to Landfill by 2010”**. To achieve these goals significant changes must be made to how the Wairoa District views and manages its waste. In particular the waste hierarchy must be incorporated into decision-making to ensure waste is seen as a resource. The goals are:

- Reduce cost to ratepayers by continually seeking improvement to Waste Management, through efficiencies in operations, alignment with appropriate commercial operators and implementation of user pays for waste producers.
- Provide a minimum level of service to all ratepayers that is equitable and affordable and of a high quality.
- Provide additional services where the community requests them and is willing to pay for them.
- Eliminate illegal dumping of refuse throughout the District to enhance the environment.

In order to meet these goals Council has developed a set of objectives for each key aspect of the Waste Hierarchy, and a series of associated actions aimed at achieving those objectives.

The actions proposed in this plan will be implemented subject to affordability and assessment of options at the time. It is possible that different communities will require different solutions and where this is practicable and affordable Council's response will take those expectations into account.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Goals for Waste Reduction

The most effective way to manage waste is to not produce it in the first place, hence the prioritisation of **Reduction** as being the top of the waste hierarchy. It is important to note that Council cannot reduce waste other than in its own operations.

Outside of its own operations Council can:

- Educate;
- Encourage; and
- Provide disincentives to waste generation.

One of the key incentives for people and organisations to reduce waste is by applying the true cost of waste disposal. This is consistent with Council policy and the NZ Waste Strategy.

Council recognises the need to 'Practice what it preaches' in terms of waste reduction. Not only will this show what can be done, there should be benefits to Council in terms of improved public image and reduced costs.

Council will:

- Implement User pays to reflect actual cost of waste collection, treatment and disposal.
- Provide information to allow people to make sustainable choices, through Council website (e.g. links to other sites, newsletters)
- Act as a role model by reducing waste in Council operations through waste audits, developing strategies to reduce waste and monitoring effectiveness of those strategies.
- Promote cleaner production within industry.
- Work with Regional Council to resource waste minimisation education, particularly through schools and community organisations.

Goals for Waste Reuse

The guiding principle behind the reuse priority is that, if an alternative use for a waste product can be found which requires little or no re-work then this is preferable to the next step in the hierarchy.

In this context Council wouldn't have a direct role to play (unless it chose to set up resource recovery centres) and therefore its likely role is limited to:

- Education;
- Encouragement; and
- Provision of financial disincentives to unnecessary waste generation.

Council will:

- Implement User pays to reflect actual cost of waste collection, treatment and disposal.
- Provide information to allow people to make sustainable choices, through Council website (e.g. links to other sites, newsletters)

Goals for Waste Recycling

Council's objective is that every household will have the opportunity to recycle its waste. Traditionally in NZ, particularly in the Local Authority context, recycling has been the focus of waste minimisation. Recycling is something communities find relatively easy to undertake, as it requires minimal change of current consumer behaviour.

Council will:

- Continue to operate a central recycling facility.
- Continue kerbside collection in Wairoa/Frasertown and increase the frequency to weekly collection.
- Investigate best practicable options for provision of recycling facilities to rural areas. For example - school based or roadside collection.
- Encourage the recycling option by demonstrating the alternative cost of waste disposal through user charges.
- On going promotion and education to encourage community participation.

Goals for Waste Recovery

Recovery is generally used to refer to composting and there is limited use of alternative recovery technologies in New Zealand. Recovery is also used when referring to collection of landfill gas for electricity or heating purposes. Council currently has no plans to implement landfill gas recovery.

Council will:

- Promote home composting and/or worm farming as a means of reducing waste to landfill and recovering value from the resource.
- Promote composting through schools, marae etc..
- Assess the cost/benefit of subsidizing home, school, marae based composting initiatives.
- Investigate best practicable options for provision of recovery facilities in Wairoa, for example green waste composting at the landfill site, closed container organic material composting to allow kitchen scraps to be composted.
- Investigate options for working with industry – for example use of green waste as a fuel.

Goals for Residual Waste Disposal

For the foreseeable future Council will have some residual waste to dispose of on behalf of the community. To meet the goal of zero waste to landfill alternative disposal options must be investigated.

Council has closed all rural transfer stations and implemented domestic collections. This new regime is working well and is being monitored for effectiveness in terms of waste reduction.

Council will:

- Continue to provide collection for domestic refuse on defined collection routes
- Trial an inorganic refuse collection service for rural areas
- Continue to operate a disposal or transfer facility at the Wairoa Landfill site
- Investigate all illegal dumping incidents and look to take action against offenders, where those offenders can be identified.

WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Wastewater refers to domestic sewage collected in reticulated areas and also includes sludge collected from septic tanks. Council currently operates reticulation and treatment facilities at Tuai and Wairoa. A further reticulated network and treatment facility is planned for communities at Mahia. There are no plans to provide reticulation or treatment to other communities.

The purpose for including this issue in the solid waste plan is because each of these systems at some point produce sludge which once dewatered has to be disposed of in some environmentally sensitive manner.

Goals

Council's goals for wastewater management are:

- To provide services for the collection and treatment of sewage for those communities where there is a clear public benefit in doing so at a level they are able to afford.
- Ensure that Council reticulation and treatment systems for those areas service meet acceptable health, safety and environmental standards.

Issues

Reducing Wastewater generation in reticulated areas is limited to carrying out regular inspections, testing and monitoring of the reticulation to reduce inflow and infiltration. Historically this has included CCTV inspections, smoke testing and rehabilitation of leaking reticulation. Ongoing initiatives and proposals are addressed in the Asset Management Plan. Reuse, Recycling and Recovery of wastewater are not options that Council is looking at currently and is unlikely to be on the agenda in the foreseeable future. Council's objective is to maintain treatment of wastewater to the levels prescribed in Resource Consents for the treatment plants, rather than investigate reuse of wastewater.

Residual disposal as it relates to wastewater in the Wairoa network includes two distinct operations. The first is the regular disposal of treated effluent via an outfall to the Wairoa River. This system operates within Resource Consent requirements and is the preferred disposal method at the present time. The second waste stream is the sludge that gradually builds up in the treatment plant over time. To maintain treatment capacity the sludge must periodically be removed from the ponds. The last operation of this kind was carried out in 2000. A survey will be required in the near future to determine what the level of sludge build-up is and therefore when the next de-sludging operation is likely to be required. Residual disposal at Tuai is more problematic. The treatment facility includes septic tank followed by sand filters. This treatment plant consistently exceeds Resource Consent limits for contaminants. An investigation is required to determine what can be done to improve the quality of effluent from this plant.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Hazardous Waste can be defined as unwanted materials and by-products which may pose a threat to humans, plants or animals and which exceed a threshold level. The definition includes, but is not limited to, materials or by-products that are explosive, flammable, toxic, corrosive, oxidising or carcinogenic.

There are no hazardous waste disposal facilities operated by Wairoa District Council, other than the wastewater treatment plant, which deals with municipal wastewater. The current process for customers enquiring about hazardous waste disposal is to direct them to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice on where to dispose of particular wastes. Other organisations such as MAF can provide assistance to customers seeking to dispose of hazardous waste.

Council will consider the construction of a Hazardous Waste storage facility at the Wairoa Landfill site for the temporary storage of hazardous waste materials subject to demand and a cost/benefit determination.