

TeAro ZERO WASTE

The Bold and the Beautiful – The Partnership Behind Te Aro Zero Waste

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Presented by:

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- A partnership between Sustainability Trust and Wellington City Council
- Opened officially on the 15th of August 2024
- Soft opening to test systems from April 2024
- Sustainability Trust receives \$250,000 pa (funded through the Waste Levy) for annual operations



- The space is approximately 420sqm (with additional warehouse space out the back)
- We have six customer car parks and 16 bike parks
- Open Wednesday to Saturday 10 – 4pm



What does TAZW offer?

- E-waste collection and resale of tested items
- Small pastics recycling
- Metal recycling (small and medium sized items)
- Food and beverage cartons
- Food grade silicone
- Curtains
- Bicycles
- Children's car seats
- Jewellry
- Wool
- Batteries

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- RepairEd (Repair Cafes offering small household appliances and textile repairs)
- Repair Stations – small electronics and sewing machines that can be used



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Partnership Objectives:



- To create a resource recovery centre that is a thriving, vibrant destination for the Wellington City Community
- A collaborative space that supports local resilience, the circular economy and regeneration
- To provide best practice resource recovery services in Wellington City in alignment with the waste hierarchy
- To work towards the project being self-supporting by the end of the initial Term (of funding).

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Why a partnership?

- Sustainability Trust couldn't operate this centre without funding support.
- WCC wanted an inner city location to establish one of several resource recovery centres for the Wellington City community
- Sustainability Trust was pretty much ready to go, the space had been operating as a shop selling items to help people live sustainably and to recycle small items
- Several WCC Councillors were very supportive and keen to see the centre established

What's been hard?

- Establishing Trust – two parties coming together in partnership relies on trust being established relatively quickly
- WCC acting like a funder
- Sustainability Trust acting like a grant seeker
- Big organisation vs small organisation:
 - Power dynamic
 - Decision making processes very different
 - Layers of sign off and accountability different
- Working out what a true partnership means and how to do it.



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What's been successful?

- Up and running quickly
- Regular governance meetings with senior staff from both organisations
- Great publicity/promotion from WCC
- Great partnership with the Tip Shop to relay larger items to their site once a month.
- Widely embraced by the public



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Success to date:

In the 12 months to end of March 2025 we have:

- 16885 service users approx. 324 per week or 81 people per day
- Diverted 34.5 tonnes, including:
 - 14.5 tonnes of e-waste
 - 2.7 tonnes collected for the Tip Shop
 - 1.1 tonnes of batteries
 - 1 tonne of plastic lids
 - 1.3 tonnes of metal lids
 - 9.8 tonnes of other metal items
 - .5 tonne of car seats
 - .9 tonne of bikes
- 372 hours of volunteer time at our Repair Cafes
- 781.5 hours of volunteer time in the centre = 20 full time weeks of volunteer time



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What's next?

- End of FY result – likely to be positive, but is it enough to sustain the operation without external funding support?
- Funding is assured until Dec 2026, after that we'll need to enter into new discussions with WCC about the future of the centre



- WCC are scoping two more sites for RRC in the Wellington area to begin operating within the next 12 months

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