

Waste & Resource Efficiency work programme update

WasteMINZ - 20 May 2026

Speakers:

Glenn Wigley – General Manager, Waste and HSNO Policy

Shaun Lewis – General Manager, Waste System and Operations

Lorena Stephen – General Manager, Partnerships and Investment

Operating context



Ngā taupuni para | Waste facilities

639

open registered facilities

Landfills	# Open
Municipal (class 1)	42
Construction and demolition fill (class 2)	16
Managed or controlled fill (class 3 & 4)	133
Total	191
Other facilities	# Open
Cleanfill (class 5)	176
Industrial monofill	26
Transfer station	246
Total	448



Ngā tana ā-para | Class 1 waste tonnages (2024/2025 financial year)

3.2M

tonnes of household and commercial waste received by class 1 facilities



10.9%

of material reused, repurposed or removed from class 1 facilities within six months of arrival

Diverted



0.3M

▲ 19.5K (5.9%)
more than 2023/2024

Disposed



2.8M

▼ 398.7K (12.3%)
less than 2023/2024



533

kg waste per person disposed (not diverted)

▼ 82 kg (13.3%)
less than 2023/2024

Ngā tukunga rāngai para | Waste sector emissions (2024 calendar year)

In 2024, our waste made up

4.0%

of NZ's gross greenhouse gas emissions and

7.5%

of NZ's gross methane emissions

3,009

kilotonnes of CO₂ equivalent emitted in 2024 from nitrous oxide, methane, and carbon dioxide

▼ 14 kt CO₂-e (0.5%)
less than 2023

Nitrous oxide
157
kt CO₂-e
▲ 1.7% vs 2023

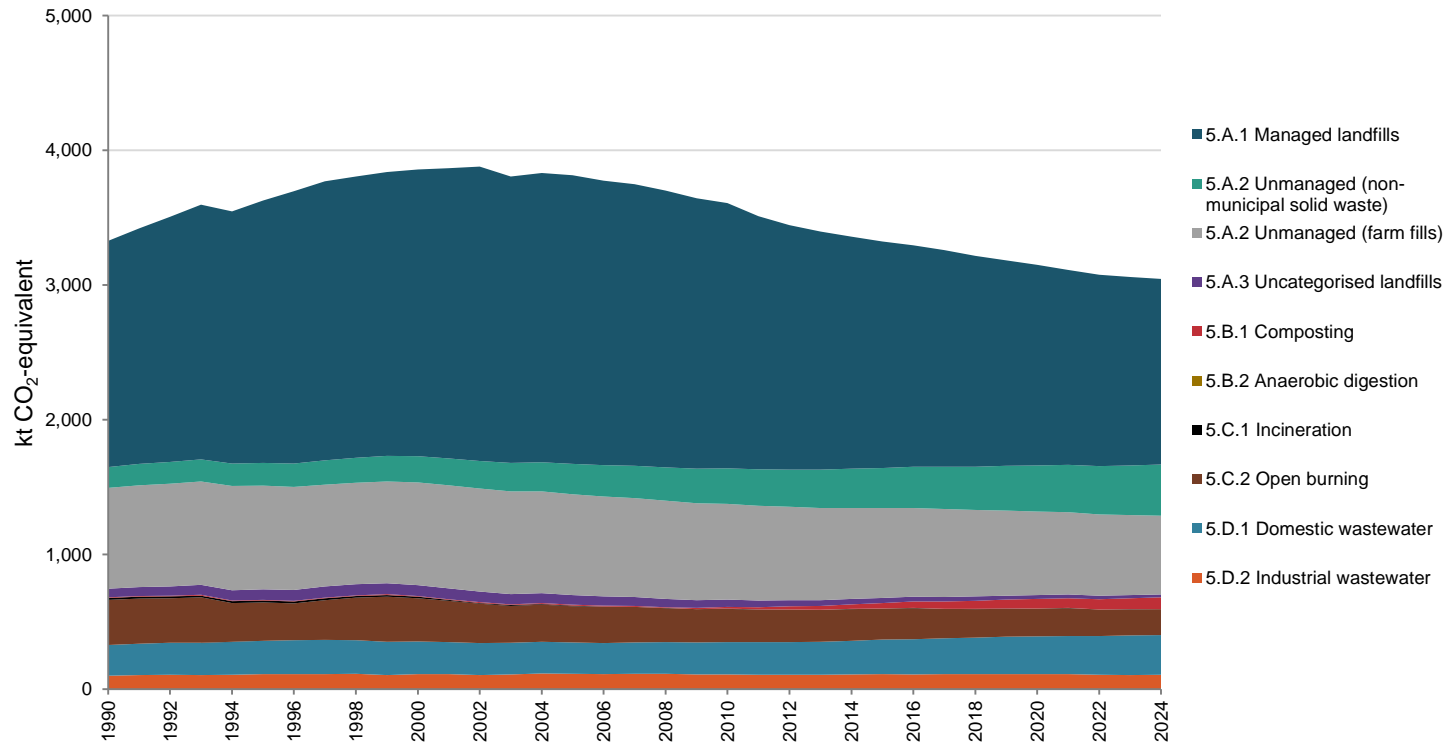
Methane
2,754
kt CO₂-e
▼ 0.6% vs 2023

Carbon dioxide
98
kt CO₂-e
▼ 0.8% vs 2023

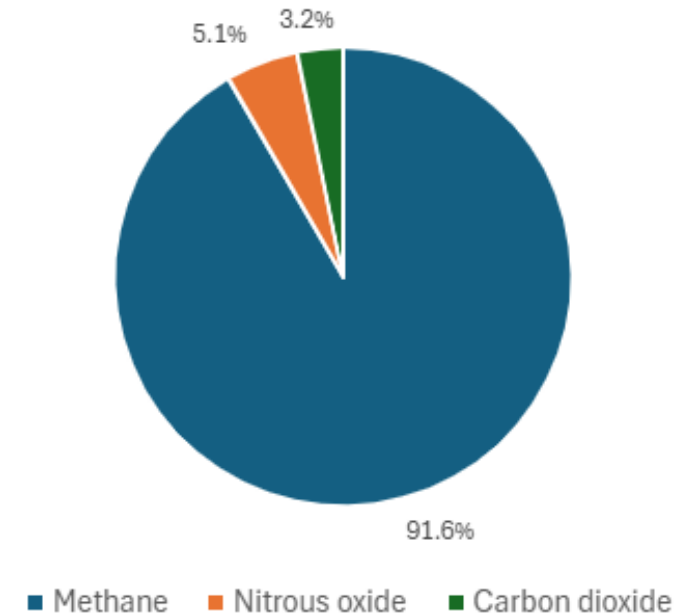


Waste sector emissions and policies

Waste sector emissions by GHG inventory sub-category



Emissions from waste in 2024



Solid waste emissions: 87 per cent (~2.7 Mt CO₂-e) in 2024
Wastewater emissions: 13 per cent (~400 kTCO₂-e) in 2024

Waste legislative amendments

The aim is to have legislation enacted before the general election, if possible.

The proposals include:

- creating a framework for **extended producer responsibility**
- changes to how the **waste disposal levy** is allocated to territorial authorities and what they can spend it on
- improved measures to control **littering** and other types of **mismanaged waste**
- improving and providing more proportionate **tools for compliance, monitoring, and enforcement.**

The three yearly levy effectiveness review is also underway.

C&D and Surplus Soil

- We published a baseline report on construction and demolition waste in June 2025
- Provided funding for WasteMINZ's 'soil optimisation' project, which recommended:
 - 1. A soil market assessment**
 - 2. Legislative review and regulatory reform**
 - 3. Develop Soil Management Framework guidance**
 4. Prepare a National Instrument for soil management
 5. Produce guidance on land asset management
- **We are working on the first three actions.**

Contaminated Land

Both the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill address contaminated land:

- A future-focussed Polluter Pays Principle has been proposed
- The Bills will lay out duties for local and regional government
- Most of the regulatory provisions for contaminated land will be in national direction:
 - New national direction will replace the NES-CS
 - Background soil levels and activities that trigger the NES will be considered.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants – new POPs

- 37 POPs have been listed in the Stockholm Convention since NZ ratified in 2004
- **3 new POPs in May 2025:**
 - **Chlorpyrifos** – organophosphate pesticide, remaining use already banned from 8 July 2027
 - **Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs)** – complex group of chemicals
e.g. additives to paints, adhesives, sealants, rubbers
 - **Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs)** – group of long-chain **per-fluoroalkyl and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**
e.g. electronic articles, medical devices, textiles, cleaning agents
- **Global entry into force date is 16 December 2026**
- Cabinet approval required

Waste and Resource Efficiency Work Programme

Shaun Lewis – General Manager, Waste System and Operations



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



Plastics

Hard-to-recycle and single-use plastic phase-outs

- We continue to work on phasing out PVC and PS from food and beverage packaging – our Minister has agreed to seek a Cabinet decision on phasing them out by 2030

Global Plastics Treaty negotiations

- A treaty was not agreed last year
- A new Chair is now in place and working on a Roadmap – aim is to resume negotiations at INC 5.4 in late 2026 or early 2027.

Recycling Systems

Kerbside recycling challenges

- Diesel price shock
- Contamination and batteries
- Market uncertainty

Pieces in play

- Standard materials for kerbside collections is now in its third year
- Information gathering to assess effectiveness
- Recycling Leadership Forum

Batteries

- A key problem because of fires caused by batteries
- **Batteries are a “priority product” under the Waste Minimisation Act, however, industry has not provided a complete solution**
- WasteMINZ Small Battery Sector Environmental Scan Report recommendations include a case for faster mandatory product stewardship
- **We are considering the report’s recommendations and developing next steps – including working with the sector on scheme development**
- International and regional guidance on battery management includes updates to Basel Convention’s technical guidelines for batteries and HEPA Australia and New Zealand’s consultation on safe management of lithium-ion batteries.

Product stewardship for priority products

Priority Product	Product Stewardship Organisation	Status
1. Tyres	Auto Stewardship New Zealand	Operational regulated scheme
2. Agrichemicals and their containers	Agrecovery Foundation	Pending regulations
3. Farm plastics	Agrecovery Foundation	Pending regulations
4. Refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gasses	Trust for the Destruction of Synthetic Refrigerants	Pending regulations
5. Electrical and Electronic products (e-waste, including batteries)	Auto Stewardship New Zealand, TechCollect New Zealand	Accreditation applications covering some products (but not all) under consideration
6. Plastic Packaging	The Packaging Forum, New Zealand Food and Grocery Council	

Waste Investments

Lorena Stephen – General Manager,
Partnerships and Investment



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

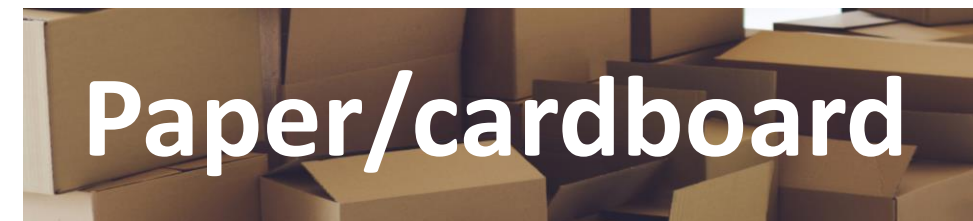


Waste Minimisation Fund

Budget 2025 confirmed \$120 million available over 4 years

Progress so far:

- \$24.5 million has gone to new organics projects
- Equating to 72,000 tonnes p/a organic waste diversion



Kerbside organic waste funding packages

Since 2022, we've invested \$8.7m to fund:

- feasibility studies across 18 districts
- bins for 184,000 households
- estimated 42,200 tonnes p/a diversion

Funding is still available for:

- feasibility studies
- bin-frastructure



Proposals must demonstrate value for money

- Transfer station upgrades, RRCs, MRFs, organic processing infrastructure
- Proposals can include other waste streams; however
- WMF will determine value for money on organic waste only (tonnes per \$ of funding)

\$/tonne

**Avoid over-scoping
Focus on 'fit-for-purpose'**

Contaminated Sites and Vulnerable Landfills Fund

Remediation of legacy contaminated sites, including landfills vulnerable to erosion

- Budget 2025 confirmed \$80 million allocation over 4 years
- More than \$70 million is still available
- Now is an opportunity to plan ahead as you enter your Long-term Planning cycle
- Landfill Climate Risk Tool to prioritise sites

***Phase 3 – remedial planning includes assessing all options including the consideration of sustainable remediation**

Council-funded

Phase 1: preliminary site investigations

Eligible for CSVLF

Phase 2: detailed site investigation

Phase 3: remedial planning*

Phase 4: remediation

Improving the fund for applicants and outcomes

- We're reviewing the fund to make it work better in practice
- What has been working well?
- What are the barriers for Councils?
- Your feedback will shape practical improvements

Contact the team at: CSVLF@mfe.govt.nz

Timaru District Council - Peel Forest Remediation



Emergency waste funding

Emergency waste funding is targeted to support Councils' responses to severe events. It does not replace local preparedness or insurance

There's no fixed allocation, funding is drawn from what is available at the time.

Eligibility

- Potential public health or environmental risk exists
- Costs are likely beyond the council's capacity

In scope

- Emergency waste management activities
- Repair/replacement of waste and recycling infrastructure

Out of scope

- Silt, soil, sediment or woody debris where there is no public health or environmental risk
- Waste water infrastructure



Pātai | Questions?



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

