

Collaboration managing Contamination

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Background

Re.Group is the only Australian company that designs, builds, owns and operates recycling facilities and systems. We are delivering our vision of a wasteless society, operating the largest network of recycling facilities across Australasia.

Re.Group processes kerbside recycling from more than 5 million people over 40 government areas. We value partnership and collaboration to solve problems for our customers.



Mā te mahi tahi
Driving impact through **collaboration**

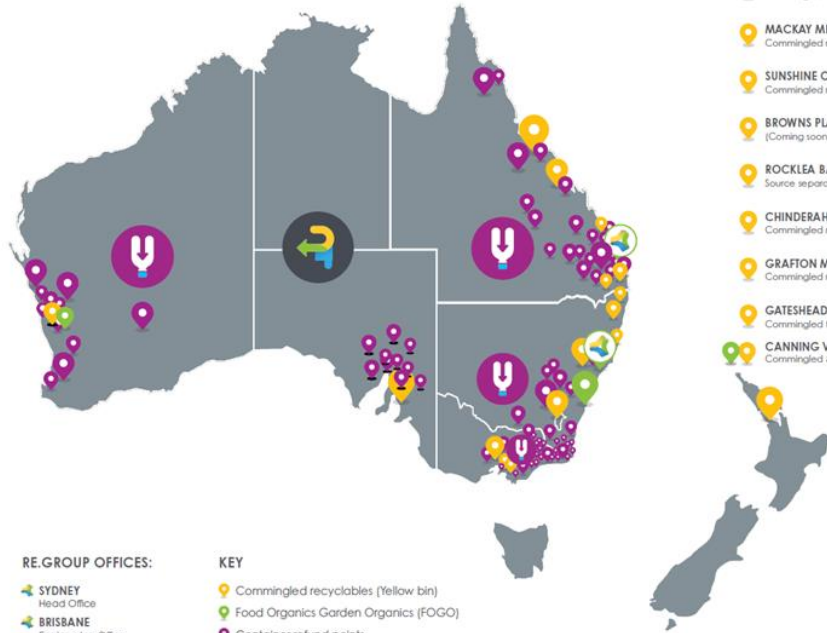


Outline

1. Re.Group's recycling network
2. Public attitudes to recycling
3. Current approaches to contamination
4. How collaboration builds the full picture of contamination



Australasia's largest recycling network



KEY

- TOWNVILLE MRF
Commingled recycling
- MACKAY MRF
Commingled recycling
- SUNSHINE COAST MRF
Commingled recycling
- BROWNS PLAINS MRF
(Coming soon)
- ROCKLEA BALING
Source separated baling
- CHINDERAH MRF
Commingled recycling
- GRAFTON MRF
Commingled recycling
- GATESHEAD
Commingled transfer
- CANNING VALE
Commingled & FOGO
- ENFIELD MRF & GBP
Commingled plus glass
- CANBERRA
Commingled transfer
- COBURG BALING
Source separated baling
- DANDENONG MRF & GBP
Commingled plus glass
- HALLAM PLASTICS PLANT
Container & plastics sorting
- ADELAIDE SOUTH MRF
Commingled recycling
- AUCKLAND MRF
Commingled recycling
- SHELLHARBOUR
FOGO composting
- RETURN-IT CONTAINER REFUND SCHEMES
Network Operator in VIC East and the ACT, major operator in QLD, SA, and WA, depot operator in NSW
- RECOLLECT COLLECTION SERVICE
On-demand bookings via the ReCollect App for eligible recyclables

RE.GROUP OFFICES:

- SYDNEY
Head Office
- BRISBANE
Engineering Office

KEY

- Commingled recyclables (Yellow bin)
- Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO)
- Container refund points



Mā te mahi tahi
Driving impact through collaboration



Contamination

NEW ZEALAND / WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What Auckland is doing wrong when it comes to recycling - and how it can change

Red warnings issued to hundreds of recycling rule breakers

Rotorua residents urged to recycle right

How Kiwis are recycling wrong - and how many are punished for it

Contaminated recycling in Queensland regions costs councils hundreds of thousands, 'community education' needed



Contamination is complicated

- 33% of people still confused by what can and can't go in recycling
- Access to recycling alternatives (37% report not dropping off non-kerbside recyclable items to alternative locations)
- 29% believe most recycling ends up in landfill
- Segment of the public that do not care about recycling correctly (25% of public have 'low commitment' to recycling)

These attitudes cannot be shifted by one group alone

¹ 2025 Waste and Resource Efficiency -Behavioural Trend Monitoring Survey a Quantitative Report for the Ministry for the Environment June 2025, n.d.

New Zealand Recycling guidelines

Containers



plastic containers*
numbers 1, 2 and 5



glass bottles and jars



steel, aluminium,
and tin cans

Paper and cardboard



advertising mail
and envelopes



newspapers
and magazines



paper and cardboard
packaging



egg cartons and
cereal boxes

Empty and clean, more than 5cm at the widest point, smaller than 4L



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Menti

New presentation



What are the most common contaminants at the Auckland MRF



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Waiting for participants

Select which slide to add

What are the most common contaminants at the Auckland MRF

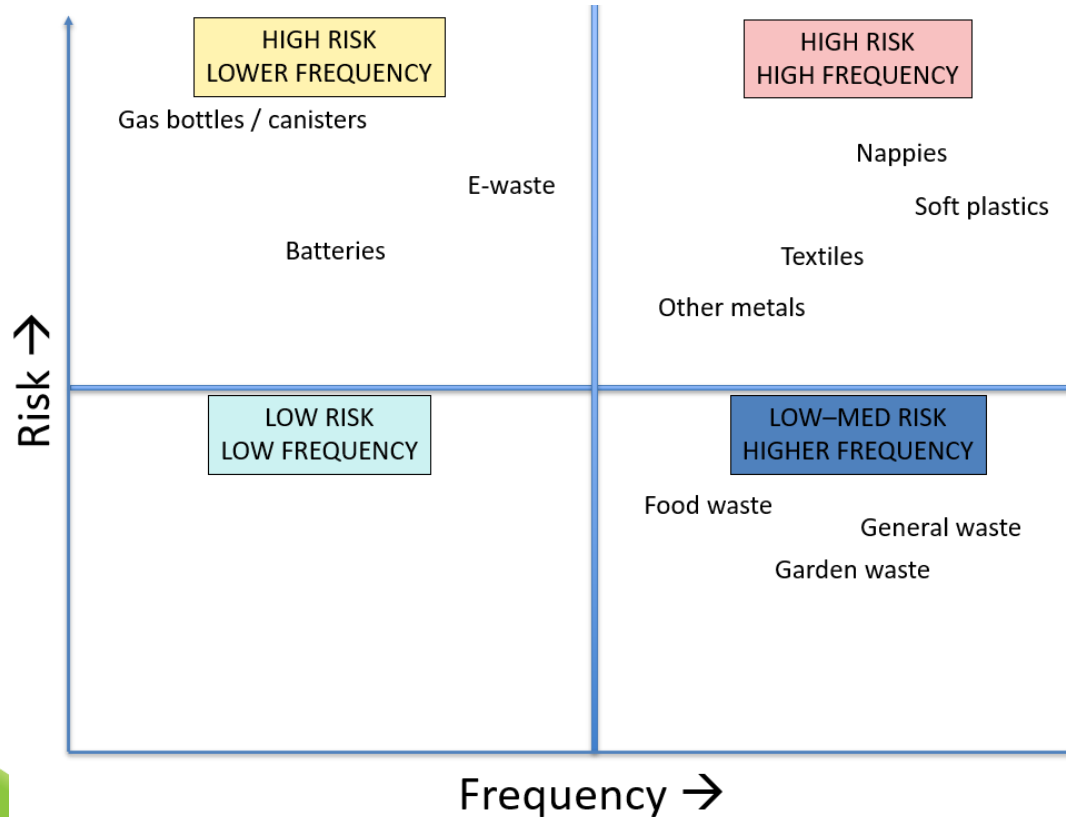


Common contaminants

Bagged material (recyclables or rubbish), soft plastics, organics, textiles, nappies, other metal items

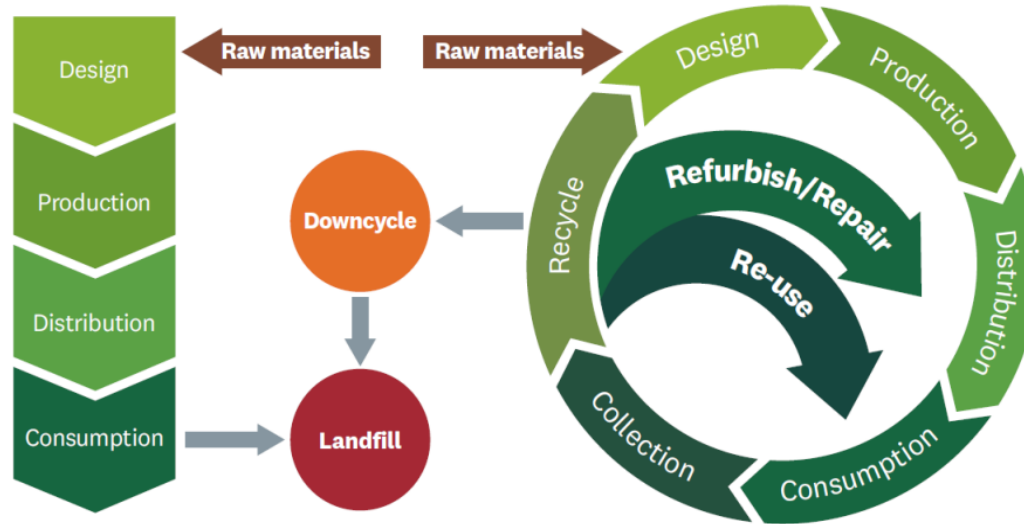


Risk Matrix



Circular Economy

LINEAR VS CIRCULAR ECONOMIES



Approaches to Contamination Management

- Clear and concise guidelines – set by council and government
- Education campaigns – determined by council and Re.Group
- Bin inspectors (enforcement and educational intervention) – coordinated by council
- Collection driver (data collection and intervention) – conducted by contracted drivers
- Truck audits – undertaken by Re.Group



Limitations of Contamination measures

- Clear and concise guidelines: does not give options for hard to recycle items
- Education campaigns: funding restricted and relies on good public engagement
- Bin inspectors: time consuming, and difficult to cover an area as sprawling as Auckland
- Collection driver: time consuming and inefficient
- Truck audits: time consuming to do on a higher frequency basis

Learning across the ditch

- Involve all stakeholders in collecting and sharing data (Councils, Re.Group, truck drivers, etc) to address root causes
- Spend time getting audit methodology right to obtain data and better understand the problem
- 3 stream approach – combining bin audits and truck audits, tracking contamination (type and location), and targeted interventions
- Creating hotspot maps to identify repeat offenders/areas
- Tailoring the approach to suit the different stakeholders we work with



Conclusion

Re.Group is committed to our customers and the communities they/we serve. Decreasing contamination makes recycling more efficient, is safer for staff, and secures the future viability of recycling.

Re.Group values a partnership approach and believes that all parties can benefit from working together to resolve the issue of contamination.

