

# Assessing the Feasibility of Community Composting Hubs for Commercial Organic Waste in Waipā District

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# The Current Problem

- No decentralised composting solution (WMMP gap)
- High levels of organic waste
- Landfilled organics → methane emissions



# Project Aim

- Can community composting reduce organic waste?
- What models are financially and operationally viable?



Focus: Cambridge CBD

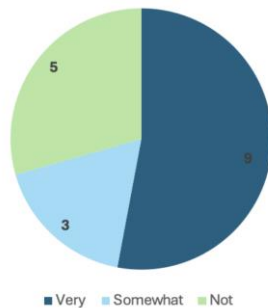




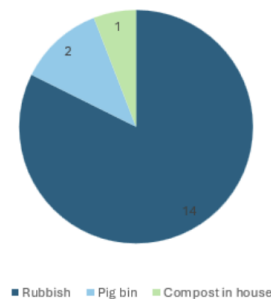
# Business Survey Findings

- Limited awareness of waste volumes and disposal costs
- Cost is the biggest barrier
- Reliability is critical

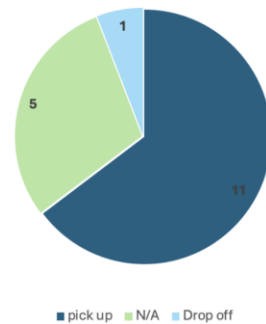
5.4 Interest in Composting Option



5.2 Current Organics Disposal method



5.5 Preferred Model



# Pilot Model

- Small-scale, local composting site
- Collection model (e-bike + buckets)
- 10 businesses
- Community garden location



Cambridge Community gardens



# Financial Model: Cost & Feasibility

CAPEX: \$17.5k–\$18.9k

OPEX: \$16.4K - \$21.6K

## Funding Scenarios

Full cost recovery: \$31-\$41.50/week

50% subsidy: \$15-\$20/week

Not cost-competitive without support



# Recommendations for a Pilot

- Implement a 12-month Pilot (Cambridge CBD)
- Council Supported Pilot for the first year
- Use a Paid Coordinator
- Monitor and Review
- Explore Partnerships



# Key Takeaways

- Businesses often lack awareness of waste volumes and costs
- Cost and reliability drive decision-making
- Behaviour change is a key barrier
- Data gaps make planning difficult
- Start small - a pilot approach lowers risk

**Not cost-competitive without support, but a valuable local solution.**

