

Contamination

WasteMINZ is surveying councils around the country to find out the extent that China's national sword policy is impacting recycling and to understand to what extent there are regional differences in what is accepted for recycling. Any information shared will be confidential and aggregated. The results of the survey will be shared back to those who took part in the survey so they can see where they sit compared to the rest of the country. You have until Thursday 29 March to complete this survey. A copy of the questions can be previewed here. In order to answer some of the questions you may need to talk to the operator of your recycling facility. If you have any questions about this survey please email paul@wasteminz.org.nz

1. Do you have a rates funded recycling collection

- Yes
- No

2. Please describe the system you use for your kerbside recycling? e.g. wheelie bins for 1-7 plastics, paper and glass; two crates 1 for glass and 1 for mixed recycling etc

3. How is your recycling sorted?

- Kerbside by hand
- At a materials recovery facility/ resource recovery centre handsorted
- At a materials recovery facility/ resource recovery centre machine sorted
- Other (please specify)

4. Who sorts your recycling? Please state the name of the company who sorts your recycling for export.

5. What is your current contamination rate for recycling?

- Don't know
- 0 -2%
- 2-5%
- Other (please specify)
- 5-10%
- 11- 15%
- 15% - 20%

6. What is the worst/highest contamination rate you have ever had using your current collection system?

- Don't know
- 0 -2%
- 2-5%
- Other (please specify)
- 5-10%
- 11- 15%
- 15% -20%

7. What did you do to achieve that? e.g. public awareness campaign; initial user reaction to new bin system etc.

8. What is the best/lowest contamination rate you have ever had using your current collection system?

- Don't know
- 0 -2%
- 2-5%
- Other (please specify)
- 5-10%
- 11- 15%
- 15% -20%

9. Is your contamination rate

- Increasing
- Decreasing
- Remaining steady
- Don't know

10. What are you currently doing to minimise your contamination?

- Nothing at the moment
- Inspecting bins and tagging/stickering them i.e. the three tag system
- Rewarding people who recycle correctly
- Writing directly to households
- Other (please specify)
- Running a public awareness campaign e.g. ads in newspapers, fb articles, digital ads, press releases, outdoor advertising, radio advertising etc.
- Face to face engagement at local events, workshops and/or door to door visits
- School programmes

11. What are the top three waste types that contaminate your recycling? e.g plastic bags; nappies; aerosol cans

12. What would help you to decrease your contamination levels?

Mixed Recycling

WasteMINZ would like to understand how the ban in China is affecting your ability to recycle.

13. Which has had the biggest impact on your recycling?

- the ban on mixed paper
- the ban on plastics 3-7
- the changes to accepted contamination rates
- there has been no impact on our business
- Other (please specify)

14. Thinking about mixed paper recycling which of these best describes your current situation. Tick any that apply

- We have had no trouble finding buyers for this product at an acceptable price
- We are struggling to find new buyers for this product
- We have had no trouble finding buyers for this product but we are selling at a lower price
- We are having to pay buyers to take this product
- We have had to find new buyers but have no concerns about maintaining an on-going relationship
- We are stockpiling this product until markets improve
- Other (please specify)

15. Thinking about plastics 3-7 which of these best describes your current situation. Tick any that apply

- We have had no trouble finding buyers for this product at an acceptable price
- We are struggling to find new buyers for this product
- We have had no trouble finding buyers for this product but we are selling at a lower price
- We are having to pay buyers to take this product
- We have had to find new buyers but have no concerns about maintaining an on-going relationship
- We are stockpiling this product until markets improve
- Other (please specify)

16. Thinking about plastic recycling which plastics do you currently accept for recycling. Tick all that apply

 1 5 2 6 3 7 4 don't know

17. Which of these product design innovations is proving problematic for your recyclers

Pet bottles covered in plastic sleeves e.g. just juice bottles. The sleeves prevent the mrf identifying the bottles as pet

Glass bottles covered in plastic sleeves. The sleeves prevent the mrf identifying the bottles as glass

Packaging made of composite/multi materials e.g. tetrapaks, pringles

PLA compostable plastics - mrf identifying the bottles as pet

Other (please specify)

Consistency of recycling rules around the country

Please tick whether these rules apply for the recycling collections in your council area

18. Bottle lids

- Bottle lids can only be recycled if the lids are screwed on
- Bottle lids can only be recycled if pushed inside the bottle
- Bottle lids can only be recycled if the lids are loose and not screwed on
- Don't know
- Bottle lids can be recycled screwed on or loose
- Other (please specify)

19. Rinsing of recycling

- All recycling must be rinsed by householders
- Recycling must be free of food and liquid but doesn't need to be rinsed
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

20. Squashing of recycling

- All recycling must be squashed
- Recycling doesn't need to be squashed
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

21. Soft plastics and plastic shopping bags

- Soft plastics and plastic shopping bags can be recycled at kerbside
- Soft plastics and plastic shopping bags cannot be recycled at kerbside
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

22. Small plastics such as bread tags and straws

Small plastics such as bread tags and straws can be recycled provided they are put inside an empty bottle and the lid put back on

- Small plastics such as bread tags and straws can be recycled if placed loose in the recycling bin
- Small plastics such as bread tags and straws cannot be recycled
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

23. Aerosol cans

- Aerosol cans are accepted in recycling
- Aerosol cans aren't accepted in recycling
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

24. Tetrapaks

- Tetrapaks are accepted for recycling
- Tetrapaks aren't accepted for recycling
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

25. Pizza Boxes

- Pizza Boxes which are free of food are accepted for recycling
- Pizza Boxes which are free of food are not accepted for recycling
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)