



ALEXANDRE CAGNOLI

Head of Industrial Markets
Veolia

A graduate in environmental chemistry and urban planning, Alexandre has devoted 15+ years to optimising utilities and environmental services across Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East before having the privilege of landing in New Zealand. Proud dad of three young boys and admiring husband of a committed wife, engaged in healthy nutrition and zero waste initiatives, Alexandre does not stop promoting environmental friendly behaviours when he reaches his office.

Alexandre is leading the Veolia activities to industrial clients to help them achieve their carbon neutral targets, reduce their natural resources consumption and adopt a collaborative approach with their communities. Alexandre's experience with both industrial and public sectors and his interpersonal skills enables him to bring diverse stakeholders around the table and to bridge gaps prior to valuable agreements.

Alexandre strongly believes in the role of private players as a game changer for organic materials conversion and as a support to the public authorities for shaping the relevant legal framework. Veolia operates globally with more than 150 facilities upcycling organic waste and he would be thrilled to share insights, business models and returns on experience, as a benchmark and a leverage for any New Zealand based upcycling initiative.



CHRIS PURCHAS

Consultant
Tonkin + Taylor

Chris is a resource recovery and strategy specialist at Tonkin + Taylor, working across the waste sector in New Zealand, Australia and further afield. As a consultant Chris has supported multiple local authorities in NZ and Australia to identify and evaluate options to maximise the value of organic materials.

Chris has been an active participant in WasteMINZ' Organic Materials sector group for almost 20 years. This includes leading organic waste policy work at the MfE in the early 2000s with key issues including clopyralid, biosolids and market development and since then working with the sector to deliver multiple projects, before being elected onto the committee. As current Chair, Chris has fronted media on compostable plastics, clopyralid and market development as well as working with stakeholders on other priority issues for the sector.

Chris would love the opportunity to continue to work as part of the steering committee to make sure we get maximum value out of organic waste. It is great that the government have recognised the opportunity in their funding priorities and it is more important than ever that the organic materials sector has a common voice and holistic approach to removing barriers and realising the opportunities available.





ELENA IZAGUIRRE

**Senior Waste Advisor (Organics)
Auckland Council**

With over 25 years' experience in the public and private organic waste recycling sector, Elena brings extensive experience and knowledge across a number of areas including quality control, operations, resource consenting and undertaking and delivering on various organics research projects.

Elena is qualified in health and safety (Nebosh) and experienced in the area of health and safety and environmental compliance for organics. Elena joined Auckland Council in 2018 as the senior waste specialist (organics) and has been involved in the design and regional roll-out of Auckland Council's food scraps programme as well as the design and procurement of the region's organics processing solution.

Elena's 20 years' at Living Earth in various senior technical roles has provided an invaluable insight, experience and understanding of the challenges, opportunities and realities of operating organic waste processing plants and marketing finished products made from materials that include greenwaste, biosolids and food scraps.



GARETH HUGHES

**Engagement Lead
Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance**

Gareth Hughes is the engagement lead for the Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance (AFRA). AFRA is a young and fast-growing alliance of food rescue organisations focused on collaboration, capacity building, best practice and advocacy.

Gareth served as a member of parliament between 2010-2020 and was chairperson of the Social Services and Community Select Committee. He is an experienced strategist and led this work for the Green Party as their whip in parliament. He has a 15-year professional history of working positively and constructively with a wide variety of stakeholders including businesses, NGOs and the public service.

Before parliament, Gareth worked professionally on a number of environmental issues from waste to climate change. Gareth has wide community connections, experience in communications and planning, with a background in governance.

Gareth sits on a number of boards including the Otago Conservation Board, Predator Free Dunedin, and SAFE. He lives on Quarantine Island Kamau Taurua, a conservation reserve in the Otago harbour, with his wife and two children.





KATE PARKER

**Portfolio Leader Bioproducts and Packaging
Scion**

Kate is a scientist at Crown Research Institute Scion based in Rotorua where she has worked for over 20 years. She is portfolio leader of the bioproducts and packaging area where she steers R&D of sustainable packaging and products made from fibre and/or (bio) plastic materials. This includes packaging for food applications as well as products for horticultural and agricultural uses. She also oversees Scion's composting test facility which is DIN CERTCO accredited to test materials to internationally recognised standards for both home and industrial compostability.

Kate is currently leading a practical waste minimisation funded project assessing the compostability of food packaging materials in composting systems around NZ. She is also involved in projects looking at the generation and accumulation of plastic microparticles across terrestrial and aquatic environments, and how these contaminants can be eliminated.



KATE WALMSLEY

**Coordination and Strategy
Kaicycle**

What drives Kate is the opportunity to transform New Zealand's organic waste problem into a multiple-duty solution that helps address climate change and build resilience across Aotearoa.

Kate has been working in community-scale composting since 2015 through Kaicycle in Wellington, had a founding role in the national Urban Farmers' Alliance, and has contributed to various efforts related to urban food systems and zero waste/circular economy. She has a BSc Hons in biotechnology, a fascination with real-world biological systems, and science communication skills. Kate is a collaborator by nature.

Kate is involved in exploring how local and national organics policy and systems can honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and contribute to ecosystem restoration, long-term food security, climate change resilience and community wellbeing. She is particularly interested in localised organics recycling systems and how they can support the emerging urban agriculture sector.





LISA HACK

**Waste and Resources Management Principal
SLR Consulting**

Lisa is a principal consultant in SLR's waste and resources management team. Lisa has been involved in the environmental and waste sectors for over 16 years and has actively assisted the development of New Zealand's organic sector over the past eight years. Lisa's experience has ranged from organic waste recovery and resource recovery park projects, technical due diligence, waste infrastructure master planning, waste audits and project management for the development and implementation of Auckland's organic (food scrap) service and the New Zealand container return scheme. Through this broad experience base, Lisa has been involved with a range of groups including industry, community organisations as well as local and central government, meaning she has a very good understanding of working with complex relationships and developing solutions that are fit-for-purpose.

Lisa enjoys identifying new opportunities and sharing national and global experience as well as bringing a collaborative working style and engagement with diverse stakeholders. Lisa is passionate about working with New Zealand's waste industry and connected groups and looks forward to supporting the development of New Zealand's organic sector.

Lisa has been an active and contributing member of the Organic Materials sector group for several years.



LIZ STANWAY

**Team Leader, Organics Work Stream
Xtreme Zero Waste**

As a practising land manager and food producer Liz has become aware of the need to return organic materials and retain nutrients in soils for the benefit of our health, our water, our climate and the future of humanity. Liz is super passionate about regenerative farming practices and the role of returning organic matter to our soils.

Liz is team leader of the organics work stream at Xtreme Zero Waste (XZW) and leads and manages the horizontal food waste (150 tonnes of food waste per year) composting system, a windrow composting system and all aspects of production and sales of compost. Liz has enjoyed a term as a member on the Organic Sector steering committee and would like to continue participating with this group of outstanding representatives of the Sector.

Liz has been involved in the establishment and development of XZW, which has been operating successfully in Raglan for 20 years. This community enterprise demonstrates successful and innovative approaches to materials recycling, waste minimisation, community education and behaviour change. Liz has experience in XZW and other community organisations from wage worker to governance level.





LOGAN DINGLE

Branch Manager
Living Earth Auckland

Logan has been in his current role since 2018 and is responsible for Waste Management's Living Earth windrow composting and growing media supply business unit in Auckland. He also provides input and guidance on organic material recovery initiatives and operations across Waste Management and the associations it is a member of.

Logan's experience spans industrial project management and consulting as well as a range of previous positions within Waste Management including fleet, recycling, and landfill gas generation.

Holding conjoint bachelor's degrees in engineering and commerce, Logan brings a combination of financial and technical capability and a passion for exploring and implementing robust, pragmatic and viable solutions that deliver meaningful improvements in resource recovery and environmental outcomes. Being part of a large, nationwide waste services provider presents an important platform to achieve this.

Logan is keen to share knowledge and improve transparency when it comes to environmental issues and overcoming the challenges presented. Equally, he enjoys the opportunity to learn from others and work towards greater consistency in the approach and recovery opportunities available across different regions. Mahi tahi.



MAZDAK RASAPOOR

Gas Optimisation Manager
EnviroWaste

Mazdak Rasapoor is a waste management expert focused on organic waste conversion to products and energy. Over the last 16 years, he has been responsible for designing and implementing several composting plants, anaerobic digesters, and landfill gas projects in Iran and New Zealand, collaborating with some international companies. One of the key projects was the Tehran compost plant facility which produces 1000 tonnes/day of fine compost. Apart from field projects, Mazdak has conducted extensive research on organics. His first PhD was on food waste composting and biogas generation where he focused on optimising the generated compost and biogas from food waste. The results were successfully used on the field and published in several reputable waste management journals.

In 2018 Mazdak moved to New Zealand to work on a project called "enhancing landfill gas generation via biochemical process optimisation". This project was a collaboration between Auckland University and EnviroWaste Services. Since then, he has been working at Hampton PARRC to develop methodologies to increase landfill gas collection efficiency as a landfill gas optimisation manager. Mazdak is also working closely with the compost team at Hampton to monitor the operation and products' quality. Mazdak successfully defended his PhD in chemical and material engineering at Auckland University in 2020.





MILLIE PORTER

Resource Recovery & Waste Reduction Manager Countdown

Having worked with start-ups, in local government (at both Upper Hutt and Porirua City Councils) and more recently in the fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) space at Countdown, Millie has diverse experience in resource recovery and enabling the circular economy in both the public and private sector.

Whether actioning local government WMMPs targeting organics collection, educating communities about the impact of food waste or advancing Countdown's ambitious zero food waste targets, Millie is a results-driven person who is motivated and committed to minimising the generation of organic materials and/or maximising the value of organic materials in Aotearoa.

Millie is an empathetic person who has worked alongside a range of people to create impact and facilitate change. She would like to continue this work by being part of this steering committee.



PAUL MCGUIRE

Technical Advisor Envirofert

Paul has an interest in the organic materials sector as the nature of organic materials is an integral part of composting. He believes that to produce a consistent high-quality end-product we must take care about the nature of the input components and how they potentially affect the process.

Compostable packaging has become more of an input component co-mingled with food waste, resulting in composters now being required to make more decisions on what is organic and what is not. Sometimes with packaging this is not so easy to discern.

With the WasteMINZ initiative to reduce the amount of food waste going to landfill, multiple options of dealing with food waste need to be addressed, examining where and at what stage composting and other alternatives fit into this scene.

Envirofert is at the forefront, having tested compostability of materials for more than 10 years and has a good understanding of how to achieve the best results and what materials can be accepted in the process used.

Paul has a BSc in microbiology and biochemistry from Massey University and broad managerial skills with the last 16 years spent in consultancy roles.

