

Raglan Food Waste Consultation - Frequent Asked Questions

How has this project been funded?

Funding has been received from the Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF administered by MfE), Waikato District Council, and Xtreme Zero Waste for infrastructure, equipment and systems to set up the kerbside food waste collection.

Resource consent was gained to carry out food waste composting at the Resource Recovery Centre, 186 Te Hutewai Road.

In August 2017 a household kerbside food waste collection service was rolled out to Raglan residents who receive kerbside refuse and recycling.

What is the proposed rate made up of?

- Providing a weekly collection of food waste from household/kerbside and transporting it to Xtreme Zero Waste at Te Hutewai Road
- Processing of the collected food waste in the Horizontal Compost Unit. This involves managing the food waste in batches, adding carbon material to achieve optimal temperatures, maintaining optimal moisture levels, mixing, turning to ensure food waste is processed correctly and monitoring
- Fully funded compostable bags
- Delivery of compostable bags to households
- Ensuring compliance – ensuring non-contamination of food waste with non-food items (plastic bags, bread tags, cutlery etc)
- Collection of data and record maintenance
- Meeting resource consent conditions
- Administration costs.

Why does raglan have to pay for this and why does it cost \$79.29?

- Raglan is the only township in the Waikato district to receive this service
- It was rolled out first in Raglan as the community signalled their desire for a food waste service through the Long Term Plan.

While adding the proposed targeted rate would be an additional cost to the ratepayer, it should partially or fully offset the cost of the pre-paid refuse bags. By having this additional service, residents would use fewer bags and only put them out when they are full and not smelly. Therefore the saving from the pre-paid bags would pay for most if not all of the proposed food waste targeted rate.

Would Raglan's food waste end up at Hampton Downs if a service was not available?

Yes, if there was no food waste kerbside service the 225 tonnes diverted so far in 18 months would have been transported to Hampton Downs landfill in pre-paid rubbish bags.

In the landfill, food waste decomposes without oxygen to release methane (this is a greenhouse gas that is more destructive than carbon dioxide). Composting aerobically and locally means keeping food waste out of landfill, avoiding methane production and not using fuel to transport the waste all the way to Hampton Downs.

What is the cost saving of having a food waste service in Raglan for the council?

Raglan residents currently pay for all their waste to landfill on a user-pays basis through pre-paid rubbish bags (available in two sizes), so it is the residents who benefit directly by savings rather than the Council. If residents can reduce their waste to landfill by recycling, reducing packaging waste and diverting food waste they can save money directly through purchasing fewer rubbish bags.

Diverting food waste out of the pre-paid rubbish bags keeps them odour free for a longer period of time so that the bag only needs to be disposed of when it is full rather than when it is smelly. For some households this can be as little as once per month. As landfill costs continue to increase over the next couple of years, the cost of getting waste picked up will increase.

How much food waste has been diverted?

Since August 2017 Xtreme Zero Waste tell us that approximately 225 tonnes of foodwaste has been diverted from landfill.

Why divert food waste from landfill?

- Food waste decomposes in landfill to create methane; the most potent greenhouse gas which contributes to global climate change.
- Councils are required by legislation to reduce both waste to landfill and greenhouse gases.
- Food waste makes up approximately 20% of our waste; it is the single largest component of waste in your pre-paid bags.

How does a kerbside food waste collection benefit me?

- Diverting food waste from your pre-paid bags should mean you don't need to put out a pre-paid bag every week.
- Diverting food waste should mean using less pre-paid bags, therefore saving money.

- Diverting food waste from pre-paid bags reduces the number of animal strikes on bags.

Why is a kerbside food waste collection good for Raglan?

- Diverting food waste reduces domestic waste to landfill by up to 20% therefore reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Xtreme Zero Waste is working hard to remove all carbon waste from Raglan's waste stream.
- Collecting and processing food waste locally supports more local employment opportunities and keeps money in the community.
- Collecting food waste closes the loop on organic waste in Raglan and creates a local resource for growing gardens and food resilience in the Raglan community.

For more information see www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/foodwaste

