

Coloured plastic recycling changes

Council waste transfer and recycling stations will suspend accepting coloured 1 (PET) plastics from Monday 16 June until a viable recycling market can be found for the products.

Coloured 1 (PET) plastic is mostly made up of drink bottles with the majority being blue tinted water bottles. After China closed its recycling markets to the rest of the world, the market for coloured 1 (PET) plastics began to fade, and it is now uneconomic for the Far North to recycle these. The council has continued to accept this grade of plastics in the hope markets would recover. However, the stockpile of coloured 1 (PET) plastic has now reached 190 tonnes and has deteriorated to the point it cannot now be recycled. It will instead go to landfill at a cost of \$45,000.

Clear plastics displaying the 1 (PET) symbol, such as meat trays, are not affected and will continue to be accepted at council transfer and recycling centres.

Most plastics are stamped with a number indicating the plastic type. Demand for different plastics varies considerably, resulting in different values for each type. Like any commodity, markets and prices for different types of plastics vary considerably.

After 16 June, the council will offer a one-month grace period where coloured 1 (PET) plastics will be accepted for landfill at no charge. From mid-July, disposing of coloured 1 (PET) plastics will attract the same charge as other household waste going to landfill.

If the market for coloured 1 (PET) plastics does recover, it is possible that these products will again be accepted at council facilities for recycling.



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The council is working on six and 25-year waste minimisation and sustainability strategies that will be presented to the council for consideration in June. If adopted, these strategies will then go out for public consultation.

Kerbside recycling

This change only affects coloured 1 (PET) plastics at council-owned transfer and recycling stations. Kerbside recycling collections are undertaken by two commercial companies in the Far North. Residents should contact Northland Waste and Waste Management directly for information about plastics accepted by their collectors.



For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Recycling bags binned with push for cleaner sorting



Using bags for kerbside collection of recycling is being phased out.

Kerikeri residents will soon need to adapt to a new way of recycling, as local waste operators transition away from taking bagged recycling in favour of bin-only collections.

The change is part of a move to improve efficiency and reduce contamination in the recycling stream – plastics, tins and bottles – and means that branded recycling bags are no longer available for purchase in Kerikeri stores.

Kerikeri residents can still recycle a broad range of items at the Waipapa Re:Sort Station, located at 1913 State Highway 10.

Currently, recycling trucks are equipped to separate recyclables onboard, allowing for more efficient offloading at the depot. However, materials placed in bags can't be sorted during the kerbside pickup stage – this must be undertaken at the depot. This leads to higher rates of contamination, with incorrectly sorted items often turning otherwise recyclable materials into waste.

The region's two solid waste companies, Northland Waste and Waste Management, will continue to offer kerbside recycling in limited areas only: Northland Waste covers Kaitiāia, while Waste Management serves Kerikeri. Both companies also provide kerbside rubbish-only collections for urban and some rural areas in the Far North.

People are encouraged to visit the websites of Waste Management and Northland Waste for the most current information about kerbside collections and service updates.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz



Want to know what you can and can't recycle? Scan this QR code for our easy-to-follow guide.

