
From: official information
Sent: Friday, 12 March 2021 13:20
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: official information
Subject: RESPONSE - LGOIMA 21048 - 9 March - [REDACTED] - Refuse / Fortnightly Rubbish Collection Calculations

Kia Ora [REDACTED],

Thank you for your enquiry in the email below. We appreciate your efforts to get the most out of Council's new rubbish and recycling kerbside collection service and your comments about "loving the concept".

We hope the answers to your questions are covered by the summary below. We've also provided a bit more detail on the background of why and how the service was revamped (including the data used), in the second section of this letter.

Answers to your questions

- Cost savings:

Although reducing waste and increasing recycling were the key environmental considerations in relation to the new service, costs savings were also an important factor. We knew that in order to have a cost-effective service for the next 10 years, a bold change was needed to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill.

We were aware that the cost of the waste levy for landfill was likely to increase from \$10 per tonne, which is exactly what happened. Our business case at the time was modelled on an average levy increase over the life of the contract of \$55 per tonne – and as it turned out, the increase was confirmed recently to be \$60 per tonne. (*For details, see next section*).

So, by working with the community to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill under the new service, we knew we could save on the overall cost of managing this material.

This also meant that a portion of those cost savings could also be used to support the recycling and food waste collection parts of the new service. Overall, the new service aims to achieve the environmental and cost benefits it's focused on; and provide a more convenient and easier to use service, with the best use of ratepayer funds.

- Bin sizes and collection frequencies:

The size and collection frequency of the red wheelie bin (for refuse/rubbish) was based on the new service providing a 50% increase of diverted materials (food waste and more recycling options), in comparison which the amount of these items previously collected under the old service.

So, previously, two black bags equated to 120 litres of rubbish collected **per week** (including previously unrecyclable items and food waste being put in the black bags) – a total of 240 litres per fortnight.

Those items previously put in the black bag which are now recyclable under the new kerbside collection service can now be placed in the larger yellow wheelie bin or the food scraps bin instead. This should create a 50% reduction in the amount of pure 'rubbish' being collected, meaning only **one fortnightly collection** of a 120-litre red 'rubbish' wheelie bin is now required.

- Helpful tips to avoid the tip:

Despite the improved options under the new collection service, we acknowledge that some residents and businesses do produce more pure 'rubbish' than others.

- Check that you're making the best use of your red wheelie bin's capacity. For example, it's best not to put waste in bags into the bin, as airspace in the bags fills the bin up more quickly. Loose items will use the bin's space more efficiently and you should be able to fit more in.

- However, please, don't overfill your bin, as that can cause littering at the street when it's put out, especially on windy days. Overfilled bins of any colour are also likely to be left behind at collection time with a reminder notice in them about this issue.
- Try keeping your soft plastics aside instead of putting them in the red-lidded wheelie bin. Instead, you can take them to most Countdown supermarkets and The Warehouse branches around the city – they have collection bins for these items.
- Note – as far as extra 'recyclable' material, if you have more than can be collected in the fortnightly yellow wheelie bin and green glass crate, you can take any excess cardboard, paper, recyclable plastics (types 1, 2 and 5) and glass to the recycling centre at our Lincoln Street refuse and recycling station. It's free to drop these items off.

Further information is available to help you reduce your waste (including tips on making smart decisions when buying products/assessing packaging) on our website at fightthelandfill.co.nz

Why and how the service was revamped – detail

The previous rubbish and recycling services in Hamilton were established in 2002. Since then there have been significant changes to the management of waste across New Zealand and overseas. The previous service provision in Hamilton was no longer the best and most cost-effective way to provide a kerbside collection to our residents or to meet current and future environmental goals for managing rubbish and recycling effectively. The previous service also wasn't aligned with the vision of Hamilton City Council's 2018 - 2024 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (fightthelandfill.co.nz/our-waste-plan).

In 2016, the community was consulted on what the kerbside rubbish and recycling service should include. A total of 2793 submissions were received, with 84% of submitters indicating they wanted to transition to wheelie bins with more recycling options; and 76% indicating they would like a food scraps collection to be provided.

The draft business case started with 24 options for the kerbside collection. Over three years, these options were narrowed down through community consultation, tendering and Council decision-making. The key considerations around the final option were:

- The wheelie bin sizes were selected based on waste audit data from 2013 and 2017. The composition and volume of the rubbish bag audits had remained fairly constant over this time, with the average household putting out 8.45kg per week of rubbish in 2017 (i.e. 120 litres **per week**). With the proposed changes to the recycling collection and the introduction of the food scraps collection, we knew this could be reduced to 4.2kg per week – approximately half the amount (or equivalent to 120 litres **per fortnight**).
- The food scraps collection provides the greatest opportunity for diversion from landfill at the kerbside. Food currently makes up (on average) 37% of the average rubbish bag in Hamilton.
- For the majority of households, using the food scraps bin and putting recyclables like paper and cardboard, plastics 1 to 7 in the yellow recycling wheelie bin will reduce the rubbish volume by over 50%.
- The cost of disposal waste is made up of three elements: the operational cost of the landfill, the waste levy and emissions trading units.

The operational cost can be set through the tender process, however the waste levy is set by Central Government and the emissions trading units are dependent on the carbon price.

At the time of developing the business case, Central Government was indicating a review of the waste levy. In 2020, it was announced the waste levy would increase over four years from the \$10 per tonne set in 2009, to \$60 per tonne. On 2 March 2021 Central Government confirmed the levy increase would begin on the 1 July 2021 to \$20 per tonne, progressively increasing annually reaching \$60 per tonne on 1 July 2024.

We hope the information above (and the extra tips and information available on our website (fightthelandfill.co.nz)) answers your questions and provides some solutions for you on managing waste and recycling for your household.

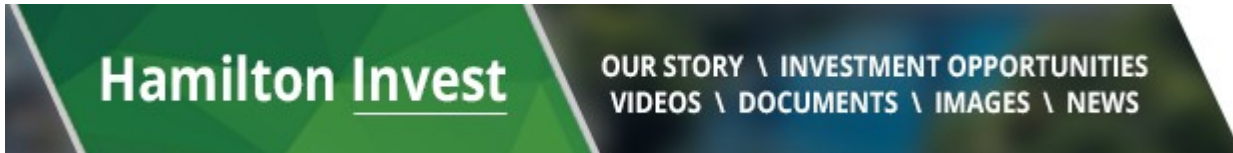
You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Official Information Team | Legal Services & Risk
Email: officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz



Hamilton City Council | Private Bag 3010 | Hamilton 3240 | www.hamilton.govt.nz

Like us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter



-----Original Message-----

From: "no-reply=fightthelandfill.co.nz@mg.fightthelandfill.co.nz" <no-reply=fightthelandfill.co.nz@mg.fightthelandfill.co.nz> **on behalf of** "Fight the Landfill" <no-reply@fightthelandfill.co.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 14 February 2021 8:46 AM

To: "info@hcc.govt.nz" <info@hcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Contact from Fight the Landfill website

Contact form

Name: [REDACTED]

Organisation: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Message:

Hi. I love the concept of what you are doing. I think it is very important.

However I am now incurring extra rubbish bags in the garden shed. This is due to having a busy, active family.

We separate all the waste into the appropriate bins yet still we are overflowing.

Last week our house was infested with maggots due to the hot weather as a fly must have gotten into the food waste bin. So I have to try and work out how to solve this. Can't seal the daily waste food in plastic bags which is what we always used to do.

Anyway I would like to follow up on this with you. Can you provide me with the data for how fortnightly collections of a single bin was calculated? Previously it was 2 rubbish bags, separate cardboard collection plus separate green bin for tins, glass and plastics. This was all collected on a weekly roster. Now this is done fortunately. So how was this calculated? Was fortnightly a way of saving money? Would like to look into this please.

I think I am allowed to ask these questions being a ratepayer? Not know.

Thanks for listening.