



Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) will be held in the Invercargill City Council Chambers, Te Hīnaki Civic Building, 101 Esk Street, Invercargill on Monday 8 April 2024, at 10.00am.

Elected member representatives

Gore District Council

Cr Keith Hovell (Chairman)
Mayor Mr Ben Bell (Deputy Chairman)
Cr Glenys Dickson

Southland District Council

Mayor Mr Rob Scott
Cr Christine Menzies

Invercargill City Council

Cr Ian Pottinger
Cr Barry Stewart
Cr Peter Kett (alternate)

Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) - Public

08 April 2024 10:00 AM

Agenda Topic	Page
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5. Public Excluded Session	

Public Excluded Session

Moved , seconded that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- a) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of Waste Advisory Group Meeting Held on Monday 19 February 2024
- b) Request For Funding – Recycle South: Optical Sorting Unit

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
a) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of Waste Advisory Group Meeting Held on Monday 19 February 2024	<p>Section 7(2)(h) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7</p>
b) Request For Funding – Recycle South: Optical Sorting Unit	<p>Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Protect the information where the making available of the information would be unlikely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplier or who is the subject of the information</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7</p>

A5299112



Minutes of a meeting of the Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet), held in the Gore District Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Monday 19 February 2024, at 10.15am

Present

Gore District Council

Cr Keith Hovell (Chair) and Cr Neville Phillips.

Southland District Council

Mayor Mr Rob Scott and Cr Christine Menzies.

Invercargill City Council

Acting Mayor Cr Tom Campbell and Cr Barry Stewart.

In attendance

General Manager Critical Services (Mr Jason Domigan, Gore District Council), Group Manager Infrastructure (Ms Erin Moogan, Invercargill City Council), Group Manager Infrastructure and Capital Projects (Ms Fran Mikulicic, Southland District Council), Grant Isaacs (Southland District Council) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apology

Cr Ian Pottinger (Invercargill City Council) apologised for absence.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Chairman noted the battery disposal recycling through Mitre 10 seemed to be going well. The kerbside recycling material received from the Ministry of the Environment had been underwhelming.

RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor Scott, seconded by Cr Stewart, THAT the minutes of the Waste Advisory Group meeting held on 11 December 2023, as presented, be confirmed as a true and complete record.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

A financial report for the six months ending 31 December 2023 had been circulated with the agenda. The equity in WasteNet now totalled \$1,932,847.

The Chairman sought clarification on Invercargill City Council's advanced funds of \$993,109. The Group Manager Infrastructure would need to check with the finance staff, but suspected it was the Council paying contractors in advance of being reimbursed by the partner Councils.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Menzies, THAT the financial report for the six months ended 31 December 2023, be received.

3. WASTE COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING PROJECT

A report providing the Waste Advisory Group with an overview of all applications received by WasteNet from the Southland region for the WasteNet Community Grant funding project had been circulated with the agenda. Applications had been open from 18 September to 30 October, with a total of five applications being received. Three of the grant applications had been successful, as follows:

South Coast Environment Society - \$26,638.98
Bluff 2024 Urban Rejuvenation Group Trust - \$6,096
Aurora College - \$7,560

The General Manager Critical Services advised the process had worked well. There were always challenges around criteria to maximise the number of applications received. Cr Menzies questioned whether the grants included wages. The Group Manager Infrastructure advised an information sheet had been available for applicants and some applicants had overlooked the wage criteria.

In response to Mayor Scott asking whether the \$50,000 limit was sufficient, the Group Manager expected as more community groups became aware of the fund, that there would be an increase in applications received. She felt it was appropriate to keep it at the current level for the next year, but it may need to be increased thereafter.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Menzies, seconded by Acting Mayor Campbell, THAT the report be received and endorsed.

4. WAG UPDATE PRESENTATION

A copy of an update prepared by the Invercargill City Council covering legislative, existing goals, action plans and updates in terms of activities relating to education, communication and potential projects had been circulated.

Mayor Scott asked if there was any downside with volumes of waste being down. Were there effects. The Group Manager Infrastructure advised nothing that had been raised with the contract management team. It was thought the overall negative effect was an indication of the economy and people purchasing less and having less packaging. The Chair noted in the Invercargill City and Southland District area there was 16-17% of recycling that was contaminated. He asked what sort of contamination was involved. The Group Manager advised there had been some investigation carried

out late in 2023. There were some trends of people just getting it wrong, but there were also incidents of people deliberately putting waste into the recycling bin. Through the bin audit process, staff wanted to undertake more investigation as to what people were getting wrong.

Acting Mayor Campbell asked if there was any indication of an increase in fly tipping. Mr Isaacs said staff were trying to gather statistics about fly tipping but Councils did keep an eye on the amount that was picked up. there was no indication at this stage that there had been an increase in fly tipping as a consequence of the waste volume going down. Mayor Scott queried the ability for clean fill to be disposed of and thought some guidance to ratepayers would be helpful. The Group Manager Assets said the clean fill went from the transfer station to Timpany's site which was an option for Southland District residents. Regarding fly tipping, that was something that was managed through each Council. The General Manager Critical Services advised the Gore District numbers were not available due to an issue with Environment Southland and the ability to use clean fill at a former dump site for remediation. The Council had gone through an updated consent process and capturing the clean fill data had been difficult. It was becoming more difficult to dispose of clean fill and consents were generally required.

RESOLVED on the motion of Acting Mayor Campbell, seconded by Cr Stewart, THAT the report be received,

AND THAT the waste to landfill and recycling data and trends be noted.

5. WASTENET EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY UPDATE

A copy of an overview report on WasteNet prepared by the Commercial and Contracts Manager for Invercargill City Council had been circulated.

In response to the Chair, the Group Manager Infrastructure advised the temporary website had been put in place to assist with the standardisation of the recycling process and to ensure people did not land on the old website. The temporary site enabled consistent messaging for the public. It was meeting base functionality and some additional work was still required.

Cr Stewart asked if there were any figures on the battery disposal option. The Group Manager Infrastructure would provide a report on the battery disposal options at a future meeting.

RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor Scott, seconded by Cr Phillips, THAT the report be received.

6. WASTENET – WASTE ACTIVITY PLAN UPDATE

A copy of the Waste Activity Plan including activity status updates had been circulated with the agenda.

Cr Hovell referred to the action plan about the separate glass collection investigation and the intention that there would be consultation as part of the Long Term Plan (LTP) process in Q3 of the 2023-24 year for implementation in 2024-25. He asked if there was a need to change the approach if Councils decided to defer their LTPs or was likely they would be picked up by Councils through the Annual Plan process. The Group Manager Infrastructure said Invercargill City was not deferring its LTP. Mayor Scott said Southland District had not yet made a decision. Cr Hovell said the same applied to Gore. The General Manager Critical Services that it was high on the priority list for the Gore District Council and likely to be considered through the Annual Plan process if the LTP was deferred. Cr Hovell said given the financial constraints Councils were facing he thought the guidance of the public would be important in terms of timing.

RESOLVED on the motion of Acting Mayor Campbell, seconded by Cr Menzies, THAT the report be received.

7. WASTENET KERBSIDE STANDARDISATION IMPLEMENTATION

A report had been circulated updating the Committee on the kerbside standardisation that had been implemented by WasteNet from 1 February 2024 in accordance with the Ministry for the Environment's Standard Materials for Kerbside Collections Notice 2023.

The Group Manager Infrastructure said the key piece to note was the rollout was not as smooth as had been intended. The main difficulty had been ensuring an adequate distribution method to all areas of the community and the Southland Express had been identified to provide that. However, there were some areas that were not serviced by the Express and staff were now looking at how the stickers and information could be delivered to those areas. In response to Cr Hovell, the Group Manager said the public litter bins did not have a separate guidance with them. Staff did need to look at ensuring public litter bins provided the correct recycling service. In response to Acting Mayor Campbell, the Group Manager said the recycling from public litter bins was over 50% contaminated.

Cr Hovell noted there had been no recycling bins at the recent Southern Field Days. The Group Manager said there were a number of different education options. Staff were aware that business and events education was an area to be worked on. Cr Menzies said having over 50% contaminated recycling begged the question of offering recycling until there was an acceptance of the change. The Group Manager said it might mean taking a drastic step of removing public recycling bins until there was a better strategy for delivering it. She agreed it was a priority but it also came down to resourcing. The General Manager Critical Services hoped to see a decrease in contaminated recycling through public bins as people became more aware of what

could be recycled. There was more work to be done at a central Government level with those materials that were outside of the standardised recycling items.

Mayor Scott suggested for future large events that Councils should be encouraged to have WasteNet and education information available about recycling options. The Group Manager said that had been the intention but the Education role was currently vacant. Cr Hovell suggested WasteNet consider having its own site at the 2026 Southern Field Days.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Stewart, seconded by Mayor Scott, THAT the report be received.

The meeting concluded at 10.50am

WASTENET WASTE TO LANDFILL PERFORMANCE UPDATE

To: Waste Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday 8 April 2024

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee with respect to waste to landfill performance across the three Southland councils including kerbside and transfer station levels of diversion.

The total waste discarded through transfer stations to the landfill is currently tracking 2.6% (72.93 tonnes) above this time last year.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Waste to Landfill Performance Update".
2. Note the waste to landfill data and trends.
3. Note the recycling data and trends.

Background

The WasteNet councils have a statutory obligation to promote effective and efficient waste minimisation and management within the Invercargill City (ICC), Southland District (SDC) and Gore District (GDC) under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. WasteNet is currently operating under the Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2020-2026.

This report provides the current month and quarter update to the Waste Advisory Group in relation to WasteNet's waste performance to landfill.

Issues

Waste to Landfill

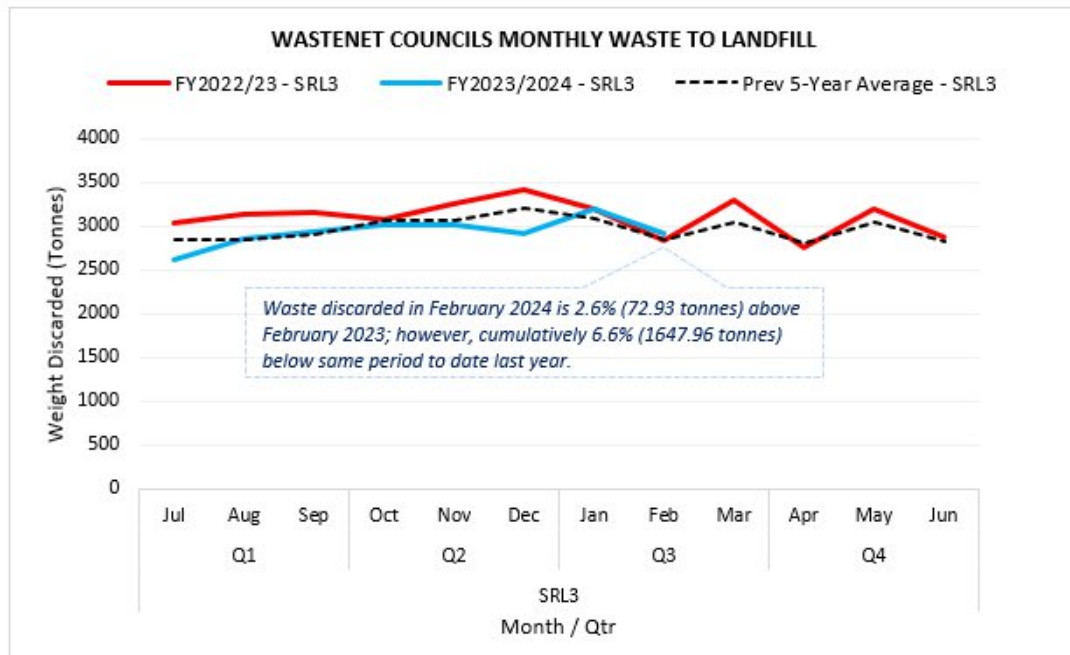


Figure 1: WasteNet Monthly Waste to Landfill (excluding Authorised Users)

- The total waste discarded through transfer stations to the landfill, all councils combined, in February 2024 is 2.6% (72.93 tonnes) above February 2023 and 1.79% (51.14 tonnes) above the previous 5-year average.
- The total waste discarded to landfill including authorised users (going direct to landfill) in February 2024 is 2.1% (98.27 tonnes) below the tonnage discarded in February 2023.

Recycling

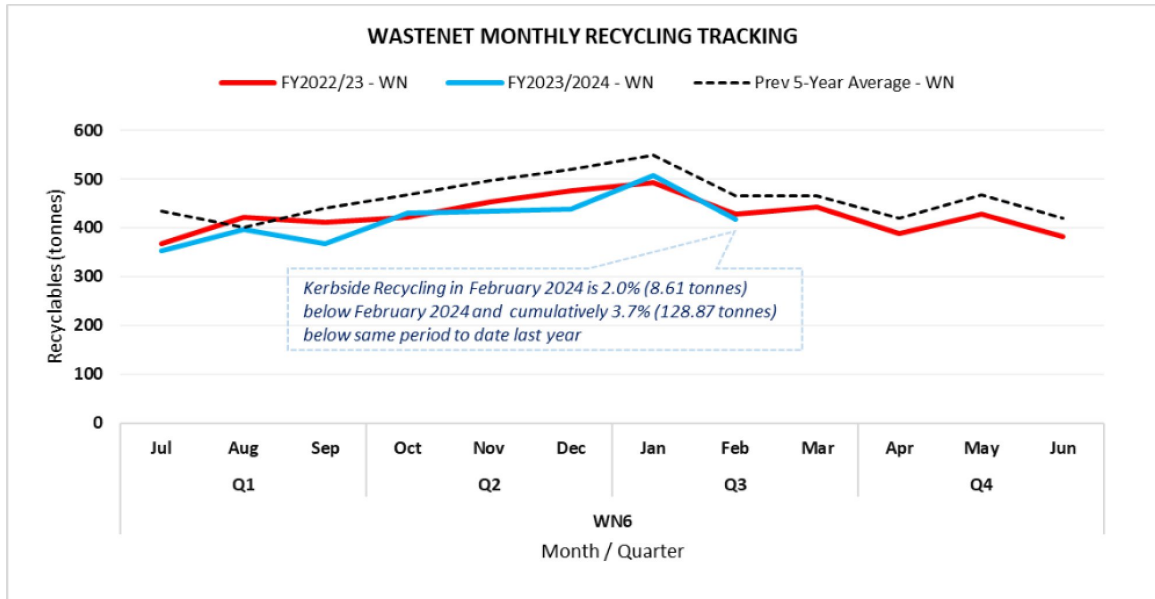


Figure 2: WasteNet Monthly Recycling Tracking

- Kerbside recycling volumes for ICC and SDC combined in February 2024 is 2.0% (8.61 tonnes) below February 2023.
- The total contamination sent to landfill from the recycling centre this financial year to date is 694.82 tonnes (averaging at 18.34%). The contamination average for this year is currently tracking 11.27% (88.21 tonnes) lower than the same period to date last year, with a cumulative total of 783.03 tonnes sent to landfill (averaging at 19.53%).

Inference

As seen from the graphs above, there has been a slight increase in the weight of waste generated in January and February of FY2023/24 compared to FY2022/23. This may be attributed to the improving weather conditions. Recycling weights are running slightly lower than the previous year. There has been a decrease in the amount of contamination that is being disposed of to landfill from the recycling centre, which is a sign of improvement / progress in the recycling space. This could be considered a positive indication that both recycling and kerbside standardisation are starting to move in the right direction. Considering that kerbside standardisation has only been in effect for about two months, it is too early to draw firm conclusions. We will need more data from the coming months to firm up these conclusions.

Residential Waste to Landfill Activity – February 2024



Total Kerbside Waste

ICC	867.23 tonnes
SDC	312.33 tonnes
GDC	172.92 tonnes
Total	<u>1352.48 tonnes</u>



LANDFILL

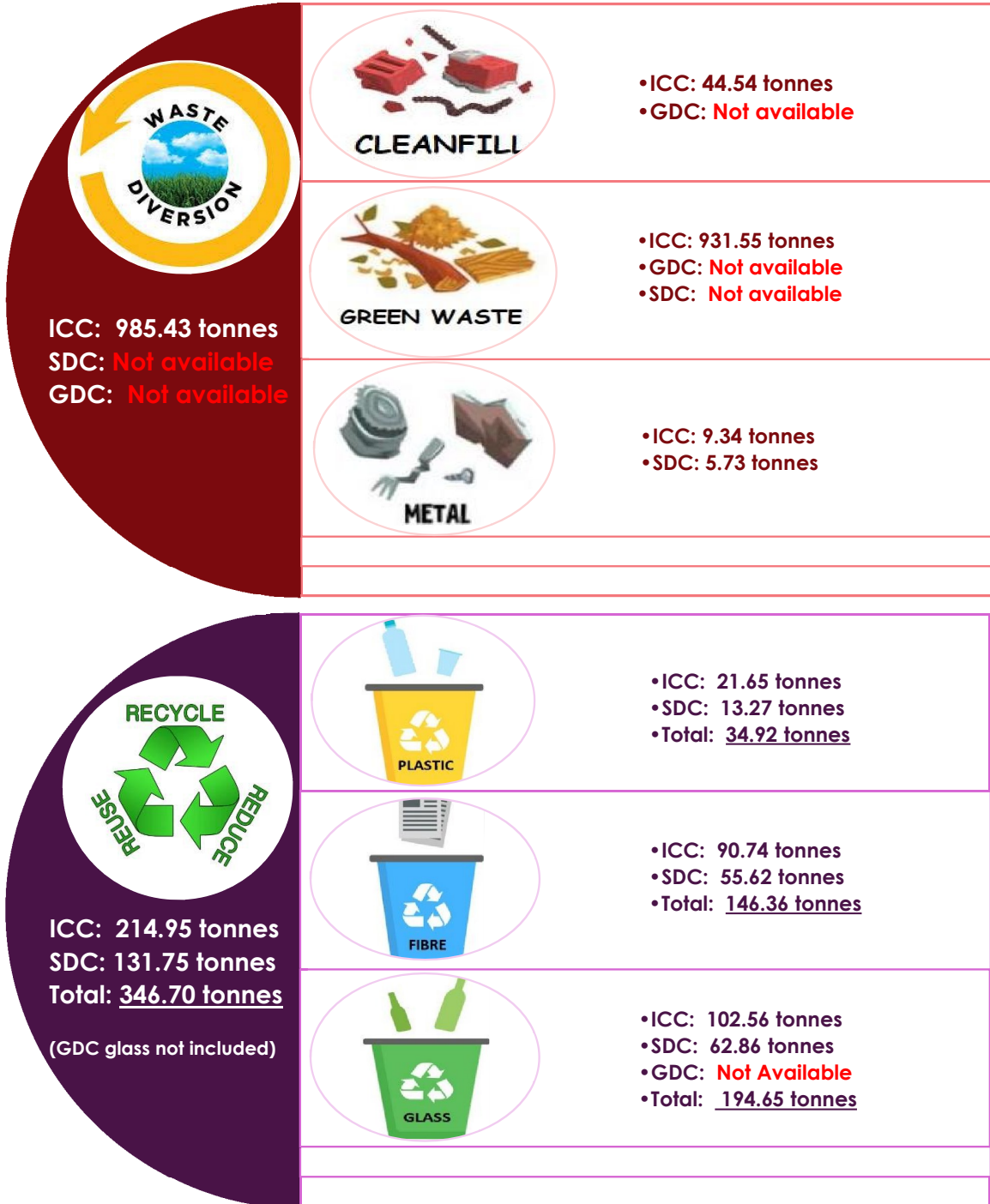
Total residential waste discarded to landfill:
1433.05 tonnes



Total Contaminated Recyclables

ICC	49.95 tonnes
SDC	30.62 tonnes
Total	<u>80.57 tonnes</u>

Waste Diversion from Landfill – February 2024



Total materials diverted from landfill including Recyclables: 1332.13 tonnes
ICC: 1200.38 tonnes | SDC: All data not available | GDC: Not available. (No Clean-fill accepted at SDC Transfer Stations)
Total Refuse from Recycling – 18.21% | Total Recycled – 81.79%
Gore District Council does not participate in the Recyclables Acceptance Contract.

WASTENET EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY UPDATE

To: Waste Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday 8 April 2024

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

This report aims to update the committee on the education and communication activities undertaken by WasteNet staff until the end of March 2024.

The purpose of the education and communication activities is to deliver a collaborative education programme across the Southland region to change behaviour, minimise waste and raise the level of awareness.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group receive the report "WasteNet Education and Communication Activity Update".

Background

Part of the WasteNet Waste Minimisation Education and Communication Strategy is to deliver direct education to our target groups, identified as residential, schools and businesses.

The aim is that all residents, schools, and businesses in the Southland region will have a better understanding of waste minimisation, take voluntary actions to minimise waste and progressively transition to a circular economy.

Activity 1 - Advertising and Community Engagement

WasteNet have continued the advertising campaign that began on 13 November 2023 with community naming of the WasteNet mascot. "Bitz McGee" was utilised in the advertisements and announcements which were subsequently run.

Staff have run advertisements in the Southland Express and Ensign to inform the public on kerbside collection dates and transfer station operating hours during the Easter and Southland Anniversary Day holidays. Staff are also working with the Southland Express to run newspaper advertisements during the duck shooting season (as shown in Figure 1) to minimise the potential for contamination of recyclables over this period.



Figure 1: Duck Shooting Targeted Advertisement

Staff have continued running radio advertisements via NZME and Mediaworks around kerbside standardisation and the changes in what goes in the yellow bin.

Staff are currently running radio advertisements to inform the public on the availability of bin clips that can be picked up from the ICC and SDC councils' front desk. Staff are working to make a short video on how to use the bin clip on the yellow bin which will be posted on the Wastenet website and Facebook page.

Google display advertisements and digital impressions were additional communication channels used to capture public's attention on "what goes in your yellow bin" campaign for kerbside standardisation. January advertisements continued to run till end of February 2024.

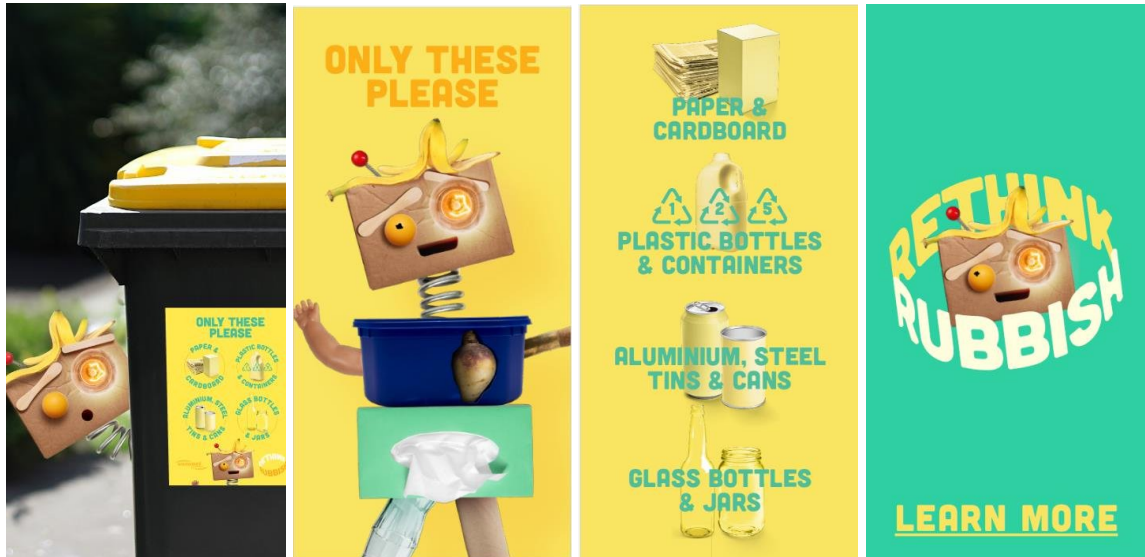


Figure 2: Google Display Advertising Campaign

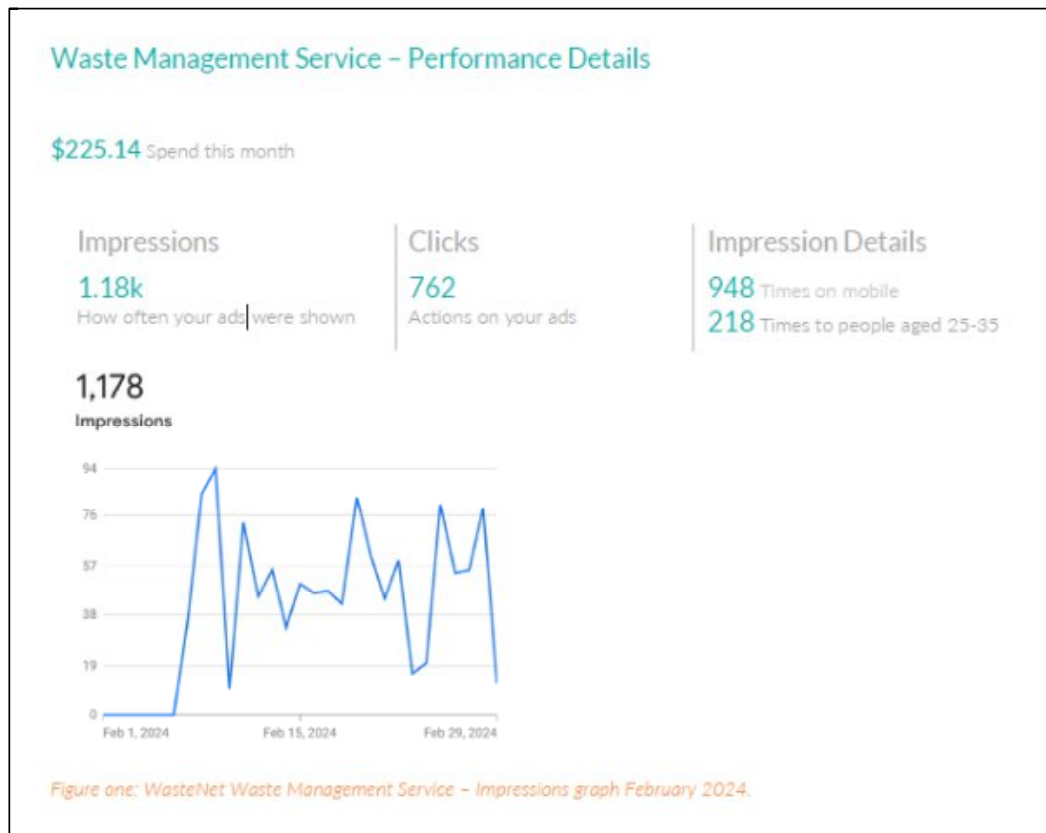


Figure 3: Performance Details – Display Advertisements

Activity 2 - WasteNet Website Updates

The interim website is being continually updated with new information and announcements. Phase 2 of the website began in March 2024, with this phase aimed at providing a resources page, along with an AI chatbot that users can interact with. Staff are currently building an item search database based on information obtained from Hamilton City Council and Queenstown Lakes District Council. This will allow people to search for an item, showing whether it goes in the red or yellow bin or if an alternative disposal method is available (e.g. battery recycling facilities). This is planned to be integrated into the website after staff change the database information to match with the changes in kerbside standardisation.

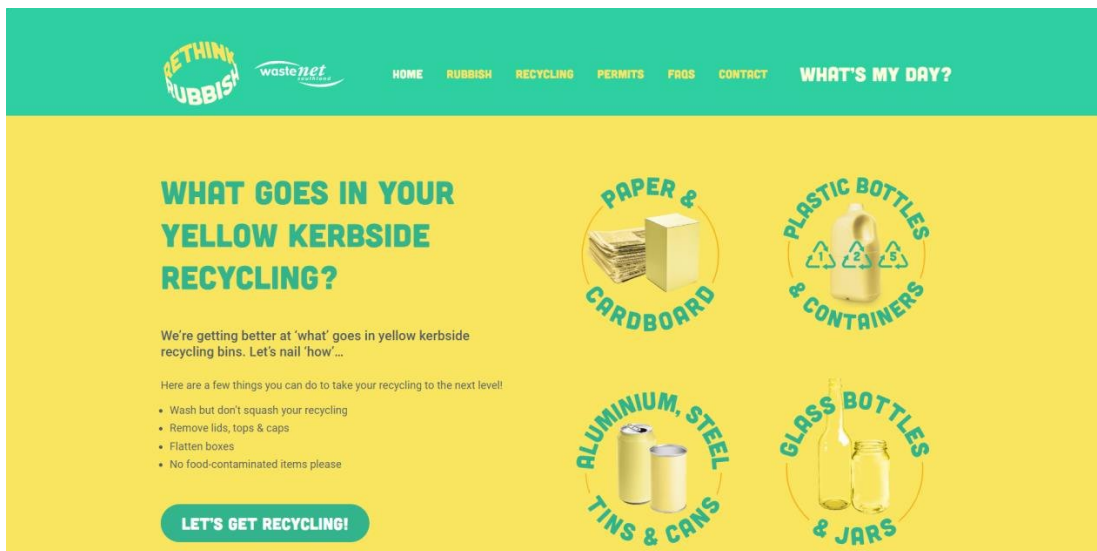


Figure 4: WasteNet Website

Activity 3 – Kerbside Standardisation Education

Staff have been running a campaign to educate public on kerbside standardisation and other related changes required to be implemented by 1 February 2024. As part of the campaign, a series of communications have been released since mid-November to prepare the public for the changes and to continuously remind them of what needs to be done. These communications continued until the end of March 2024.

Bin Sticker Redistribution

The initial distribution of the bin stickers faced complications with delivery, resulting in some areas within ICC and SDC not receiving the stickers as planned. Staff have engaged with the community and collated a list of areas which hadn't received the bin stickers initially, and undertaking another round of distribution to these areas. Staff have also put out communications to inform residents that they may pick up their sticker from the front desk of their local council if they have been missed.



Figure 5: A4 and A5 bin stickers

Activity 4 – Bin Clips

Staff have provided the Bluff Community with 100 bin clips as part of the WasteNet grants scheme and conducted a trial of the effectivity and usability of the bin clips for the public. Staff received positive feedback on the outcomes of the trial. Another 100 bin clips have again been provided to Bluff residents following the first trial. Based on the feedback received from the Bluff community, staff decided to procure 5,000 bin clips to supply to ICC and SDC residents for use on their yellow bins. These bin clips will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. Staff have supplied 1,000 clips to the contractor to start installing them on all new yellow bins which are being supplied to residents moving forward.

Staff have sent out communications and radio advertisements informing the public to pick up a bin clip up from their local council.

More bin clips will be ordered once we understand the demand and as further community feedback is received. WasteNet plans to have a bin clip supplied for all yellow bins in the ICC and SDC region over a period of time.



Figure 6: Bin clip for yellow bin

Activity 5 – Waste Free Wanda

Staff have organised another tour with Waste Free Wanda in May 2024. The tour is planned to run from 6 May – 10 May 2024, reaching as many students as possible over 7 schools and 1 environmental Hui.

The list of schools planned to be visited include:

- Library show for 2 kindergartens
- Otautau school
- St Patrick's School
- Salford School
- Wallacetown School
- Drummond (combined kindergarten show)
- Winton School
- Thornbury – Hui (includes Waianawa, Thornbury, and Heddon Bush Schools)



Figure 7: Waste Free Wanda Tour

Activity 6 – Fly Tipping

Staff have been working on gathering and compiling data on fly-tipping activities within the ICC, SDC and GDC regions to understand the trends in contamination and to make it possible to narrow down the areas with high contamination rates due to fly tipping / illegal dumping.

Figure 8 shows some locations within Invercargill where fly-tipping have been reported. There are more locations, however these were some of the hot spots identified in 2023 within the Invercargill district. Staff are working with the compliance team in ICC to address these behaviours under the Litter Act 1979.

Staff are still gathering data on fly-tipping hot spots within SDC and GDC regions.

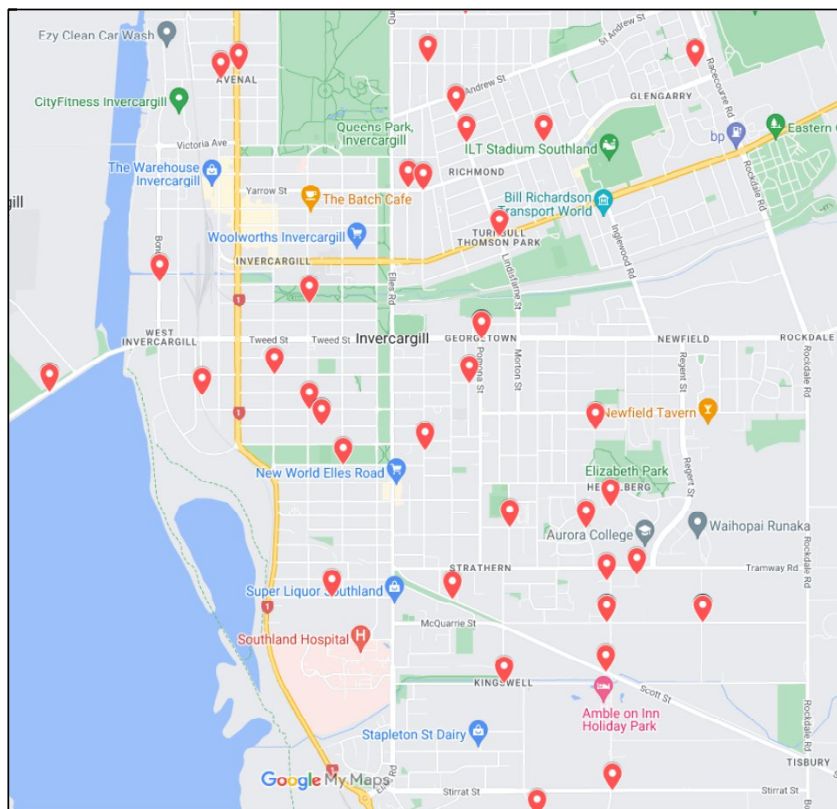


Figure 8: Common fly tipping locations within ICC based on 2023 data

Next Steps

- Staff will continue to update the website to keep it accurate and updated. Phase 2 of the website development, which comes with a resource page and an AI chatbot is to be released.
- Staff are working with the ICC Communications Team on more educational communications around bin clip installation, which will be posted on the WasteNet website.
- Staff to compile battery weights and report to FENZ. Staff are currently engaging with FENZ and WasteMINZ battery group to gain an understanding of the procedures required for safe operation, although this is being currently managed by PMR and E-Cycle.

- Upcoming Waste Free Wanda tour to take place in May 2024.
- Staff to continue working on the fly-tipping data to get a more realistic region-wide picture of the hot spots. Once this data has been collated, a targeted work programme will be developed, with a focus on education and potential enforcement.

Attachments

None



WasteNet – Waste Activity Plan Update

08 April 2024



A5290861



ACTION PLANS FOR FY2023/2024 – ACTIVITY STATUS UPDATE

SEPARATE GLASS COLLECTION INVESTIGATION

- Draft options and costs of glass kerbside collection services presented to WAG.
- ICC consultation on-going as part of Long Term Plan for implementation beginning of FY2024/2025. Consultation open for submissions until 2 April 2024. Deliberations expected to be complete 30 April. LTP to be adopted 25 June 2024.
- SDC working through their consultation.
- GDC to defer consultation by a year.
- Final costs and timeline to be developed and reported to the WAG following consultations and deliberations.
- Grant funding applied for glass bins and bottle banks (ICC).

SCHOOL WASTE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- Waste Free Wanda visited a total of 17 schools since the start of FY2023/24.
- Anna Van Reil represented WasteNet at the EnviroSchool Hui and reached out to 150 tamariki and 16 teachers
- Another tour has been booked for May which is the last tour for this financial year. This tour will focus on kindergartens and rural schools.

RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Social Media Marketing – Driving behaviour change through the WasteNet Facebook page and spreading waste awareness.
- Radio Advertising and Community Engagement – Radio partners have completed the following campaigns
 - What goes in your yellow bin? – related to kerbside standardisation
 - Rethink Rubbish Southland
- New WasteNet Website Resources – Constantly being updated with new information
- ICC rolled out Antenno 12 March 2024 – keeps city up-to-date with rubbish and recycling collections

KERBSIDE STANDARDISATION

- Kerbside standardisation rolled out 1 February 2024.
- Bin stickers – Continuing distribution to areas that haven't received the stickers yet.
- 5000 Bin clips ordered and made available at SDC and ICC front desks for public to collect on an as-needed basis for their yellow bin.
- Bin clip instructions and information updated on WasteNet website.

ACTION PLANS FOR FY2023/2024 – ACTIVITY STATUS UPDATE

ORGANICS BUSINESS CASE

- Organics funding application approved by Ministry for the Environment.
- RFP for the organics feasibility study to be out in the market for three weeks.

BATTERY DISPOSAL FACILITY

- Staff have rolled out project in December 2023.
- Staff looking at additional battery disposal locations within Southland to expand the reach for public.
- Staff monitoring data – Data shows disposal rate has gone down. Staff to do additional campaigns to raise awareness.
- No fires reported at the landfill following implementation which is a trend that will be monitored.

NEW WASTENET WEBSITE

- Staff working with developer on Phase 2 of the WasteNet website. This stage will include a few new pages:
 - Resource page
 - Tools and a chat bot
 - A - Z Item search function
 - Dashboard

COMMUNITY GRANTS

- All successful applicants have been funded.
- Staff to review the community grants process for the next financial year to make it easier for coastal clean-up applications.

