



Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) will be held in the Gore District Council Chambers, Civic Administration Building, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Monday 15 July 2024, at 10.00 am.

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

15 July 2024 10:00 AM

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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 10 June 2024
- b) Emissions Trading Scheme and AB Lime Unique Emissions Factor Overview

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 10 June 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 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>
b) Emissions Trading Scheme and AB Lime Unique Emissions Factor Overview	<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>



Minutes of a meeting of the Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet), held in the Gore District Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Monday 10 June 2024, at 9.05am

Present

Gore District Council

Cr Keith Hovell (Chair) and Cr Neville Phillips.

Southland District Council

Mayor Mr Rob Scott.

Invercargill City Council

Cr Ian Pottinger.

In attendance

Ms Fiona Walker, Director of WasteNet, General Manager Critical Services (Mr Jason Domigan, Gore District Council), Group Manager Assets (Ms Erin Moogan, Invercargill City Council, via Zoom), Annie Benjamin (Invercargill City Council) and Fran Mikulicic (Southland District via Zoom until 9.53am).

Apology

Cr Christine Menzies apologised for absence, accepted on the motion of Cr Pottinger, seconded by Mayor Scott.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor Scott, seconded by Cr Phillips, **THAT** the minutes of the Waste Advisory Group meeting held on Monday 8 April 2024, as presented, be confirmed as a true and complete record.

2. WASTENET STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FY2024-2025

A copy of the draft strategic plan for FY2024/25 presenting the proposed work programmes to be completed by WasteNet over the coming 12 months had been circulated with the agenda. A workshop had been held in May 2024 to consider the

draft plan and some minor amendments had been made based on feedback received during the workshop.

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

AND THAT the implementation of the WasteNet FY2024/25 strategic plan be approved.

3. FINANCIAL STANDING AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY2024/25

A report providing an update on WasteNet's financial position alongside the proposed budget for the FY2024/25 year had been circulated with the agenda. The report presented alternative mechanisms to fund the proposed budget as well as an overview of landfill fees including those proposed for the FY2024/25 year, an overview of WasteNet's reserves and a summary of FY2023/24 mid-point financial performance.

The meeting adjourned as Cr Pottinger left the meeting at 9.08am. He returned at 9.11am and the meeting resumed.

Cr Stewart attended the meeting via Zoom from 9.15am

Discussion followed on the budget, including assumptions made around waste volumes and the associated implications for the proposed budget. Discussion focussed on how the budget was funded, noting the balance between reserve and increases in the landfill gate fee. Mayor Scott referred to the reserves that were almost \$2 million and asked what a reasonable reserve balance should be? Cr Hovell said the Joint Agreement permitted that a surplus from one year could be used to fund operating shortfalls the following year. It was a matter of balance. His thought was reserves should be utilised in a way that benefitted the whole region. Mayor Scott highlighted that should reserves be used to fund the shortfall, that there was a risk of landfill fees seeing a significant increase in the future when available reserves were exhausted.

Discussion followed on staff costs included in the draft budget. Cr Hovell referred to staff and wondered if the staff functions should be charged to WasteNet on an hourly basis rather than as an FTE equivalent. Ms Moogan said the approach taken historically was where a position was dedicated to WasteNet it had been charged as a FTE role. Where there was less than an FTE, such as finance team costs, the charge was made on an hourly rate. Ms Moogan confirmed that where a dedicated role was vacant, these costs would not be charged unless staff were on board. Discussion followed on how to approach the currently vacant Community Engagement role, including use of part-time staff potentially.

In response to Mayor Scott asking if there would be an increase in fees to cover staff positions, Ms Moogan said the Director role had not been held for a full year previously. The General Manager Critical Services said the Group needed to be

mindful that there were sufficient resources in place to achieve what the Group wanted. Ms Moogan said a lot of the work that the Director was expected to take on were tasks that the Group had not previously been resourced to do.

Discussion took place on the statement of financial position, including outstanding debtors. Subsequent discussion extended to AB Lime's performance and obligations in relation to the Emissions Trading Scheme, including the role of organic material in the landfill and current government mandates. A paper on the matter was requested to be presented by staff to the Group.

The meeting considered the options presented to fund the budget deficit.

General discussion on approach to recycling currently being taken by each of the different Councils. Cr Hovell said the Gore District had considered introducing a third bin but based on the feedback from submissions to the draft Annual Plan, it was unlikely to proceed. Cr Pottinger said the Invercargill City Council's (ICC) Long Term Plan had rejected a blue bin. ICC was encouraging residents to take glass elsewhere. Mayor Scott said the Southland District Council had three options out for consultation. Ms Moogan added from ICC's perspective, whilst there was a bottle bank option put forward, the Council decided not to go with a glass bin or bottle bank, but would revisit glass collection as part of the contract renewal process in 2027.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hovell, seconded by Mayor Scott, THAT the financial standing and proposed budget for FY2024/25 report be received,

THAT the proposed budget for FY2024/25 be approved,

AND THAT the mechanism to fund the budget deficit be option B, being to marginally increase the WasteNet administration fee and allocate reserves to fund specific strategic and waste minimisation and improvement activities. This option would increase the gate fee by \$1.64 to a total of \$216.34/T, with the WasteNet administration fee component increasing from \$17.27/T to \$18.91/T. The remainder of the deficit would be funded by drawing \$375,000 from current reserves.

4. WAG KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A copy of a report prepared by the Commercial and Contracts Manager had been circulated with the agenda. It included data on key performance indicators, including:

- Materials discarded rate;
- Waste volumes to landfill; and
- Diversion rate and recycling data.

For the Southland region, the cumulative waste discarded through transfer stations to the landfill was currently tracking 6.2% (1,930.34 tonnes) less than the same period-to-date last year. The year-to-date average of contamination in recyclables was currently 18.2% down from 19.42% same period-to-date last year. The volume of

diverted material had increased with a year-to-date average of 33.4% compared to 31.28% for the same period-to-date last year.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Pottinger, seconded by Cr Phillips, THAT the information be received,

AND THAT the materials discarded, waste to landfill and diversion data and trends be noted.

5. WASTENET EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION UPDATE

A copy of an education and communication update report on WasteNet prepared by the Director of WasteNet had been circulated.

The meeting discussed the content of the report that included an update on school waste education activities, residential education and community engagement and an update on business waste minimisation education.

The current regional organics feasibility study being undertaken was discussed, including scope and outcomes.

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

AND THAT the proposed 2024/25 education and engagement activities be endorsed.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am

WASTENET STRATEGIC PLAN EXECUTION AND ACTIVITY UPDATE

To: Waste Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday 15 July 2024

From: WasteNet – Fiona Walker (Director)

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

This report aims to update the Committee on progress with executing the WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan and to provide an overview of associated activities up 1 July 2024.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receive the report "WasteNet Strategic Plan Execution and Activity Update".

Background

The WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan (refer to Appendix 1) overviews WasteNet's goals, target condition and performance indicators, as well as documenting the resulting work programme to achieve the target outcomes.

Table 1 provides a summary of progress with implementing the WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan as at 1 July 2024.

Table 1 - WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan Execution Summary

Status	Number of Workstreams Due To-Date	Task / Project Description
Complete	2	- WAG workshop to confirm strategy - Establish regular linkages between WasteNet and SDC, GDC & ICC: Staff & Councils
In Progress	4	- Recruitment and on-boarding: Data Officer & Community Engagement Officer - Implement business management systems & team KPIs - Organics (food & green waste) assessment - Glass out consultation & implementation
Overdue	0	

Total	6	Overall it is considered that WasteNet is on track to deliver the FY24/25 Strategic Plan.
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WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan Activities Update

Workstream: Setting the Strategic Direction

Scope: This workstream ensures that there a clear direction for the FY24/25 year. The scope includes a workshop to set priorities and the resulting WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan (the plan). Review of the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement was also included to ensure that there was regional alignment moving forward.

Activity Update: All tasks within this workstream have been completed as scheduled to-date. Following on from the June 2024 WAG meeting, during which the draft WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan was endorsed, implementation of the plan has commenced. Processes have also been revised to ensure that regular updates on progress with executing the WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan are provided to WAG.

Review of the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement is on-track to commence in August 2024 as scheduled. The *WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement Review Process* report has been presented to the Waste Advisory Group for consideration during the July 2024 committee meeting, with this report presenting timelines and well as the proposed methodology for the review. Actions will be taken by WasteNet pending the outcomes of the July 2024 committee meeting.

Workstream: Refreshing Southland's Waste Management Framework

Scope: This workstream is focussed on updating the framework WasteNet and the three Councils operate within. The scope extends to establishing a waste management and minimisation bylaw as well as workstreams associated with refreshing the regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP).

Activity Update: In preparation for upcoming milestones, Request for Tender documents have been prepared and circulated to receive proposals from consultants to support the regional waste assessment and WMMP refresh. Responses to this are due to be received by WasteNet from 10 July 2024. On this basis, tasks contained in this workstream are all currently on-track as scheduled.

Workstream: Building and Streamlining WasteNet's Operations

Scope: This workstream encapsulates actions to ensure that WasteNet is operating effectively and efficiently as a shared business unit. Actions focus on financial management, staffing and operating systems.

Activity Update: As at 1 July 2024, one of the three action items have been completed as scheduled, being establishing regular linkages between WasteNet and SDC, GDC and ICC. At a staff level, regular standing appointments have been set between the WasteNet Director and General Managers/Infrastructure teams. These connections are further supported by the standing Waste Managers Meeting (monthly – 6-weekly) and the operational All Council Waste Meeting (monthly) which are attended by WasteNet and Council staff. Presentations have also been made to Council and/or Council committees and a 6-monthly cadence has been set for this activity.

In relation to recruitment, this has been partially progressed with the Community Engagement Officer still vacant. To address this, existing staff are supporting business as-usual activities and an external contractor, Ali Green, has been engaged to support specific projects.

A further action which is in-progress is that to implement business management systems and team key performance indicators. This task includes establishing a weekly team meeting for WasteNet staff to confirm task priorities for staff, ensure actions are delivered and to monitor key performance indicators in order to drive action as required.

Workstream: Pathway to 2027 Contract Renewals

Scope: Key service contracts, being the kerbside collection contract held with WasteCo and the recycling processing contract held with Recycle South are both due to expire mid-2027. This workstream includes actions to progress procurement in a timely and considered manner.

Activity Update: In preparation for upcoming milestones, staff have met to identify roles and responsibilities as well as to map out in detail the actions required for the contracts renewals workstream. On this basis, tasks contained in this workstream are all currently on-track as scheduled.

Workstream: Meeting Legislative Requirements and Projects

Scope: This workstreams includes actions items required to position Councils to meet pending or forecast legislative requirements, particularly those mandated by central government / Ministry for the Environment. For the 2024/25 year, focus areas include organics collection and processing, glass out recycling and tyre product stewardship (Tyrewise).

Activity Update: Two items are in-progress, being the regional organics feasibility assessment and the glass out consultation and implementation actions. The former is not due to be completed until 30 August 2024 and is progressing as planned. Due to the stage of the project, being data collation and stakeholder consultation, there are no noteworthy updates from this feasibility study available at present.

In relation to the glass out action items, consultation is currently underway across the region, with Invercargill City Council and Gore District Council now having completed their processes and electing to defer glass out kerbside collection services. Further requirements and/or actions are to be confirmed pending Southland District Council consultation and deliberation outcomes.

Follow-up / Parking Lot

Scope: The abovementioned workstreams were set as the priority for FY24/25 however it was recognised that there were a range of further items which should be monitored and/or implemented should resourcing allow.

Activity Update:

1. Actions associated with Te Rautaki Para (NZ Waste Strategy) include the introduction of expansion of kerbside recycling to all centres with populations greater than 1,000 by 2027 and kerbside organics collections by 2030. During the May 2024 WasteMINZ conference, Hon. Penny Simmonds delivered a key note address. This address provided an update in relation to Te Rautaki Para and confirmed that *the Government is considering whether these policies will continue as planned... Should the policy be progressed, the Government will consider whether councils need more time to put it in place.*

On this basis, there are currently no specific actions being driven by WasteNet in relation to Te Rautaki Para (NZ Waste Strategy).

2. In relation to the item of "ETS fees / AB Lime Review", the *Emissions Trading Scheme and AB Lime Unique Emissions Factor Overview* report has been presented to the Waste Advisory Group for consideration during the July 2024 committee meeting. Actions will be taken by WasteNet pending the outcomes of this committee meeting.

Attachments

1. WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan Update as at 1 July 2024 (A5436232)

SOUTHLAND REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN REVIEW PROCESS SUMMARY

To: Waste Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday 15 July 2024

From: WasteNet – Fiona Walker (Director)

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

This report provides an overview of the process and requirements associated with revising the Southland Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), with this scheduled to be completed in FY 2024/25. The report also provides a summary of legislative requirements associated with revising the WMMP, being the Waste Management Act 2008 (WMA) and Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

Recommendations

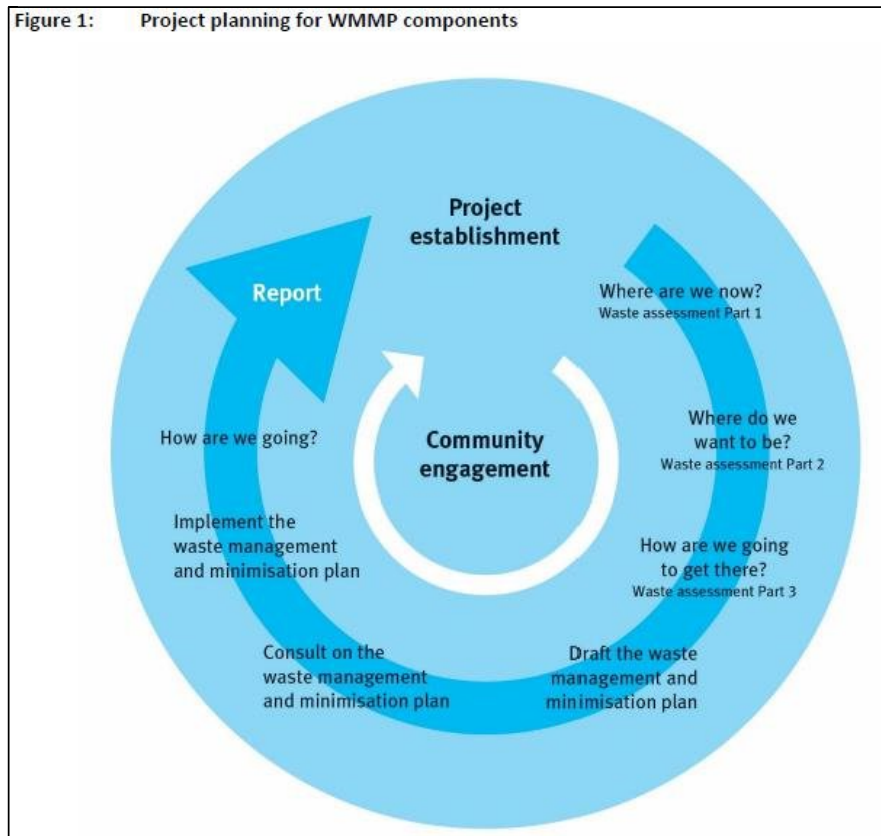
That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receive the report "Southland Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Review Process Summary",
2. Confirm any specific considerations to be incorporated into the general programme associated with the WMMP review, and
3. Endorse replacement of the current Southland Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2020-2026 with a further joint waste management and minimisation plan for Southland.

Background

The Waste Management Act 2008 specifies that territorial authorities must, either separately or jointly, adopt a waste management and minimisation plan. The plan is to include objectives, policies and methods for achieving effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within the territorial authority's district. The plan must be reviewed at least every six years and failure to do so may result in a council's levy funding payments being withheld.

Figure 1 presents the process for reviewing a waste management and minimisation plan:



When preparing the plan, the territorial authority must consider (in order of importance) reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal. Before reviewing the plan, a waste assessment must be completed to inform the plan review, with the assessment including current services, forecast future demands, and a statement of options to meet future demands including services and infrastructure.

With regards to public consultation, the WMA specifies that the special consultative procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 shall be adhered to.

Depending on the outcomes of the above, section 17A(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002 is also likely to apply in that a local authority must review the cost-effectiveness of current arrangements for meeting the needs of communities in conjunction with consideration of any significant change to relevant service levels.

Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Review

The current Southland Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2020 – 2026 was adopted in December 2020. Revision of this plan is scheduled to be completed in FY24/25 in order to meet the requirements of the WMA which specifies that a plan shall be reviewed every six years. It is also of note that core waste service contracts for Southland are due to expire mid-2027 and therefore the WMMP review and waste assessment has been timed to inform procurement of these services.

The WMMP 2020-2026 adopted a holding pattern pending waste sector direction and was also based on an abridged waste assessment due to time constraints at the time of preparing the WMMP. Therefore it is considered that a thorough and comprehensive review is required for

this revision of the WMMP in order to accurately forecast future demands and associated work programmes. Due to time-constraints in 2020, public engagement in the review process was also relatively limited. It is proposed that public engagement would be more wide-reaching and in-depth during this review process with engagement specifically aimed at Iwi, key stakeholders, community/industry sectors and the general public.

Despite being a joint regional document, the review process will require action and resourcing from individual councils, most notably that required to support the public consultation and hearing processes. It is proposed that Invercargill City Council Strategy, Policy and Engagement staff would take a lead/coordinator role for these components.

Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Review Programme and Timelines

Ministry for the Environment guidance material recommends a period of 12 – 18 months to complete a plan review. The duration of the process is largely determined by the level of consultation that is undertaken.

To initiate this process, WasteNet staff have provided a Request for Proposal (RfP) document to three consultants, with responses due to be received by 10 July 2024. The RfP specifies the following timeline:

Description	Indicative Date for Delivery
Project Team Briefing and Planning	15 August 2024
Data Collection and Analysis	30 November 2024
Draft Waste Assessment Report	15 December 2024
Draft Waste Assessment Presentation to Stakeholders	30 January 2025
Final Waste Assessment Report	28 February 2025
Draft WMMP	30 March 2025
Final draft WMMP following stakeholder review and feedback	30 June 2025
Final WMMP for adoption	15 July 2025

Feedback and updates will be provided to the Waste Advisory Group at specified intervals, specifically a workshop to review performance and direction of the current WMMP, a presentation of the waste assessment outcomes and proposed direction for the WMMP, and review of the draft WMMP content.

Attachments

None.

WASTENET SOUTHLAND JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT REVIEW PROCESS

To: Waste Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday 15 July 2024

From: WasteNet – Fiona Walker (Director)

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

This report provides an overview of the proposed process to review the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement, with this scheduled to be completed in FY2024/25.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report 'Wastenet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement Review Process'.
2. Confirm the preferred approach to reviewing the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement, and
3. Endorse the timelines presented for the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement review process.

Background

WasteNet is a Joint Committee of the Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council (the WasteNet Councils). Formed in the early 2000's, WasteNet operates as a shared business unit providing joint waste management and minimisation services to each Council under the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement (Joint Agreement) which was approved in 2011.

The Joint Agreement provides the framework for collaboration, governance, service contract arrangements and management, financial management and support services.

Given the evolution of WasteNet coupled with upcoming activities, notably renewal of the region's key waste management service contracts which expire mid-2027, it is timely to revise the Joint Agreement to ensure that there is a current and endorsed framework. This process is scheduled and budgeted to be completed in FY2024/25.

Proposed Joint Agreement Review Process

It is proposed that the review process would be conducted by an independent third party as follows:

1. Undertake face-to-face interviews with key stakeholders, being:
 - Mayor and Chief Executive of Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council.
 - An elected member directly involved with WasteNet from each of Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council.
 - Relevant council officers such as Group Manager(s) and Operations Manager(s) from each of Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council.
2. A facilitated session with each individual council to review and gather feedback on the current Joint Agreement and desired future state.
3. Consolidated report presented to WAG summarising the key insights from the above and recommended next steps.

The WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan has the Joint Management review process scheduled to occur from August to October (inclusive) 2024.

Attachments

None.

WASTENET EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY UPDATE

To: Waste Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday 15 July 2024

From: WasteNet – Fiona Walker (Director)

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 June 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 increase awareness.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Education and Communication Activity Update".

Background

Part of the WasteNet Business Plan is to deliver direct education to our target groups which are identified as schools, residential 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.

The following workstreams form the **2024/25 Education and Engagement Activities**:

Status	School Education Activities	Residential Education and Engagement Activities	Business Engagement Activities
Underway	Waste Free Wanda	Advertising via Radio, Social Media and Digital	Organics Feasibility Study
		WasteNet Website: Phase II	
		Flytipping – Data Collation	
		Love Food Hate Waste	
		Plastic Free July Campaign	
Not Yet Initiated	Presence at ILT KidZone (July 2025)	General Media: Fridge magnets	Agri-waste drop-off scheme: Targeted engagement
		Bin Clips – Further distribution	Business Waste Reduction Audit Toolkits
		Flytipping – Targeted education	
		Community Events / Fair	Waste Reduction Toolkits
		Bin Audits	Trade Shows / Events
	Engagement and Consultation regarding Waste Minimisation and Management Plan review		
Proposed	-	-	-

School Waste Education Activities Update

Waste Free Wanda

Scope: Waste Free Wanda is an interactive stage show for early childhood and primary-aged children, written and performed by award-winning singer/songwriter Anna van Riel. It helps children learn how to reduce waste and discover tools that prevent us from relying solely on recycling to minimise waste.

Activity Status: Waste Free Wanda is next due to complete a tour in mid-July 2024, with a show at the Invercargill City Library as well as shows to be attended by the following schools:

- Rimu School
- Tokanui School
- Gorge Rd School
- West Gore School
- St. Mary's School
- Limehills School
- Heddon Bush School
- Ascot School
- Ascot Kindergarten

This tour will have a reach of 1,038 children across five days.

Residential Education and Community Engagement Update

WasteNet Website

Scope: The WasteNet website is being upgraded in two phases in order to provide information to the public on bin collection services, recycling guidelines and standards, and general information on waste minimisation. Phase I of the website upgrade was completed in 2023. Phase II of the website's development commenced in March 2024, with this phase aimed at providing a resources page, along with an AI chatbot that users can interact with.

Activity Status: The A-Z item search database is now live on the website. This search function enables the public to confirm which kerbside collection bin the item goes in to as well as providing information on where the item is able to be diverted to where applicable. For

example, entering 'light bulb' into the search box confirms that the item should go into the red bin, however also notes that unbroken bulbs can be taken to Mitre 10. The content of this A-Z search function will be continually refined and refreshed as new pathways as established to divert materials from landfill.

The streamlined interface for Landfill Authorised Users was also launched in June 2024, in order to meet the operational needs of AB Lime, WasteNet and Authorised Users. The refreshed interface rationalises the process for applying for a Special Waste Permit and also improves the ability of WasteNet to collate and access records relating to Authorised Users and Special Waste Permits.

Love Food Hate Waste

Scope: Launched by WasteMINZ in 2016, Love Food Hate Waste NZ is supported by 52 councils across the country, including WasteNet, as well as by funding from the Ministry for Environment. Love Food Hate Waste provides educational material and co-ordinates events to minimise the amount of food waste going to landfill.

Activity Status: Data from Love Food Hate Waste and Ministry for the Environment (MfE) shows that over 12,901 tonnes of leftovers are wasted in New Zealand every year. In response to this, Love Food Hate Waste NZ is launching an online digital "Leftovers Legends" campaign in July 2024. The campaign is designed to debunk commonly held myths about leftovers and provide recipes which use common leftover foods. The digital campaign material has been circulated to each of the three WasteNet Council Communications Teams to utilise as required and will also be shared across the WasteNet platforms.

Plastic Free July

Scope: Plastic Free July is an international campaign which encourages people to minimise plastic pollution through simple swaps and considered purchasing. The focus is on avoiding single-use plastics and hard to recycle products.

Activity Status: WasteNet have engaged an external contractor, Ali Green, to hold an event on behalf of WasteNet at the Gore District Council library for members of the public on 24 July 2024. The workshop event will deliver education on everyday purchasing choices which avoid plastic packaging and also on recycling options available to Gore residents. Members of the public will be able to register for the event and attend at no cost. This event is intended to act as a pilot, with the approach and learnings to be applied to further local events in the calendar year.

Advertising: Radio, Social Media and Digital Media and Flytipping: Data Collation

There have not been any significant alterations to nor outcomes from the Radio, Social Media and Digital Media campaigns and the flytipping data collation programme of works further to the WasteNet Education And Communication Activity Update submitted to WAG in June 2024.

Business Waste Minimisation Education Update

Organics Feasibility Study

Scope: WasteNet has commissioned a feasibility study to review organics collection and processing options for the Southland Region. This involves surveying and engaging with key stakeholders around current activities which produce and/or consume organics and potential options for recovering and/or processing organic material.

Activity Status: The organics feasibility study commenced in May 2024 with data collation and analysis. A series of in-person meetings were held by Tonkin + Taylor with key stakeholders between 24 - 25 June 2024, which included waste service providers, composting operators, primary sector representatives and industries, and community organisations. This engagement will be continued via online meetings and phone calls in July 2024. Te Ao Marama Inc have confirmed that they wish to be included in this consultation and engagement process, with a meeting date to be set.

As an output of this feasibility study, Tonkin + Taylor will prepare an options analysis and feasibility report and it is intended that this report will be presented to the Waste Advisory Group in September 2024.

Attachments

None