

28 June 2021

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

We refer to your official information request dated 18 June 2021 regarding our kerbside recycling service.

The information you have requested is enclosed.

1. How much recycling has been collected by your council per year in tonnes?

**Answer:** For the year June 2020 to May 2021, we collected about 5,700 tonnes of recycling at the kerbside.

The last two years have seen a reduction in tonnage collected, for various reasons:

- Narrowing of eligible plastic items (plastics #3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) no longer collected at kerbside since about May 2019; and plastic items no longer accepted at recycling stations
  - COVID-19 (inability to process most recycling during lockdown) noting that glass was collected during the lockdown.
  - Continued closure of two recycling stations since the onset of COVID-19 (only two remaining, albeit to be closed on 30 June 2021, due to the roll out of our new service)
2. Of the recycling collected how much has been sent to landfill per year in tonnes? If possible, please include the reason why (ie recycling contamination).

**Answer:** For the year June 2020 to May 2021, about 14% of collected recycling was contamination, such as rubbish items, ineligible plastics, etc.

3. Of the recycling collected, how much has been recycled domestically per year within New Zealand in tonnes?

**Answer:** Information on tonnage for different material streams is not held by Council, as the collected recycling becomes the property of the contractor Waste Management NZ

once collected. For an overview of where materials go, please refer to the following pages:

<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/Services/Rubbish-and-recycling/Your-recycling/where-your-recycling-goes/>

<http://heart.huttcity.govt.nz/services/recycling-changes-on-the-way-for-lower-hutt/>

4. Of the recycling collected, how much has been sent overseas to be recycled per year in tonnes? (please include the country sent to).

**Answer:** See <http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/Services/Rubbish-and-recycling/Your-recycling/where-your-recycling-goes/>

Plastics classified as 1 and 2 are clear polyethylene terephthalate (PET 1) and High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE 2). PET 1, used for soft drink and juice bottles, is recycled by Lower Hutt's Flight Plastics and is processed into containers for produce like kiwifruit. Plastic milk bottles and detergent containers which are classified as HDPE 2 are sent to Palmerston North where they're turned into pallets, ending up as wheelie bins and other products. Glass is processed at O-I in Auckland.

5. Please include a brief outline of which items your council can and cannot recycle? (particularly around the types of plastics).

**Answer:** Plastics 1, 2, and 5 (from 1 July 2021) are accepted via our kerbside recycling service. A full overview of what is accepted is available at [www.toogoodtowaste.nz](http://www.toogoodtowaste.nz).

Please find attached a spreadsheet *DOC 19 14631 Recycling Tonnage - HCC recycling contract* which contains data on the amount of waste and recycling collected.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Jörn Scherzer  
Head of Climate and Solid Waste

We are unable to upload the mentioned PDF as the file is too large, if you would like a copy please email [informationmanagementteam@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:informationmanagementteam@huttcity.govt.nz)