



OPEN Briefing: FOGO – Food and green organics

2 July 2026 – 12.00pm

Attendees

Elected Members: Mayor Fauono Laban, Cr Barratt, Deputy Mayor Brown, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Cr Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Parkin, Cr Puketapu, Cr Ravi, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Cr Tonga-Grant, Cr Yung.

Staff: J Miller, Chief Executive; A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities; J Kingsbury, Director Economy and Development; R Hardie, Acting Director Strategy and Engagement; B Cato, Chief Legal Officer; J Randall, Democratic Services Administrator; J Young, Democracy Advisor.

Presenters

L Frude, Advisor Resource Recovery and J Scherzer, Head of Climate, Waste, Resource Recovery.

Introduction

The briefing provided an update on Council's work to divert organic waste from landfill, including progress on the regional Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) programme, and outlined future opportunities and challenges for expanding organics processing and collection to reduce emissions, extend landfill life, and support the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

Key Objectives of the Briefing

The objective of the briefing was to update elected members on options to increase organics diversion from landfill, including the associated opportunities, constraints, costs, and diversion outcomes. It also sought feedback from elected members to inform the future direction of the programme and delivery of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan targets.

Presentation by L Frude, Advisor Resource Recovery and J Scherzer, Head of Climate, Waste, Resource Recovery.

Slide 1 (Header)

Slide 2 – The why and our existing commitments

Slide 3 –Why organics matter

Slide 4 – Organics in Silverstream waste streams

Slide 5 – Organic waste streams at Silverstream

Slide 6 – Council commitments

Slide 7 – What we are doing and gaps

Slide 8 – What we're doing already

Slide 9 – What we’re doing already

Slide 10 – What we’re doing already

Slide 11 – Key takeaways

Slide 12 – Recap on previous work toward a regional processing solution for FOGO

Slide 13 – Background

Slide 14 – Recap: Processing options at scale in Aotearoa

Slide 15 – Where we are at now

Slide 16 – Recap of recent decisions: HCC & WCC

Slide 17 – Are there feasible options going forward?

Slide 18 – Discounted options

Slide 19 – Possible options that could work at city-wide scale

Slide 20 – Working with composting service providers

Slide 21 – Composting service providers

Slide 22 – Increase green waste service frequency

Slide 23 – Green Waste Service change (to fortnightly or weekly)

Slide 24 – Green waste service change continued

Slide 25 – FOGO service

Slide 26 – Kerbside collection (FOGO)

Slide 27 – The opportunity

Slide 28 – Key features

Slide 29 – Key advantages

Slide 30 – With the Manawatu facility, what could costs look like for a FOGO service

Slide 31 – Comparing kerbside options

Slide 32 – Cost comparison of kerbside options

Slide 33 – What does this all mean?

Slide 34 – Questions & feedback & next steps

Slide 35 – Thank you

Questions and discussion points

- Members noted the importance of taking a coordinated regional approach to waste management and organics diversion, particularly in light of the planned closure of Spicer Landfill in 2036 and the increasing reliance on the region's remaining landfills. Members also acknowledged that, while the regional procurement process had not identified an affordable Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) processing solution, work would continue to investigate alternative regional processing options.
- In response to questions about using differential landfill pricing to encourage waste diversion, the Head of Climate, Waste, Resource Recovery advised that, while feasible in principle, it was not currently practical due to the lack of reliable data on landfill waste composition and differing waste collection models across councils.
- Regarding whether a future Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service would be mandatory and how it would apply to smaller households, the Head of Climate, Waste, Resource Recovery advised that comparable council-operated kerbside services were generally rates-funded and applied to all households to achieve the economies of scale needed to keep costs affordable. Households would continue to have

different bin size options to reflect varying waste volumes, but an opt-out approach would undermine the financial viability of the service.

- Regarding an opt-in Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service using pay-as-you-use technology, the Head of Climate, Waste, Resource Recovery advised that previous investigations found the model was not economically viable. Collection vehicles would still need to service all streets regardless of participation, reducing potential savings, and technical limitations with RFID tags and QR codes remained. He added that waste audits showed almost all households disposed of food or garden organics, supporting the case for a universal collection service.

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – Presentation: [OPEN FOGO – Council Briefing 2 July 2026.pdf](#)

The briefing closed at 12.30PM