



2 July 2025

Tom Riley
fyi-request-31198-14354c13@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Tom,

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 03 June 2025, regarding the implementation of the three strikes policy for recycling bin contamination. Please find our responses to each of your questions below:

1. How long do warnings stay on record?

Answer: *If a household receives two red stickers and there is a further contamination incident, the recycling bin is removed. Please refer to [Too Good To Waste](#) for more information. Warnings remain valid for 3 months.*

2. How many warnings have been issued, broken down by stage?

Answer: *Since November 2022, and as of May 2025, the total number of stickers issued are:*

- *Green sticker: 237,681*
- *Orange: 3,119*
- *1st red sticker: 9,275*
- *2nd red sticker: 1,872*

3. How many recycling bins have been revoked?

Answer: *As of May 2025, we have removed a total of 713 recycling bins.*

4. How many bins have been reinstated?

Answer: *As of May 2025, we have reinstated a total of 69 recycling bins.*

5. Any other information about the three strikes policy and how it has been implemented.

Answer: *Stickering of bins, and removal in case of repeated contamination incidents, commenced in 2022.*

Residents receive green, orange, or red stickers based on the contents of their recycling bins. If a household has received two red stickers and there is a further contamination incident, their recycling bin is removed. However, in case of significant contamination that presents a health and safety risk, bins may be removed immediately.

The policy was introduced in response to high contamination rates in the kerbside recycling system. Contamination not only undermines waste diversion efforts but also results in financial penalties for Council when levels exceed 10%. These penalties can be up to about \$30,000 per month, depending on contamination levels recorded through regular scoop testing at the processing facility.

For further details, please refer to [Too Good To Waste](#) and this [Committee paper](#) (page 7) and the subsequent update paper (page 14).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [How to make a complaint | Ombudsman New Zealand](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases | Hutt City Council](#)

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebekah'.

Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy