

HUTT CITY COUNCILKOMITI KAUPAPA TAIAO
CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road,
Lower Hutt on

Wednesday 4 September 2024 commencing at 2:00 pm

PRESENT:

Cr J Briggs (Chair)	Mayor C Barry (from 2.01pm until 2.43pm)
Cr K Brown (via audio-visual link)	Cr S Edwards
Deputy Mayor T Lewis	Cr A Mitchell
Cr C Parkin (Deputy Chair)	Cr N Shaw

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cr K Morgan
Cr B Dyer
A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability
J Scherzer, Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery
G Roberts, Waste and Resource Recovery Manager
M Randall, Senior Advisor – Climate and Sustainability
J Hayman, Senior Advisor Waste – Planning and Strategy
G Muller, Advisor Waste Minimisation
J Clarke, Advisor Resource and Recovery
J Cain, Communications Advisor (part meeting)
J Randall, Democracy Advisor

PUBLIC BUSINESS1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tihei mauri ora.

*Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*

2. APOLOGIES

Members noted the apology for early departure by Mayor Barry.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Cr Mitchell declared a number of conflicts of interest with Item 7: *Update on Council's Climate Change Work* regarding the report on Climate Action Pathway actions. They were interests which had previously been declared.

5. OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE RECYCLING CONTAMINATION

Report No. CCASC2024/4/242 by the Senior Advisor Waste - Planning and Strategy

The Senior Advisor Waste - Planning and Strategy elaborated on the report. She advised that the options provided in the report addressed a range of barriers and encouraged correct recycling.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery provided the following advice:

- the scoop test method for detecting contamination was currently the best option for Council.
- properties with red stickered recycling bins received follow-up visits from bin ambassadors.
- a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system would prevent contaminated bins from being lifted, but it could sometimes provide incorrect data. It also required additional resources.
- a range of methods would be needed to reduce contamination, including education and bin removal.
- bin ambassadors did not engage face to face with householders to find out the reasons for contamination.
- if Council implemented an RFID system, there would be an opportunity to leave recycling information on the contaminated bins or a sticker with a phone number to call. This combination might reduce the need for bin removals.
- both the targeted rate and the waste levy were used to fund rubbish and recycling education.
- contamination had occurred in the previous crate system but had been separated at the kerbside. Additional resources would be needed for engagement to determine the reasons for contamination.
- if Option H was chosen, officers would undertake a trial to ensure it worked. Any bins that were up-sized would have a targeted rate increase the following rating year. The legal aspects of this would need further investigation.
- any trial conducted would differentiate between owner-occupied and rental

properties. Officers were already engaging with Kāinga Ora on bin sizes.

In response to questions from members, the Senior Advisor Waste - Planning and Strategy provided the following advice:

- leaflet drops had targeted areas that were prone to contamination. The Enviroschools programme also helped to educate children in those areas.
- the reasons for contamination were often specific to households. Face to face interactions were the most effective way to determine why contamination occurred, but this required resources.

Members raised the following points:

- an RFID system could be used alongside stickers on bins to encourage behaviour change. An investment in RFID would save money in the long term.
- change recycling messages to advise that soft plastics could only be recycled in supermarkets. Otherwise, they should be disposed of in kerbside red bins.
- housing shortages were forcing more families into housing together. Council could advocate to government for tenants' right to choose their bin size.
- face to face engagement with contaminating households would be an opportunity to learn why the contamination was occurring and build relationships.
- link to marae, schools, and areas where contamination was happening. Use people in the community to educate households rather than a Council-led approach.

Members asked officers to monitor the results of their trials so Council could share the data with other councils.

The Chair noted it was important that officers continue to work to minimise contamination whether or not levels were reducing.

The meeting adjourned at 2.43pm and reconvened at 2.54pm.

Mayor Barry left the meeting at 2.43pm.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Mitchell)

Minute No. CCASC 24401

"That the Committee:

- (1) *notes the work undertaken to date to minimise contamination;*
- (2) *notes the analysis on further opportunities to reduce recycling contamination;*
- (3) *notes the following four options as offering the highest opportunity value:*
 - (a) *bin audits before actioning a down-size request;*
 - (b) *RFIDs and suspension of service;*
 - (c) *mandatory bin size increase in response to repeated contamination and/or overfull rubbish bins; and*

- (d) *artificial intelligence and real-time tracking;*
- (4) *notes the feedback provided on the options presented to assist in determining the preferred options for addressing our contamination challenges in the future;*
- (5) *asks officers to investigate amending Council's bylaw to require suitably sized bins;*
- (6) *asks officers to advocate government for right sized bins to be the right of any tenant of a rental property;*
- (7) *considers conducting a trial of engaging face to face with households where repeated contamination has been identified;*
- (8) *supports officers investigating the four highest value opportunities identified in the report; and*
- (9) *requests that officers report back on the outcomes of their investigations at a future meeting of the Committee."*

6. UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE AND WASTE MINIMISATION MATTERS

Report No. CCASC2024/4/243 by the Advisor Waste Minimisation

The Waste and Resource Recovery Manager elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Waste and Resource Recovery Manager confirmed that officers did respond to requests for second bin clips. He advised that the Otaihangā Zero Waste plant on the Kāpiti Coast was being established to take demolition materials. He added that officers were in the early stages of investigating this as an option for Lower Hutt.

In response to questions from members, the Communications Advisor advised that the second bin clips had been promoted via social media and on Council's website. He said officers were also considering promoting them via Neighbourhood Hubs. He confirmed that the services offered by Earthlink were promoted via Council's website, social media and at the Silverstream Landfill.

Cr Mitchell emphasised the importance of Council continuing its messaging to improve rubbish and recycling practices. He asked that officers continue reminding residents that second bin clips were available.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Mitchell)

Minute No. CCASC 24402

"That the Committee receives and notes the updates on various solid waste management and minimisation matters."

7. UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE WORK

Report No. CCASC2024/4/244 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

The Senior Advisor – Climate and Sustainability elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from a member, the Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery confirmed that the limited progress on the Bus Priority Project in the Climate Action Pathway appendix was due to the project still being in the planning process. He agreed that officers could differentiate between ongoing 'business as usual' work and new actions in future when reporting on the Climate Action Pathway and the Carbon Reduction and Resilience Plan.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Edwards)

Minute No. CCASC 24403

"That the Committee:

- (1) *notes the update on climate change work streams currently underway;*
- (2) *notes that updates are only provided for those projects or activities where significant progress has been made or where significant changes have occurred from the [previous update from 23 April 2024](#); and*
- (3) *notes that some work streams are new or are not explicitly covered in Council's Carbon Reduction and Resilience Plan 2021-31 or the Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway."*

8. RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL FOR SUBMISSION ON SECOND EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

Memorandum dated 19 August 2024 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

The Senior Advisor – Climate and Sustainability elaborated on the memorandum.

In response to a question from a member, the Senior Advisor – Climate and Sustainability advised that government would assess all submissions before holding a briefing to decide on the necessary changes.

Cr Mitchell asked officers to include solutions as well as problems for future submissions.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Parkin)

Minute No. CCASC 24404

"That the Committee:

- (1) *notes and receives the memorandum; and*
- (2) *retrospectively approves the submission to government's consultation on the Second Emissions Reduction Plan attached as Appendix 1 to the memorandum."*

9. **CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2024**

Report No. CCASC2024/4/245 by the Democracy Advisor

The Chair asked members to contact him with report suggestions for 2025. He advised that he would discuss all suggestions with the officers.

RESOLVED: (Cr Briggs/Cr Parkin)

Minute No. CCASC 24405

"That the Committee receives and notes the Forward Programme for the remainder of 2024 attached as Appendix 1 to the report."

10. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

11. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!	<i>Release us from the supreme sacredness of our tasks</i>
Unuhia!	<i>To be clear and free</i>
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui	<i>in heart, body and soul in our continuing journey</i>
Kia wātea, kia māmā	<i>Oh Rongo, raise these words up high</i>
Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te	<i>so that we be cleansed and be free,</i>
ara takatū	<i>Yes indeed, we are free!</i>
Koia rā e Rongo whakairihia ake ki	<i>Good and peaceful</i>
runga	
Kia wātea, kia wātea!	
Ae rā, kua wātea!	
Hau, pai mārire.	

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.15 pm.

Cr J Briggs
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 1st day of October 2024