

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

**Tuesday 12 November 2024 commencing at 2:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Cr J Briggs (Chair) Mayor C Barry (from 2.04pm)  
Cr K Brown 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  
A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities (part meeting)  
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  
A Stein, Resource Recovery Lead  
I Velasco, Parks Development Planner (part meeting)  
D Donoghue, Planning and Ecology Officer (part meeting)  
A Saker, Senior Advisor, Resource Recovery (via audio-visual link, part meeting)  
J Randall, Democracy Advisor

PUBLIC BUSINESS**1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	<i>Cease the winds from the west</i>
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	<i>Cease the winds from the south</i>
Kia mākinakina ki uta	<i>Let the breeze blow over the land</i>
Kia mātaratara ki tai	<i>Let the breeze blow over the ocean</i>
E hī ake ana te atakura	<i>Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.</i>
He tio, he huka, he hau hū	<i>A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.</i>
Tihei mauri ora.	

**2. APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Briggs/Cr Mitchell)

**Minute No. CCASC 24501**

*\*"That the apology received from Mayor Barry be accepted and leave of absence be granted."*

\* Mayor Barry joined the meeting at 2.04pm

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

#### a) Te Ara Whakamua Group work update

Bruce Anderson, a representative of Te Ara Whakamua Group (the group), provided a verbal update as follows:

- the group continued to update the community on its work.
- the group held a hui with local environmental groups. Attendees rebuilt relationships and shared information on work happening in the region.
- public workshop planning was underway. Two public workshops on public transport solutions were held in Naenae. As a result of the workshop, working groups were formed to address issues in the transport sector. Bruce Anderson agreed to report back on progress.
- the part-time research secretary position for the group had been advertised. A communications plan would be developed once the role had been filled.

In response to questions from members, Bruce Anderson said the group planned more public events and communications to connect groups and coordinate activities.

Cr Mitchell stated that different levels of communication were needed to foster community change. He believed that the community required consistent, simple messages and encouragement. He noted the value of Te Ara Whakamua workshops but considered that more was needed regarding their breadth and reach.

### 5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There was no conflict of information declarations.

6. **SIX-MONTHLY UPDATE PARKS AND RESERVES ACTIVITY**

Report No. CCASC2024/5/313 by the Head of Parks and Reserves

The Planning and Ecology Officer elaborated on the report.

In response to questions from members, the Planning and Ecology Officer provided the following advice:

- there had been sizable interest from groups wanting to help with Mouri Tupu planting.
- residents wanting to eliminate pampas grass on their land could purchase a herbicide or contact Council's Parks and Reserves Team.
- hunters could be brought in if residents alerted Council to areas with a deer problem. He agreed to check that this information was available on Council's website.
- fences prevented deer migration and were more effective than either cameras or hunting. Fences might be considered in the future.
- officers assessed drainage reserve land to determine which areas might be appropriate for community gardens. Members would be updated on progress.
- officers assessed requests for private stormwater connections. Officers aimed to ensure that subdivision stormwater fed into core infrastructure so impacts could be monitored and mitigated.
- wilding pine removal work had focused on areas where trees had previously been poisoned or removed. Climbing asparagus work occurred in a single area on the Eastern Hills. Pest weeds could be reported via Council's Report a Problem webpage.

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Briggs/Cr Mitchell)

**Minute No. CCASC 24502**

*"That the Committee receives and notes the information."*

7. **UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE AND WASTE MINIMISATION MATTERS**

Report No. CCASC2024/5/310 by the Waste and Resource Recovery Manager

During the public comment section, the Chair noted a statement submitted by Bruce Spedding on behalf of the Eastbourne Community Board. This statement is attached as pages 7-11 of the minutes.

The Waste and Resource Recovery Manager elaborated on the report. He advised that since August 2024, waste collection vehicles had inspected and removed several bins using trucks with brackets. He said officers would continue to monitor the situation.

In response to questions from members, the Waste and Resource Recovery Manager and

the Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery provided the following advice:

- officers looked at the potential costs and public safety issues of collecting batteries as proposed in the attached document. Further work would be needed to investigate ways to fund and manage collections across different locations.
- event organisers were now obliged to implement a waste minimisation plan and had provided feedback indicating that the process was onerous. Officers agreed to explore ways to make the process less demanding. Council was now fully funding the development of waste management plans for community providers to simplify the process. There were guides available on Council's website.
- residents with bins removed could apply to have them returned after six months. Property owners would continue to be charged during the six month period.

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Briggs/Cr Parkin)

**Minute No. CCASC 24503**

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

## 8. UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE WORK

Report No. CCASC2024/5/311 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

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

In response to a question from a member, the Senior Advisor – Climate and Sustainability advised that officers would host two webinars for the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund aimed at businesses and groups. She indicated that these webinars would help generate ideas for future funding rounds.

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Briggs/Cr Shaw)

**Minute No. CCASC 24504**

*"That the Committee:*

- (1) *notes the update on climate change work streams currently underway; and*
- (2) *notes that updates are only provided for those projects or activities where significant progress has been made, or where significant changes have occurred since the [previous update on 4 September 2024](#)."*

9. **DRAFT SUBMISSION ON GOVERNMENT'S EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME CONSULTATION**

Memorandum dated 4 November 2024 by the Senior Advisor - Climate and Sustainability

The Head of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery elaborated on the memorandum. He explained that the transaction fee proposed in the submission would be charged at the point of sale rather than annually. He considered this would incentivise those who wanted to protect land permanently.

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Briggs/Cr Mitchell)

**Minute No. CCASC 24505**

*"That the Committee:*

- (1) notes and receives the memorandum; and*
- (2) approves the draft submission to the government's consultation on resetting the Emissions Trading Scheme annual charge for post-1989 forestry participants as attached as Appendix 1 to the memorandum."*

10. **CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2025**

Report No. CCASC2024/5/312 by the Democracy Advisor

**RESOLVED:** (Cr Briggs/Deputy Mayor Lewis)

**Minute No. CCASC 24506**

*"That the Committee receives and notes the Forward Programme for 2025 attached as Appendix 1 to the report."*

11. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

12. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!

*Release us from the supreme sacredness of our tasks*

Unuhia!

*To be clear and free*

Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui

*in heart, body and soul in our continuing journey*

Kia wātea, kia māmā

*Oh Rongo, raise these words up high*

Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te

*so that we be cleansed and be free,*

ara takatū

*Yes indeed, we are free!*

Koia rā e Rongo whakairihia ake ki

*Good and peaceful*

runga

Kia wātea, kia wātea!

Ae rā, kua wātea!

Hau, pai mārīre.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.56 pm.

J Briggs  
CHAIR

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record**  
**Dated this 10th day of December 2024**

## Extended Community Recycling Opportunities

### Background

The introduction of the recycling and rubbish services has been very welcome and a great incentive for the community to be more aware and careful about waste we generate. Along side this, there are some waste streams which are hard to avoid and do not fit the current HCC services.

There are recycling opportunities for most other waste materials such as tetra paks, batteries and the plastic/metal caps (which are not allowed in the current bins) - however the quantities generated by each house hold are usually not sufficient to justify the effort (mainly time and travel) to recycle these at the often remote services.



This led to a trial of drop-off bins for tetra-paks and batteries at (and in cooperation with) the Eastbourne Hub/Library. This is done in the foyer of the hub which is convenient for anyone visiting the hub or the village.

There are some standard recycling bins in the same location already.

Batteries can be deposited in a small bin which is clearly labeled with the requirements - primarily the types and sizes of batteries, and the need to cover terminals. This bin will hold 30-40 kg of batteries.

Tetra paks are collected in a larger bin (provided by HCC) which is labeled clearly on the types of paks, and the preparation of paks required for recycling (open, flatten, wash, dry, leave caps on).

### Results

Both services have been very successful, showing both the interest in recycling, and the need for the convenience offered by this approach. In both cases the rules are followed very well, there have been no issues with the batteries, and the tetra paks are meticulously cleaned, flattened and dried.

These collection points are promoted on Facebook, our digital notice board in the library, and on our website <https://eastbourne.nz/recycling> which has links to a wide variety of local recycling options.

The batteries accumulate at a rate of about 5-10 kg per week. When the quantity of batteries collected reaches 12-15kg it is still practical to recycle these via bicycle, quantities over that usually mean a vehicle trip (combined with other errands). The batteries are deposited with Bunnings in Petone (Mitre 10 have also just started to take batteries), usually every 3-4 weeks. Each time this is done a report is posted on the Eastbourne Community Notice Board Facebook page, which helps promote the service as well as congratulate the community on it's efforts.

So far Eastbourne has recycled in excess of 200kg of batteries.

The tetra paks accumulate at the rate of a bin-load every 1-2 weeks, although it requires monitoring more often as they need to be "pushed down" to make more room. When the bin is full the contents are transferred to one of several tubs or plastic rubbish bags to be stockpiled. When about 6-7 bin loads have accumulated (a van load) a trip to Earthlink in Taita is justified, the last trip nearly filled a large empty bin on it's own. Like the batteries, this result is posted to Facebook, raising awareness of the service and it's effectiveness. The tetra paks are sent to Saveboard in Hamilton for conversion to wall panels - it takes about 400 paks to create 1 2400x1200 standard panel. The great thing about these panels is that they can be left in their natural state or painted, they can be custom sized, and any waste / offcuts can be recycled into more boards (zero waste).

Eastbourne has recycled enough tetra paks to create about 10 panels (i.e. about 4000 paks est.)

### Recommendations

This trial has proved that there is a demand for this type of recycling opportunity in the community. The community wants to recycle, we just need to make it practical, and this has proven to be relatively easy and effective with great success. Given the relatively small population of the Eastern Bays (5000) the potential to scale this up could give significant results across Hutt City (x20).

- The set-up cost is minimal. Uses existing bins (the small battery bin was about \$30, it may be too small for a larger community).



- The location is appropriate. Positioning in a Community Hub alongside other recycling bins has worked well, and provides security from any sort of vandalism. Hub staff have been very helpful in this and other initiatives.
- The existing recycling bins require emptying on a regular basis (weekly?), so the new bins could be emptied at the same time as an extension of this service. (*see note*)
- The batteries are recycled through Bunnings. If the service is expanded and arrangement could be made with Bunnings (or Mitre10) to include this new stream, in return for increased publicity or cost sharing.
- The tetrapaks via Earthlink could be dealt with on a similar basis.
- A reporting system using relatable measures such as “wall panels” (tetra paks) or “estimated kgs of metals” (batteries) could be implemented using the usual HCC channels and social media to acknowledge and promote the service.

This could be an easy, high profile, feel-good win for HCC with it's sustainability outcomes, while empowering communities to be more aware and empowered in their efforts to recycle and be more sustainable.

*Note: Using an existing HCC contractor/staff member already visiting the collection points would be the most efficient and cost effective approach to collection, and would allow consistent data collection to monitor effectiveness. Regular reporting is an important part of the process, it reinforces the collective effectiveness of community involvement, and reporting in relatable terms such as “wallboards” creates an easily understood outcome. The alternative would be to rely on volunteers, or fund through community funding via climate change projects. Both of these would require significantly more effort, cost, and be less reliable.*

#### Plastic / metal caps

Sustainability Trust take these (but only type 2 and 5 plastics), however classifying, sorting, and (once again) dropping off small quantities I learned yesterday that the Sustainability Trust may be about to take all kinds of caps unsorted. If this is so then a third recycling stream using the same model would probably be practical - a bin where any kind of container cap could be deposited, with periodic clearing to the Sustainability Trust with an appropriate arrangement.

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