

the state of our environment



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Gisborne 2007 and 2008

Waste, recycling and air

Principal findings

- Ruatoria commenced kerbside recycling in November 2007
- Household refuse in 2008 was just 37% of what it was in 1999
- Many national waste targets have already been met by the Gisborne District Council and community
- Two recycling bins proved popular in the central city, and fifteen more will be installed
- Gisborne leads the way in recovery of agricultural containers
- Hugely successful "E-Day" recycled 52 tonnes computers and electronic gear
- Increasing quantities of material go to the waste exchange, rather than to landfill
- Six schools, Matawai, Ngatapa, Makauri, Manutuke, Riverdale and St Mary's became "Enviro-schools".

Rubbish bags reveal positive changes

In 2008 just 35% of the "typical rubbish bag" was organic waste, down from 50% in 2004; and 29% of waste delivered to the Resource Recovery Transfer Station was organic, compared to 39% in 2004.

This reveals that much organic waste is now being diverted from land fill with some being used on site. A chipping service run in conjunction with Secondhand Sunday was so successful the contractor took over two weeks to work through the list.

Solid waste

The district's total waste stream for 2008, both city and rural, was 136,937 tonnes. Most is organic (from processing), and is diverted as stock food, composted, spread onto land or recovered as energy.

Less than 10 per cent of waste (13,500T) was sent to landfill outside of the district, since there is no longer a municipal landfill operating in Gisborne District. An additional 1,000T was placed in the Waiapu Area Landfill, which had a weighbridge installed in September 2007, and can now be monitored accurately.



The Rethink Centre

The Council in conjunction with TPI/All Brites operates an education centre as part of the Resource Recovery Transfer Station.

In the years 2007 and 2008, sixty-seven school or public groups had educational sessions at the centre, along with many visits from interested individuals.

Workshops were held at the Rethink Centre as part of the National Sustainable Living programme. An initial course was run at the Council in 2007, and in 2008 thirty members of the public enrolled in two sustainable living courses held over eight Monday nights.

An additional 13,000T of material was sent to cleanfill and restricted land fill facilities. These facilities at Ormond and Matokitoki Valley accept some organic material, but no domestic, liquid or hazardous waste.

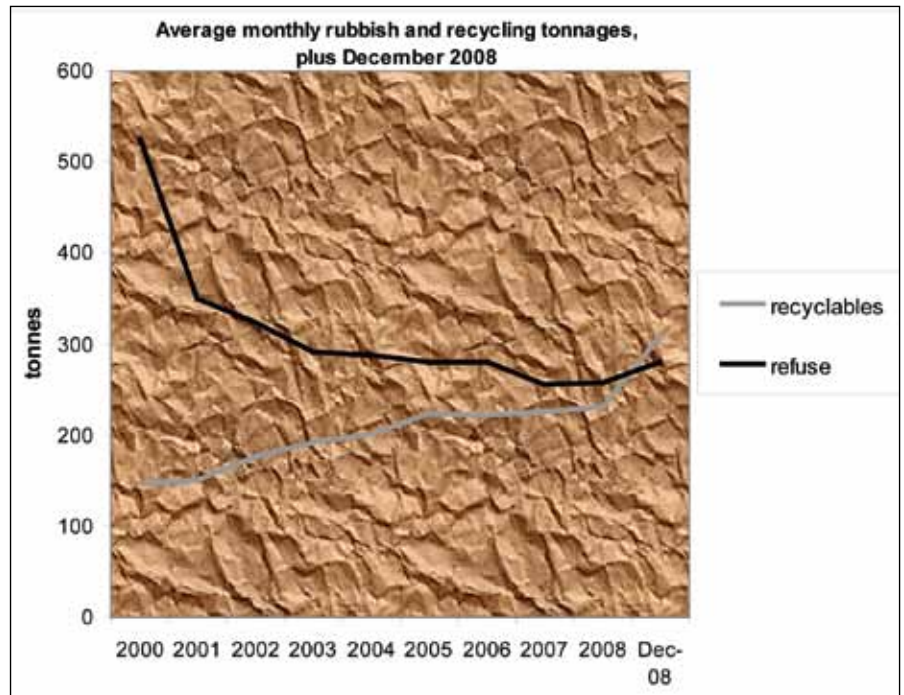
Recycling in Gisborne

The Resource Recovery Transfer Station, located in Innes Street, provides for 24-hour drop-off of recyclables. In 2007, 75 tonnes of material per month was left there. From 2008 residents had the option of having two kerbside recycling bins, and drop-off recycling fell to 56T per month.

The transfer stations collected 701T of packaging, comprising plastic, tins and aluminium, 843T of mixed paper, and 1,466T of mixed glass in 2008. To significantly increase recycling, a wider range of packaging would need to be accepted for recycling.

Green waste is also accepted, at one third of the cost of domestic rubbish disposal, providing an incentive for residents to keep them separated.

Kerbside recycling, operating in Gisborne and environs for 8 years, achieved a record monthly total of 309 tonnes in December 2008, against 280T of bagged rubbish. That was 89T more recycled than for the December period in 2007.



Rural Transfer Stations

Rural transfer stations at Tolaga Bay, Matawai, Whatatutu and Te Karaka operate supervised recycling depots and diversion areas, open for set periods. Earlier problems with contamination are now significantly reduced.

There were 490 tonnes of recyclable materials (and 1,496T of waste) collected from the rural transfer stations in 2007, and 485 tonnes of recyclables (and 1,357T of waste) in 2008.

New: the Waste Minimisation Act 2008

The Act is intended to encourage manufacturers, retailers and consumers to take responsibility for products from 'cradle-to-grave' by imposing a levy on all landfilled waste from July 2009, with the money providing help to councils and communities to further reduce their waste.

Second Hand Sunday

Ever-popular Second Hand Sundays were held in February and October each year. Around 300 households traditionally participate, diverting around 75T of material from landfill each time.

Recycling at Rhythm and Vines

Council staff worked with promoters to encourage recycling at both the 3-day 2008 Rhythm and Vines (R+V) venue and at the entertainment venue, the Soundshell. A bottle deposit system for wine bottles proved successful and will be built on for future events, including recycling areas for other material. Food vendors at R+V used plates, cups and cutlery made of renewable paper or potato starch. No polystyrene was used at all.

Separate bins for rubbish and recyclables were also provided and this worked well during daylight hours, though not after dark.

Annual E-Day



This national day was held in September 2008. An massive 52 tonnes-plus of unwanted computers, printers, scanners, monitors, cables and cell phones was collected from Gisborne District.

A small but committed team of volunteers had an extremely busy and successful day.

Educational initiatives

A "Dirty Weekend" was held in 2008 involving Council, Department of Conservation and Weedbusters staff, to educate householders on good garden-waste disposal. The Rethink Centre provided a green waste voucher, and there was a demonstration of home composting and the Bokashi Scrap-ing System.

The Bokashi System for collecting and composting kitchen waste has been very successful. An estimated 10% of Gisborne households are now using this, and over 20 Ruatoria people attended a workshop on use of Bokashi buckets.

The "Sort Yourself Out" column within the local Eastland Trader is used to facilitate the exchange of waste and provide sustainability tips and to promote events and trials.

Workshops on sustainability, composting and energy efficiency were presented at the "Women's DIY Day".

Community Litter Pickup

A calendar of monthly litter pick-ups by community groups operated throughout 2008, with 7 businesses committing to a 3 yearly plan of regular clean-ups. Cedenco and JNL have road signage in place identifying their adopted areas.

11th Hour Film

Six free sessions of this movie were screened to coincide with World Environment Day, with the assistance of local radio station, 89FM and funding from the Ministry for the Environment.

Fifteen hundred intermediate and secondary school children watched the thought-provoking film, along with numerous members of the public.

Illegally Dumped Rubbish

87 infringement notices for littering and dumping were issued in the two calendar years. 2007-8.

On 1 July 2008 increased littering fines of up to \$400 came into force, and were publicised via newspaper and radio under the "Our Place" slogan.



A surveillance campaign began at rubbish hot-spot Centennial Marine Drive, and will continue in 2009.

Gisborne leads the way in plastic agrichemical container recovery

The Agrecovery collection program began in 2007. Clean, empty chemical containers can now be deposited at the Agrecovery container, Riverpoint Road, Matawhero, on Fridays from 12 to 4pm afternoons.

New for 2009 will be a recycling service for silage wrap. Special large bags can be purchased to store rolled silage wrap, and collections are arranged when needed.

In the future, recovery of large chemical drums and safe disposal of unwanted/outdated chemicals are planned. More information on how to prepare containers for recycling, and which types are eligible, is available at: www.agrecovery.co.nz.

Annual Environmental Performance



The Ilminster Intermediate "Green Team", performed a wonderful new environmental play to the students of 15 primary schools.



Above: Oil spill response training day in Gisborne Harbour.

Pollution Response and Incidents

Environmental Health staff attended 130 pollution incidents in 2007 and 2008. Included in these were six minor discharges into the marine environment, two incidents involving gas cylinders, fuel spills onto road surfaces, and one Hazardous Substances incident (a cyanide spill).

Air Quality

Council monitors fifty consented discharges to air, of which some are minor (boilers, spray paint booths and dust), and others significant (from timber and food processing, quarries, bitumen manufacture, grain drying and waste management).

There were 126 complaints about air quality recorded in 2007. Complaints jumped to 173 in 2008, mainly related to dust from earthworks in new subdivisions, flowed by odour, smoke and spray drift.

Noise

An increasing number of resource consents contain conditions pertaining to noise, and specify monitoring noise.

After-hours 1,880 noise complaints were received and investigated in 2008, compared with 1,722 in 2007. A total of fifty-seven stereos were impounded during 2007 and 2008.

