

Glossary of Terms

Acute Toxicity	Adverse effects caused by a toxic agent occurring within a short time following exposure to that agent.
Agrichemicals	Any substance, whether inorganic or organic, man-made or naturally occurring, modified or in its original state that is used in any agriculture, horticulture or related activity, to eradicate, modify or control flora and fauna. (note: this definition excludes fertilisers and vertebrate poisons but includes animal remedies)
ANZECC	Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, comprising Ministers of the Environment of Australian States, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea
Background Levels	Ambient levels of contaminant in the local area of the site under consideration.
Best Practicable Option	In relation to a discharge of a contaminant or an emission of noise, means the best method for preventing or minimising the adverse effects on the environment having regard, among other things, to— (a) The nature of the discharge or emission and the sensitivity of the receiving environment to adverse effects; and (b) The financial implications, and the effects on the environment, of that option when compared with other options; and (c) The current state of technical knowledge and the likelihood that the option can be successfully applied.
Bioaccumulation	Accumulation within the tissues of living organisms.
Biosolids	Solids residue from wastewater treatment (semi-liquid special wastes).
Carcinogen	Any substance capable of causing cancer.
Chronic Toxicity	Adverse effects caused by a toxic agent which occur either after prolonged exposure or an extended period after initial exposure
Cleaner Production	Generic term often used to describe a combination of waste reduction measures in industry and can often include all of the first 4R's (reduce/reuse/recycle/ recovery).
Cleanfill	Material that has no potential to produce harmful effects on the environment. This material is generally a natural material such as clay, soil and rock, and such other materials as concrete, brick or demolition products that are free of combustible or organic materials and are therefore not subject to biological or chemical breakdown.
Cleanfill Landfill	A landfill used solely for the disposal of Clean fill.
Closed Landfill	Any landfill that no longer accepts waste for disposal.
Co-Disposal	The disposal of certain hazardous and/or special wastes in combination with community wastes for the purposes of using the interactive processes between different types of waste to minimise the hazard.
Co-Disposal Landfill	A landfill used for the disposal of special hazardous wastes in combination with community wastes. Leachate and gaseous emissions from a co-disposal landfill should not be materially different from those generated from community waste landfills.
Commercial Waste	Waste generated by commercial businesses, institutions and small industrial business such as retail and construction.

Community	People in a definable geographic or social area, usually defined by effects. Community includes organisations e.g. business.
Community Waste	The combination of domestic, industrial and commercial waste including non-hazardous special wastes.
Community Composting	A composting activity where more than one residential premises or any number of non-residential premises contributes raw materials to the process.
Community Solid Waste Landfill	A landfill used solely for the disposal of community solid waste.
Composting	The biological reduction of organic waste to a relatively stable product.
Contaminant	<p>Any substance (including gases, liquids, solids and micro-organisms), or energy (excluding noise), or heat, that either by itself or in combination with the same, similar, or other substances, energy or heat:</p> <p>When discharged into water, changes or is likely to change the chemical or biological condition of water; or</p> <p>When discharged onto or into land or into air, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical or biological condition of the land or air onto or into which it is discharged.</p> <p><i>NB.</i> While all wastes are contaminants, not all contaminants are wastes. For example, a pesticide, when applied, is contaminant both while it is doing its job as a pesticide, and as a waste in the form of spray drift. Note the definition of waste.</p>
Contaminated Site	A site at which hazardous substances occur at concentrations above background levels and where assessment indicates it poses or is likely to pose an immediate or long-term hazard to human health or the environment.
Controlled Transfer Station	A Transfer Station to which access is only possible when the site is staffed.
Discharge Permit	Permit required under the Resource Management Act 1991 where a contaminant will be discharged in the environment, either to water or air. (Section 15 RMA).
Disposal Facilities	Where waste is finally disposed to, e.g. landfills, tips, incinerators.
Domestic Waste	Waste generated in households, both urban and rural.
Drop Off Recycling Facilities/ Community Drop Off Centres	Recycling bins in the community where residents can come and deposit their recyclables.
Dry Goods Collection	Collection from premises of large, bulky items.
Ecotoxic	Capable of causing ill health, injury, or death to any living organism.
Existing Landfill	Any landfill that is currently accepting waste for disposal.
Flammability	The ability of a substance to be ignited and to support combustion.
Grey Water	Water from washing and food preparation processes – bathroom laundry and kitchen.
Green Wastes	Any vegetative waste.
Hazard	An inherent property of a substance which makes it capable of causing adverse effects to people or the environment.
Hazardous Waste / Potentially Hazardous Waste	Unwanted materials and by-products which may pose a threat to humans, plants or animals and which exceed a threshold level. Hazardous properties include explosive, flammable, toxic, corrosive, oxidising, ecotoxic, carcinogenic.

Heavy Rainfall Event	A rainfall event that has a one year annual rate of return.
Inert	Not affecting other substances when brought in contact with them.
Intrinsic	Belonging naturally.
Kerbside Recycling	Collection of recyclables from the kerbside.
Landfill	A facility designed and operated to dispose of waste not including cleanfill or beneficial application to land.
Landfill Gas	Gas generated as a result of the decomposition processes in decaying wastes deposited at a landfill. It comprises mainly methane and carbon dioxide, but includes a range of other components.
Leachate	Liquid effluent from landfills. Leachate may contain environmentally harmful substances derived from material deposited in the landfill.
Levels of Service	A measure of the ability of a solid waste operation to provide the service the community desires. Levels of service include availability of the service, the frequency of the service and the cost/affordability of the service.
Major Industrial Waste	Waste generated by the four major industries identified in the Gisborne District which is recycled by these industries. The four major industries are Food Processing, Horticulture, Timber Processing, and Meat Processing.
Management Strategy	A strategy or proposed plan of action, developed by or in consultation with an affected community with the purpose of managing part or their entire waste stream.
Municipal Recycling	Recycling of municipal waste mainly by domestic generators. It includes non-organic (paper, plastic, glass, metal) recycling, composting and mulching of organics, recycling of building and construction materials and recycling of other materials such as used clothing, batteries, chemicals, and waste oil.
Municipal Waste	Waste generated in households, both urban and rural, <i>i.e.</i> domestic waste; commercial waste generators, which include institutions and small industrial businesses; municipal recycling; and hazardous waste.
Non-Point Discharges	Diffuse discharges of contamination to air, water and land which may not attribute to an individual site or activity. The contamination from non-point discharges is related to land management, geologic and hydrological variables which may change from day to day or year to years. Only land management factors may be controlled by society. Pastoral and cropping agriculture, silviculture and development of residential subdivisions (e.g. construction of infrastructure, septic tanks) are common activities which generate non-point pollution.
Organic Waste	Putrescible material from plant, animal or microbiological origin.
Pesticides	Any substance used to destroy or inhibit the action of plant or animal pests. A pest is an organism which causes a significant adverse on the environment. An organism is a living individual or group of animals, plants, micro-organisms, or viruses, including their parts capable of being used in genetic manipulation work.
Problem Wastes	Those hazardous wastes which will not break down into non-hazardous residues over time when released into the environment and, for which there are no proven destruction or treatment processes currently available in New Zealand.
Recovery	Reuse of waste materials in an altered form, <i>i.e.</i> , material recovery; or recovery of the energy content of waste materials, <i>i.e.</i> energy recovery.

Recycle	Reuse of waste materials in such a manner that the original products lose their form or identity but their material value is maintained.
Reduction	Elimination of waste being produced at the source.
Reuse	Multiple use of a product in its existing form.
Self Haul	Businesses and individuals taking their own waste to disposal facilities.
Semi-liquid Special Waste	Solid waste resulting from liquid sources.
Septage	The solids removed from septic tanks. It is a semi-liquid special waste.
Septic Tank	A watertight sedimentation tank for organic wastes in which the sludge settling on the bottom is allowed to digest and liquefy by anaerobic bacterial action.
Sewage	The contents of sewers carrying the waterborne wastes of a community. This is sometimes called "foul sewage" to distinguish it from stormwater.
Sewerage	The pipes and infrastructure through which sewage and stormwater flow
Solid Waste Resources/ Solid Waste	Solid material that has served its original intended purpose and as a consequence has to be reused, recycled, recovered, or disposed of.
Transfer Stations	Collection facility for solid waste resources. Waste is brought from businesses and households to the transfer station. From here it is transferred to disposal facilities.
Waste	Materials which the owner does not want, need, or use any longer, which require treatment and/or disposal.
Waste Analysis Protocol	MfE guidelines that allow collection of consistent, statistically robust information on the amount, composition and source of solid and hazardous waste streams.
Waste Audits	A survey of quantities and types of waste produced at a particular site.
Waste Exchange Systems	A system which makes available one company's/individual's waste for reuse by another company/individual.
Waste Avoidance	Processes in which energy and waste efficiency are an integral part of the design or activity i.e. intentionally foregoing the generation of waste.
Waste Generator	Any person or organisation who produces or makes available any waste product.
Waste Management Hierarchy/5R's Principal	Management principle for waste which emphasises that Reduction is the most desirable method of managing waste followed by Reuse, Recycle, and Recovery. Disposal of Residuals is the final step in managing waste.
Waste Management/Diversion	Any exercise that minimises the amount of waste being disposed of.