

# The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY [recycling.kiwi.nz](https://recycling.kiwi.nz)

This year marks a **decade** of soft plastic collections in New Zealand. We now have over **320** public drop off bins and **100** member collection points.

Since November 2015, we have diverted over **3470** tonnes of soft plastic from landfill with **90%** recycled here in New Zealand (from 2019 onwards).

Since 2019, the equivalent of **480 million** bags or wrappers have been reprocessed in New Zealand. That's a huge achievement.

## AND THAT'S A WRAP FOR 2025

The team at The Packaging Forum's Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme wish you a safe, peaceful, and restful summer break, and a very happy Christmas. If you are spending your holiday in New Zealand, make sure you check out where your nearest drop off point is here.

**It's time to review the news about soft plastic recycling from 2025.**

Meri Kirihimete and best wishes for the new year.

**Thank you to all our members, stores, collectors, and processing partners for making this scheme possible.**

## **JANUARY SUMMER RECYCLING AT THE BEACH**

About 370,000 overseas visitors came to New Zealand in January. Soft plastic recycling is available for both tourists and Kiwis alike at popular summer destinations across the North and South Islands, including the Bay of Islands, Coromandel, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Queenstown Lakes, Marlborough, Nelson, Tasman, and Akaroa.



## **FEBRUARY IMPROVING DATA ACCURACY**

An audit of 415 bags of soft plastic collected from stores across Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch found the average weight of a bag is 5.48kg. The bags were then baled with the average bale weight recorded at each collection site.



## **MARCH OUT & ABOUT**

At the Foodstuffs Expo, visitors saw Manco's new soft plastic compactor bins, which increase 240-litre bin capacity from 5.4kg to over 30kg of soft plastic. A space and time saving innovation! Lyn visited saveBOARD to check out the huge range of products being manufactured from our waste. Did you know their board can be made into kitchen cabinets?



## **APRIL CONGRATULATIONS TO FUTURE POST**

**Supreme Winner of the 2025 Port Marlborough Environment Awards**

Future Post was honoured with the Wine Industry Category Award. They also received the Supreme Award for their innovative approach to recycling plastic waste into sturdy products for agriculture and infrastructure.

## **MAY**

### **OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN THE KERBSIDE COLLECTION TRIAL IN NELSON**

The trial saw the collection of 7,841 orange bags, which weighed a total of 4,327 kgs — roughly equal to recycling 660,000 bags or wrappers from 1000 participating households. Feedback gathered from 74% of participants showed strong support for continuing the program. Additionally, 98% of those respondents expressed interest in another trial focused on collection through the council's collection bin.

Future Post also launched their new range of square posts and rails into Mitre 10 Blenheim.

# **WE'RE PROUD TO BE RUNNING THE SOFT PLASTIC KERBSIDE COLLECTION TRIAL IN NELSON**

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solutions







## JUNE

### PANTRY ITEMS AND BREAD BAGS ARE THE MOST RECYCLED SOFT PLASTICS

Sunshine Yates Consulting conducted the 6th annual soft plastic audit to identify the soft plastic packaging most recycled by consumers. Most material categories stayed relatively consistent over time (e.g., 'Bread bags' ranged from 5.7% to 8.2% in six years).

## JULY

### IF YOU'RE NOT BUYING RECYCLED, YOU'RE NOT RECYCLING!

saveBOARD launched a new flooring range that includes 20% post-consumer soft plastics. If you're renovating offices, factories, or stores, consider these products. Renasci™ is a resilient plank developed to tackle carpet waste in the flooring industry.



## JULY

### ABILITIES

Back on their feet after the April fire: Abilities Group move into their new premises. 1 News covered the story, [you can watch it here](#). The charity has relocated to a temporary, if smaller, site and the team is back together. Talking to the staff, some of whom have worked there for 40 years, this is more than a workplace.



## AUGUST

### DURABILITY MEETS DESIGN

Future Post is featured in the August issue of New Zealand Landscaper Magazine for transforming plastic waste into durable, eco-friendly fencing solutions. [Read more here](#).



## SEPTEMBER

### PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Talking about soft plastics in the context of Extended Producer Responsibility at the AIP NZ Packaging Forum at the Auckland Showgrounds during the Food Tech pack Tech bi-annual event.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) dominated the conference agenda with discussions focusing on the need for EPR reform, aligning with Australia and meeting global standards.





## OCTOBER NEW PRODUCT LINE AT FUTURE POST

Packaging Forum CEO Craig Miller and Steering Committee member Jacky Nordsvan (Nestlé) met with Future Post founder Jerome Wenzlick to discuss launching square posts and rails for domestic landscaping.

## OCTOBER EXHIBITING AT THE HOME SHOW

Future Post exhibited for the first time at the Auckland Home Show with a range of posts, rails, garden beds and bollards on display all made from our soft plastic waste.



## NOVEMBER THANK YOU FROM FUTURE POST

Following an arson fire at the Future Post site, the team was overwhelmed with support from the industry. Thankfully, the processing facility was unaffected so didn't impact Future Post's ability to produce its innovative products.



## DECEMBER CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING AND THAT 87% NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE ACCESS TO A SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING BIN

In the past year, we reprocessed more than 988 tonnes of soft plastic—equal to 150 million bags and wrappers—producing 100,000 posts, enough to fence 520 km from Wairarapa to Waiuku. Soft plastic is sent to Future Post (Waiuku and Blenheim) or saveBOARD (Hamilton) for processing.

Support our reprocessing partners by buying posts, garden boxes or sustainable building supplies from Future Post or saveBOARD this summer.

Find out more at [saveboard.nz](http://saveboard.nz) and [futurepost.co.nz](http://futurepost.co.nz)

## NOVEMBER THROWBACK TO NOVEMBER 2015

Initial collections of soft plastic began at 70 stores across Auckland. Some readers may recall the launch event at New World Mount Roskill on 25 November 2015, which was covered by TVNZ and TV3 news teams. Watch the 2015 launch video [here](#).



**All Packaging Forum members will receive a 25% discount on Future Post products during the summer period.**