

The Wrap Up

PROMOTING THE SOFT PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY recycling.kiwi.nz

Driving momentum for soft plastic recycling

Aotearoa's soft plastic recycling system is gaining real momentum — from innovative trials to regional expansion, the past few months have shown what's possible when retailers, transport partners, councils and recyclers pull in the same direction.

The Woolworths Bulk Bag Trial is testing smarter, lower emissions logistics. At the same time, the new MANCO compactor bins are reshaping what efficient in store collection can look like, tripling capacity and reducing handling for store teams. These are practical innovations that make recycling easier, not harder.

We're also expanding access. From 6 July 2026, Palmerston North and Feilding residents will join the programme, opening up new opportunities for households to recycle everyday packaging. And with saveBOARD trialling its 2Faced Boards in Bunnings Warehouse stores and Future Post's products available at Mitre 10 stores, we're working hard to increase demand for products made from recycled soft plastics — a critical part of closing the loop.

At the Packaging Forum's recent pre election panel, parties discussed their priorities for waste and resource recovery. For our members, the most relevant

theme was Extended Producer Responsibility and the need for packaging EPR to provide long term regulatory certainty to unlock investment in on shore sortation and reprocessing infrastructure.

The Packaging Forum has now submitted its application to become the PRO (Producer Responsibility Organisation) for a mandatory soft plastic recycling scheme. We are ready to act on behalf of our members and the wider industry as soon as the Waste Reform Regulations enable an Extended Producer Responsibility framework. With Farm Plastics already accredited as a priority product scheme, we are aiming to be next — ensuring soft plastics have a clear, regulated pathway from collection to high value recycling.

International Engagement on Producer Responsibility and Soft Plastics

Craig presented at the Sustainability in Packaging Asia Conference in Singapore in June, sharing New Zealand's experience with producer responsibility and the role of our voluntary stewardship schemes in developing solutions for packaging that is not currently collected at kerbside. His session highlighted how industry

led initiatives can accelerate progress while regulatory frameworks continue to evolve.

This month Lyn will meet with representatives from across the soft plastic supply chain in the UK. With the UK planning to introduce kerbside soft plastic collections from 2027, a key focus will be understanding how the UK is developing offtake markets and stimulating demand for recycled plastic products to match the expected increase in supply. Insights from these discussions will help inform our own work to strengthen end market development and support a more resilient circular economy for soft plastics.

Ngā mihi nui



Lyn Mayes, KSM
Soft Plastic Recycling
Scheme Manager



Craig Miller
CEO
The Packaging Forum

NEW COLLECTION SERVICES



From 5kg to 20kg – a step change in soft plastic collections

MANCO has partnered with The Packaging Forum to design and trial a new compactor bin system created specifically for soft plastic recycling. This project has been three years in the making, from early concept through to full development.

The five month trial launched on 8 May at New World Whangamatā, Whitianga, Birkenhead, Matamata and PAK'nSAVE Thames. The goal is to boost efficiency across the transport and logistics network, reduce costs, improve consumer understanding of soft plastic recycling, and create a smoother in store experience.

Traditional scheme bins hold only 5.5 kg of loose soft plastic. In comparison, the new MANCO compactor bins can compress 20–25 kg into a standard 240 litre wheelie bin – a major step forward in collecting and recycling

more soft plastic while reducing handling for store teams.

The new MANCO compacting bins help us collect more material, reduce waste, and improve efficiency across participating stores.

How We're Tracking

We collected 447.6 kg of soft plastics in the latest cycle – a great result that shows the system is working well. The bins are designed to compact plastics to around 20 kg per bag, and most stores are consistently reaching this target.

High volume stores fill their bins quickly, which means the compactor has less time to compress each load. This naturally results in slightly lighter bags, but it's an expected part of the process. Stores with steadier volumes are regularly achieving 20 kg or more, showing excellent compaction performance.

Regional collection collaboration in Thames Coromandel

MANCO Environmental will now collect soft plastics from all participating stores and council offices across the Thames–Coromandel region.

With the new compactor bins already in place, it makes sense for MANCO to manage collection from both retail sites and council drop off points. This joined up approach is another strong example of industry and local government working together to reduce costs, streamline logistics, and improve overall efficiency.

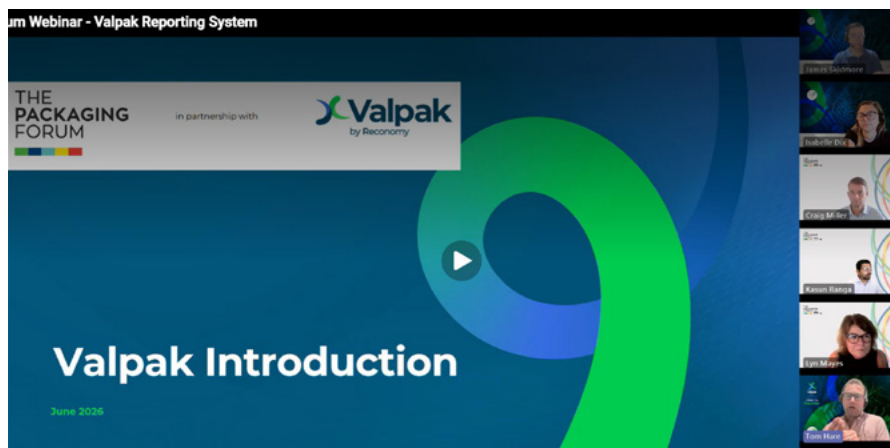


Bulk bags, big impact: Woolworths trial with GoodWrap Recycling & Mainfreight

The SPR Woolworths Bulk Bag Trial launched in April 2026 across six stores in Waiheke, Dargaville, Whakatāne, Taupō and Rotorua. In its first three months, 140 bulk bags have been delivered to saveBOARD's Hamilton facility, diverting an estimated 2.8 tonnes of soft plastics from landfill.

Store participation has been strong, with Waiheke, Taupō and Whakatāne accounting for nearly 70% of deliveries. The trial is also testing a lower-emissions collection model, using Mainfreight's existing delivery routes rather than dedicated pickups. GoodWrap and Mainfreight continue to refine the process as the trial progresses, demonstrating the potential to scale soft-plastic recovery by making better use of existing freight networks.

For scheme members with pre-consumer plastic—such as PE bags removed from clothing before items are placed on shelves or hangers—we are exploring how these bags can be collected through the GoodWrap Recycling system and remade into courier bags or bulk bags.



NEW REPORTING SYSTEM FOR SOFT PLASTIC SCHEME MEMBERS

On 16 June, we hosted a webinar with Valpak to introduce a proposed new reporting methodology for our Soft Plastic Scheme members which will go live in July. We've partnered with Valpak to provide a streamlined system that enables members to report the kilograms of soft plastic packaging they place on the New Zealand market each year.

This reporting applies to brands, retailers, and importers using soft plastic packaging for:

- Own-brand products
- Unbranded flexible plastic packaging (e.g. in-store bakery items)

How to report:

- Submit your own tonnage data to Valpak via spreadsheet (by resin type and colour, where available)
- Use the ready reckoner tool to enter unit sales and automatically generate an estimated tonnage

If you're a member, you can now [watch the webinar](#) and access the slides via the Packaging Forum's Member Portal. We'll also be running additional webinars to support members through the reporting process. Please get in contact for more information.

FACEBOOK CHAT FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF COLLECTION EXPANDING TO PALMERSTON NORTH

“

This is fan-tastic guys!! I'm going to check my bin now!

“

Yay! I've been saving mine for months waiting for this day!

“

This is amazing! Thank you



NEW HORIZONS FOR SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING IN THE MANAWATŪ

Soft plastic recycling arrives in Palmerston North & Feilding

We're excited to share a meaningful step forward for soft plastic recycling in Aotearoa. After more than a decade of collections nationwide, the programme expanded to Palmerston North on 6 July, with Feilding stores joining in August.

This expansion is made possible through a new partnership with Palmerston North City Council, which will manage local collections. Soft plastics will be gathered from participating stores, baled at the Council's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), and sent to reprocessing partners to be turned into durable new products—helping keep more waste out of landfill.

Drop off locations:

- Woolworths Ferguson & Ashley Street
- The Warehouse Church Street
- New World Broadway
- Woolworths Feilding
- The Warehouse Feilding

Residents can also drop off soft plastics at a new public recycling bin at the Ferguson Street Recycling Centre.

We'll be celebrating the launch at Woolworths Ferguson & Ashley Street on Friday 21 August, alongside Mayor Grant Smith—more details to follow.

Close the Loop – Buy Recycled

saveBOARD – Turning soft plastics into DIY solutions

saveBOARD is trialling its new 2Faced Boards in 25 Bunnings Warehouse stores across New Zealand. Made from 100% recycled soft plastics collected through our Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme, each board contains around 12.5kg of soft plastic—about 1,800 bags or wrappers. Designed for DIY projects at home or work, 2Faced Boards offer an eco-friendly alternative to plywood. Buy 2Faced panels at Bunnings. We're supporting the trial through social media assets, which we encourage you to share on your own platforms. We have sent these tiles to our Soft Plastic membership to share on platforms, but if you would like these sent through again, please get in touch.

We've also produced two new videos for consumers to learn more about saveBOARD and how they're turning our soft plastic into innovative new products, you can check this out [here](#).

NAU MAI TO
OUR NEWEST
MEMBERS

Corval Foods
Miller Real Foods
Kinrise
Magnum

Multivac
Rotopak
Zingies

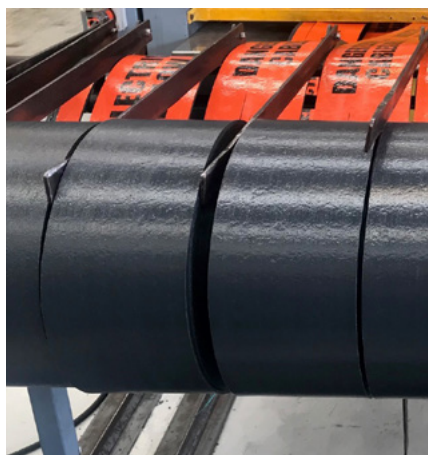


Not a member?
Come and join us!

Pact Recycling



Pact Recycling has long been a leader in processing pre consumer soft plastics, but recent upgrades to their facility have opened the door to an exciting new capability. The team has now successfully run post consumer soft plastic through their enhanced wash plant, allowing them to clean, process, and extrude the material into high quality plastic pellets. These pellets have been remanufactured into durable products such as cable covers and other long life plastic components — a significant step forward in closing the loop on soft plastic recycling in New Zealand. Further trials will determine the scalability of this process.



future POST

WHEEL STOPS & BOLLARDS

BENEFITS:

- BioGro Organic Certified – no leaching
- Impenetrable to moisture, frosts, insects and fungi
- Classic black – no painting or maintenance
- Cut, ram, drive, bolt, screw, staple and drill
- Multiple bollard configurations
- UV stabilised – won't split, rot or crack
- Built to last 50+ years
- Highly durable
- No expensive end-of-life disposal to landfill costs or pollution issues of other wheel stop products
- 100% NZ made recycled plastic
- Re-recycle at end of life

NOTE:
INSTALLATION
INSTRUCTIONS
MUST BE FOLLOWED



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Future Post products are now stocked in 13 Mitre 10 stores nationwide, with more stores coming on board each month. If your local Mitre 10 does not currently stock the range, products are available through the Customer Special Order (CSO) programme, allowing any Mitre 10 store to order them for customers across New Zealand. Buy Future Post products at Mitre 10

Future Post also supplies wheel stops and bollards in a wide range of sizes.

Are you one of our 12k+ Facebook followers?

If not, head on over and like the Love NZ Soft Plastics Recycling Facebook page and keep up to date with everything happening in the soft plastic space as well as promoting your support! We value your feedback!

facebook.com/softplasticrecycling



Packaging Forum's pre-election political panel - where do parties stand on packaging EPR

The Packaging Forum hosted its pre election political panel, where representatives from National, Labour, ACT, NZ First and the Green Party discussed priorities for waste and resource recovery. For members of the Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme, the most relevant discussion centred on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

NZ First's Jamie Arbuckle has a Private Member's Bill ready to introduce a CRS and says that the party will make this a policy platform and would support packaging EPR. Labour and the Green Party also reiterated their support for mandatory EPR. National's Grant McCallum highlighted the Farm Plastics scheme as a strong example of stewardship and noted the party's interest in a CRS, though enabling legislation would be required before progressing. ACT's Simon Court said the party does not support mandatory product stewardship, instead prioritising new National Standards and RMA reform.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Packaging Forum team and many of its members attended the WasteMINZ Annual Conference in Wellington. There was a lot of discussion about the need for Waste Reform which establishes the framework for Extended Producer Responsibility. There was also a lot of interest in the kerbside collection trial for soft plastics in Nelson.

In response, WasteMINZ has asked us to lead a webinar with Nelson Council in September to talk about the trial and next steps. More information to come.

**If you are not buying recycled,
you are not recycling!**

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Legacy REDcycle plastics processed as industry calls for more consumer buy-in

The Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia (SPSA) scheme is actively promoting the need to collect more soft plastic from consumers to provide the feedstock to their recycling partners across Australia which can process more than 20000 tonnes per annum with this capacity increasing.

[Read more](#)

Australia Greens Bill No time to Waste

The Australian Greens have introduced a bill into the Senate to create a mandatory responsibility scheme for plastic packaging producers. Greens senator Peter Whish-Wilson introduced a bill to tackle the issue in May, and said it was time for the government to act. "It's been extremely frustrating because we've been talking about packaging reform now in Australia for decades," he said.

UK: FlexFlats pilot to tackle flexible plastics in flats

Defra has commissioned ReLondon to deliver FlexFlats, a new pilot programme testing how best to collect flexible plastic packaging from flats with communal recycling systems. The project will support local authorities to meet Simpler Recycling requirements, which mandate the collection of plastic bags and wrapping from every household by 31 March 2027.

Working with London boroughs, ReLondon will trial different collection models, gather resident insights, assess operational and cost impacts, and measure the quality and volume of material captured. Findings will be turned into a practical toolkit to help councils – particularly in dense urban areas – introduce effective, scalable systems for flexibles.

FROM OUR PROCESSING PARTNERS

LEADING THE WAY TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR PLASTIC



Fielddays a success for Future Post

Future Post says this year's Fielddays was its most successful event to date. Visitor engagement remained strong across all four days, with the team busy from opening to close. Many attendees came specifically to view Future Post products and discuss potential uses, reflecting growing brand awareness. Most notably, Future Post has seen a clear shift in sentiment. Conversations that once focused on concerns

about "putting more plastic in the ground" are increasingly being replaced by positive comments such as: "What a fantastic idea." This reflects a growing understanding of how recycled plastics can be used to create durable, sustainable products and support a circular economy. The positive response was also reflected in sales, which exceeded previous years.



Explore saveBOARD projects near you

saveBOARD has launched an interactive project map showcasing completed installations across New Zealand and Australia—located in real, accessible public spaces.

This isn't a gallery. It's a practical reference tool to support your next project. Whether you're researching a build, scoping work, or presenting circular material options to a client, the map helps you see what's been done—and where.

Use it to find nearby projects, discover real-world applications, and even send clients to experience saveBOARD installations in person.

Every new public project adds another pin—building a growing network of proven results.

Note: Only publicly accessible projects are included.

[Check it out here](#)