



Assessing the
availability of
composting
facilities for
events in
New Zealand

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

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The composting industry is slowly developing across most regions in New Zealand to be able to process compostable packaging.



Introduction

The project's objective was to identify facilities around New Zealand where event waste (food and food packaging waste) is currently able to be processed.

The focus areas of the research were:

- All composting facilities including those which process green-waste only
- Packaging products contaminated with food waste
- Identification of waste contractors collecting event waste for composting at those facilities

The project aimed to construct a database of facilities able to process compostable food packaging and the food contained to increase the quantity of event waste which could be diverted from landfill.

98 composting facilities across New Zealand were identified and included in the study. The greatest concentration of facilities able to process event waste is in the Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions.


There are only 12 composting facilities currently able to accept and process event waste including food packaging and the food it contains. These facilities are located around New Zealand.

There are a similar number of facilities (13) which are currently working towards being able to accept and process event waste. Some of these facilities are running trials or finalising consents, or awaiting service providers to develop their service to include/ensure decontamination takes place.

A further 30 facilities may be able to process compostable event waste in the future. 43 facilities are unable to process event waste.

It was also noted that because compostable packaging is not currently recognised or certified by industry bodies as a suitable input for organic compost, some facilities which are capable of processing food packaging waste are unable to do so.

The current state of composting in New Zealand can be broadly described as in growth phase. A number of facilities are being developed currently to improve their processing technology or increase their capacity.

A photograph of a composting facility. In the foreground, there are large, dark, windrowed piles of organic material. Two orange excavators are working on these piles. To the left, a yellow tractor is also visible. In the background, there is a green field, a small white building, and a large, forested hill. The sky is not visible.

The majority of facilities use the windrow composting process.

Methodology

Facilities were categorised according to their current ability to process event waste

Event waste processing capability

YES	Facility is currently able to process event waste and happy to be promoted as doing so
PILOT	Facility is either <ul style="list-style-type: none">a Currently able to process event waste but lacks an available service provider or is unhappy with the level of contamination (e.g. service provider does not offer decontamination service)b Is trialling processing event waste currentlyc Is in the process of increasing their capacity to process event waste (e.g. in final stages of consenting process)
DEVELOPMENT	Facility has potential to (or interest in) processing event waste in the future (e.g. packaging that has been decontaminated of its food contents)
NO	Facilities which are not able to process event waste or food packaging and do not plan to do so in the future

12 facilities are currently able to process event waste.



Findings

Yes - facilities can process event waste

The research identified 12 facilities around New Zealand who are currently able to process event waste including compostable packaging. One of these facilities is only able to process food packaging that has been scraped of its food contents.

In some cases facilities have a clear idea of the packaging they would allow into their waste stream but often they do not. Several suggested a need for guidance about which packaging is suitable for processing.

Pilot facilities

13 facilities could be described as currently developing their capability to be able to process event waste or food packaging waste.

Development facilities

30 facilities were identified as future development opportunities. These facilities either lack consent, capacity or infrastructure to process this type of waste.

No - facilities not suitable

43 facilities were identified as not being suitable for processing event waste, food waste or food packaging waste.

These facilities either lacked infrastructure, capacity or were not willing to take this type of waste.



Compost is rich in nutrients. It is used in gardens, landscaping, horticulture and agriculture.

AREA	ABILITY TO PROCESS EVENT WASTE	IN-VESSEL	OTHER	VERMI	WINDROWS	TOTAL
Auckland				1	1	10
			2	1	3	
					1	
		1				
Bay of Plenty			1		3	10
			2		1	
				2		
					1	
Buller					1	1
Canterbury					2	7
		1			1	
		3				
Gisborne					1	1
Grey			1			1
Hawke's Bay				1		3
		1			1	
Horowhenua					1	1
Kaikoura		1				1
King Country			1			1
Marlborough			1			1
Manawatu / Wanganui					2	4
					1	
					1	
Nelson			1			3
			1			
	packaging				1	
Northland					1	5
					1	
			1		2	
Otago				1	1	5
			1			
			1		1	
Taranaki			2			9
			4	1	1	
					1	

AREA	ABILITY TO PROCESS EVENT WASTE	IN-VESSEL	OTHER	VERMI	WINDROWS	TOTAL
Tasman			1		1	2
Waikato			2	1	4	15
				1	2	
					2	
				1	2	
Wairarapa					1	5
					4	
Waitaki			1			7
			6			
Wellington			1		1	4
			1			
					1	
Westland		1				2
			1			
TOTAL		7	32	10	49	98

	YES
	DEVELOPMENT
	PILOT
	NO

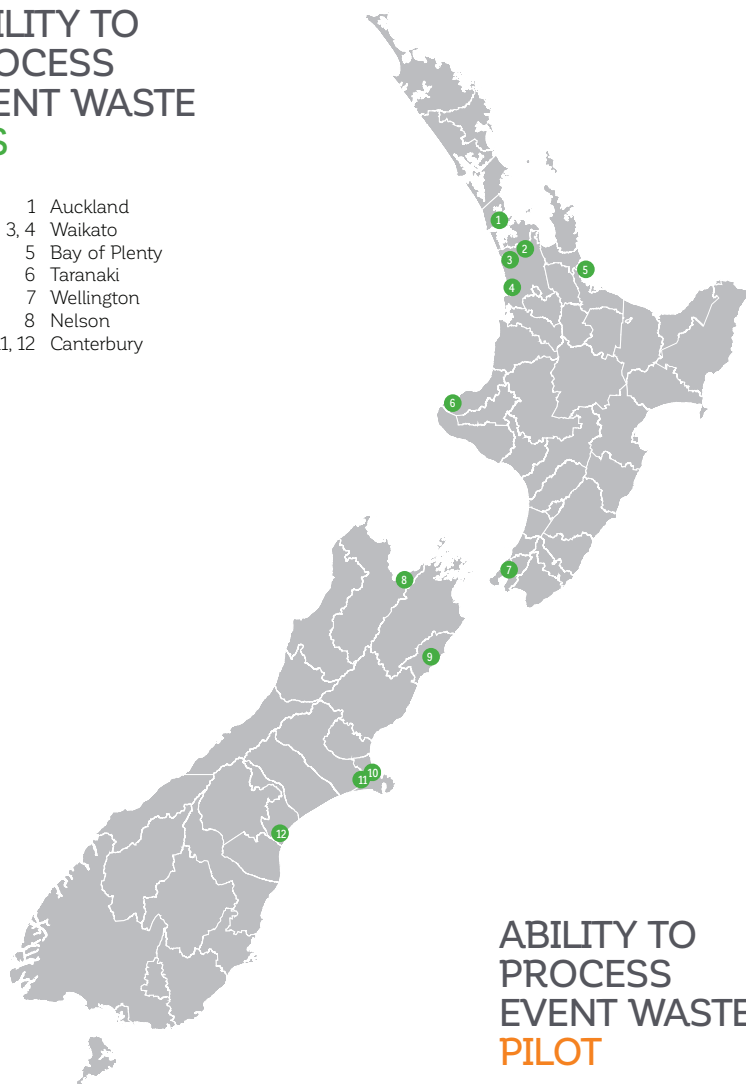
Events around New Zealand create volumes of food waste, food containers, cups and plates.

Using compostable packaging which is sent to a compost facility turns waste into a valuable compost material.



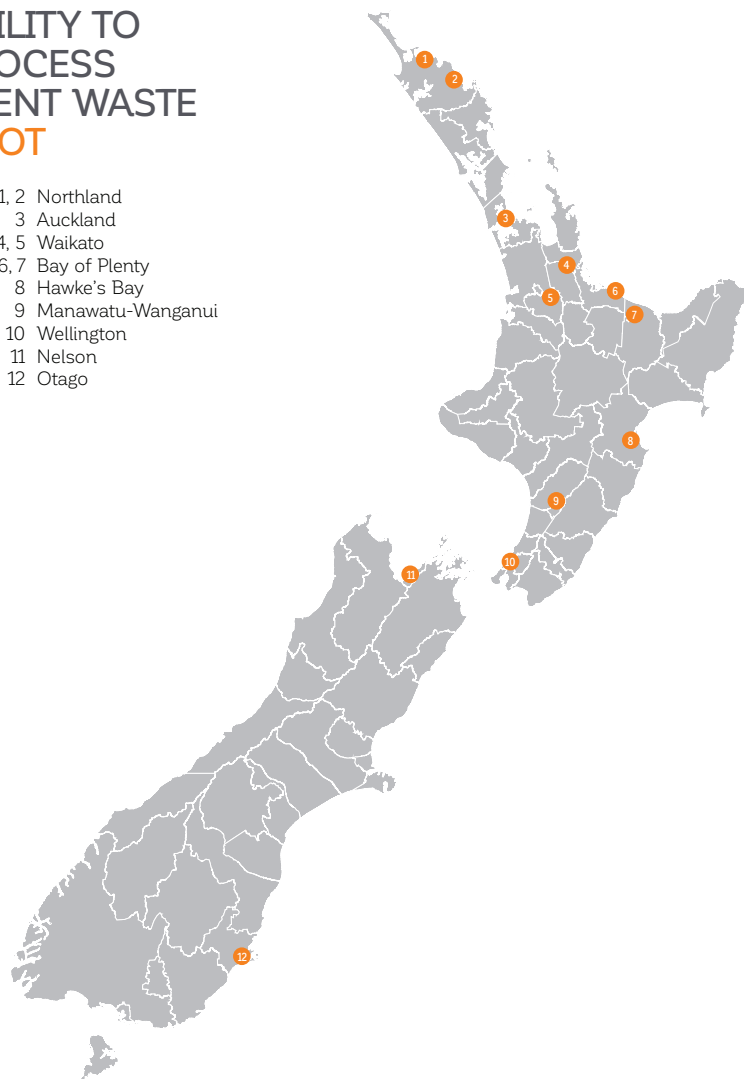
ABILITY TO PROCESS EVENT WASTE YES

- 1 Auckland
- 2, 3, 4 Waikato
- 5 Bay of Plenty
- 6 Taranaki
- 7 Wellington
- 8 Nelson
- 9, 10, 11, 12 Canterbury



ABILITY TO PROCESS EVENT WASTE PILOT

- 1, 2 Northland
- 3 Auckland
- 4, 5 Waikato
- 6, 7 Bay of Plenty
- 8 Hawke's Bay
- 9 Manawatu-Wanganui
- 10 Wellington
- 11 Nelson
- 12 Otago





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