

Appendix 1: Current Performance

Waste to landfill

Approximately 104,000 tonnes of general waste was deposited at the city's landfills in 2002/03. This is a slight increase on previous years (see below).

Residential Sector

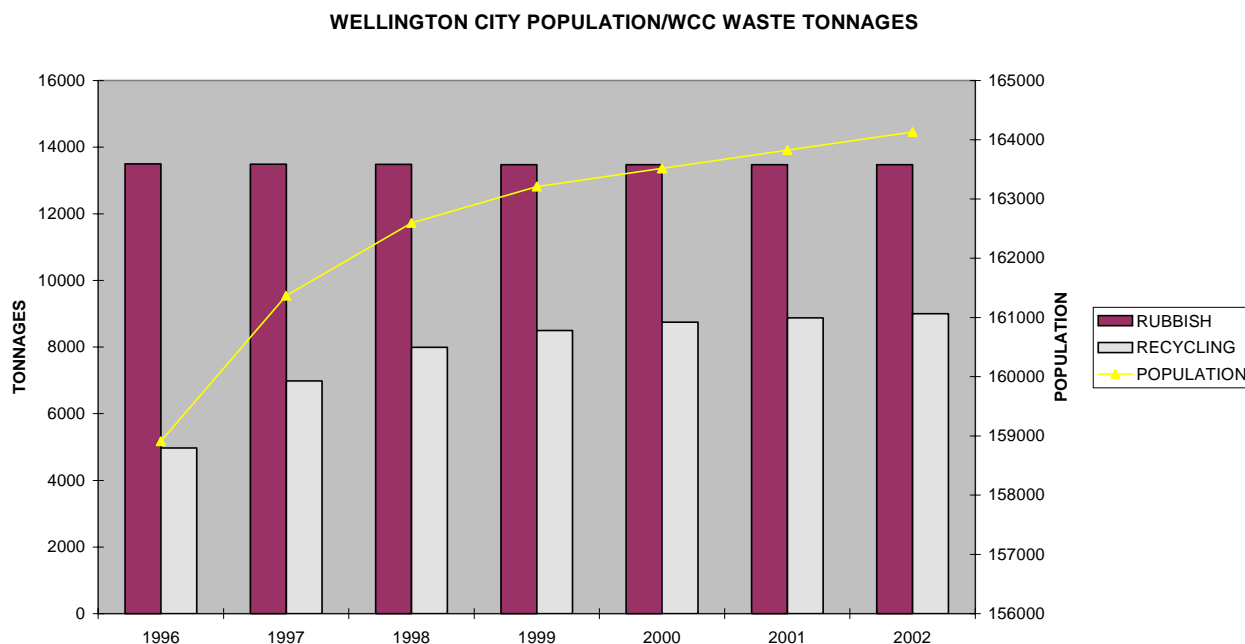
In 2002/03 about 55,000 tonnes of general waste (not including construction and demolition waste) was going to landfill. It is very difficult to gauge whether the total waste being produced by both the residential and business sectors is rising or falling. However, it is possible to assess waste disposal trends. The amount of waste being disposed of to landfill per capita has risen very slowly over the last five years. The figures, which are approximate only, are:

1996/1997 367 kg per capita domestic waste to landfill

1998/1999 384 kg

2001/2002 396 kg

Wellington City has a high level of participation in the suburban kerb-side recycling service (78% in 2001/02) which is relatively consistent across all age-groups, income categories and ethnic/cultural groupings. However, the volumes of waste per capita continue to be relatively high. The reasons for this are unclear and further work is needed in this area. Kerb-side recycling volumes are growing slowly but consistently and the use of recycling drop-off centres is increasing.



One conclusion from this is that the total volumes of waste being generated from the residential sector is increasing but that the recycling and diversion efforts are maintaining the amount of waste to landfill at more or less the same level. However, the waste plan acknowledges the need to increase diversion, especially for key waste streams.

It is estimated that about 14% of the domestic waste stream is being diverted via kerb-side recycling. The following estimates of diversion prior to domestic waste being delivered to the landfill were made in 2001. The estimates were based in turn on an estimate of total waste produced by the sector³.

| Waste stream (domestic) | % recovered prior to transfer station (includes recycling services) |
|-------------------------|---|
| Garden waste | 62% |
| Kitchen waste | 56% |
| Total organic | 58% |
| Glass | 50% |
| Paper | 25% |
| Plastics | 8% |
| Metals | 8% |
| | |
| Total | 56% |

Business Sector

Again it is difficult to estimate total amount of waste being produced by the business sector. About 49,000 tonnes of business sector waste is being delivered to landfill but it is considered that this is a relatively small portion of the total waste produced. Nonetheless this is a significant amount of waste to landfill, which could be further reduced.

The following estimates of diversion prior to business waste being delivered to the landfill were made in 2001. The estimates were based in turn on an estimate of total waste produced by the sector.

| Waste stream (business) | % recovered prior to transfer station (includes recycling services) * |
|-------------------------|---|
| Paper | 95% |
| Plastics | 88% |
| Metals | 86% |
| Glass | 80% |
| Garden Waste | 76% |
| Kitchen Waste | 62% |
| Total organic | 67% |
| Wood | ? |
| Total | 87 % |

Wellington City businesses are very successful in managing their own recycling solutions. Interviews with businesses from each sector showed that they were particularly successful in dealing with their main waste streams. Wellington City has a very large office, banking and government sector, which produces an average of 11 tonnes of paper per Full Time Equivalent employee. Paper is a relatively easy product to recycle as attested by the 95% recovery rate.

Transfer Station/Landfill Recovery

About 104,000 tonnes of general waste is received at the city's landfills. The following table indicates the levels of diversion that were occurring in 2001.

| Waste stream (transfer station/landfill) | % recovered prior to transfer station (includes recycling services) * |
|--|---|
| Paper | -- |
| Plastics | -- |
| Metals | 4% |
| Glass | ? |
| Garden Waste | |
| Kitchen Waste | -- |
| Total organic | 57% |
| Wood | ? |
| Total (all waste) | 10% |
| Total (excluding domestic bags) | 12% |

There is a great deal of potential to divert waste after collection. The current levels reflect the traditional focus on disposal (apart from garden waste) and use of the weigh-bridge for revenue collection as the waste is brought to the tip-face. The waste management plan focuses on improved waste diversion facilities and services.

Waste to Landfill – Composition.

| Waste stream (to landfill) | % of total waste in each waste stream | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| paper | 25% | 25,900 tonnes |
| kitchen waste | 17.9% | 18,500 tonnes |
| wood | 11.4% | 11,900 tonnes |
| plastics | 9.6% | 10,100 tonnes |
| metals | 7.2% | 7,500 tonnes |
| textiles | 5.6% | 5,900 tonnes |
| garden waste | 5.4% | 5,600 tonnes |
| glass | 4.3% | 4,500 tonnes |
| potential hazardous | 1.6% | 1,700 tonnes |
| other | 3.8% | 4,000 tonnes |

Figures based on the 2003/02 solid waste analysis and are estimates only