

Waste Management and Minimisation

Taranaki DHB acknowledges that an integrated and sound waste management approach has a significant effect on maintaining the health of communities. To give effect to the Sustainability Policy and Action Plan, we adopt a comprehensive process to ensure all waste is appropriately segregated, and safely handled before disposal or further processing.

The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan identifies Taranaki DHB’s different waste streams, staff responsibilities, targets, and sets out procedures for waste segregation, collection, and disposal. Additionally, the Plan identifies our waste facilities, and outlines monitoring, measurement, and audit processes to identify issues and improve environmental performance.

The Plan works alongside sustainable procurement strategies which aim to switch into more environmentally friendly technologies, products and services and in long-term, achieve a circular economy. The Plan is developed for implementation at the Base and Hawera Hospitals and covers both existing and new building projects (i.e. the new east wing and renal buildings).

HOW WILL WE REDUCE WASTE-RELATED CARBON EMISSIONS?

We'll reduce carbon emissions produced through waste by:

- Taking into account the waste hierarchy in our decision-making (refuse (avoid), reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat, and dispose)
- Implementing a sound waste management process (source > segregation > collection)
- Identifying and recording waste streams
- Developing and implementing Taranaki DHB’s Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
- Composting food scraps and compostable items
- Providing adequate resource and facilities to deliver our waste management processes.
- Increasing staff awareness through on-going training programmes and adequate signage.
- Regular monitoring and audit of waste process and applying corrective actions.
- Investigate innovative ways to reduce waste and to achieve a circular economy in long-term.

WHAT ARE THE WASTE STREAMS WE ARE DIVERTING FROM THE LANDFILL?

Taranaki DHB is currently diverting **29 waste streams** from the landfill:

Waste stream	Pathway of landfill diversion
Aluminium cans and tins	Aluminium cans and tins are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor, and sent to Colson Road Materials Recovery Facility, where waste are sorted and sent to metal recyclers.
Batteries	Used batteries (Lithium ion e.g. rechargeable batteries, Nickel cadmium, Alkaline: AA, AAA, 9V, C, N, Zinc air: camera, Silver zinc: hearing aids, mobile phone batteries) are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor for recycling.
Biomedical devices	Decommissioned biomedical devices are donated to non-profit

Waste stream	Pathway of landfill diversion
	organisations or collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor.
Cardboard	Cardboards are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor, bailed and sent to recyclers.
Compostable items: paper towels & bio-cups, cutleries, bowl & plates	Compostable paper towels, bio-cutleries, bowls & plates are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor and sent to a commercial composting facility/ local worm farm.
Electronic waste	Decommissioned electronic devices are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor. The devices are broken down into parts for recycling.
Expired consumables	Expired consumables are donated to veterinary clinics or non-profit organisations that can make use of them, where appropriate.
Fluorescent bulbs	Blown fluorescent bulbs are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor for recycling.
Food scraps (includes tea bags and coffee grinds)	Left-over food is donated to a local pig farmer and food scraps are collected by Taranaki DHB waste recycling contractor for commercial composting/local worm farm.
Furniture	Decommissioned furniture is donated to non-profit organisations or charity that can repair or make use of them.
Glass bottles and vials	Glass bottles and vials are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor. The items are melted and recycled back into bottles.
Hospital beds	Decommissioned hospital beds are donated to non-profit organisations and charity.
Ice packs	Ice packs are donated to local businesses.
Metal	Metal is sold to scrap metal dealers.
Milk bottles	Milk bottles are returned to supplier for recycling.
Mobile phones	Decommissioned mobile phones are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor for recycling.
Paper	Non-confidential paper is disposed in an A4 size paper recycling tray provided at desk/office work areas. Confidential paper is disposed into a shredding waste bin or directly into the nearest document destruction wheelie bin.
Plastic grade 1, 2 and 5	Plastic grade 1, 2, and 5 are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor and sent to Colson Road MRF. Waste are sorted, bailed and recycled.
Plastic grade 3: PVC	PVC is collected by Taranaki DHB supplier for recycling.
Plastic grade 4: Soft plastic packaging	Soft plastic packaging is collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor. Soft plastic packaging are shredded, and reprocessed to premium grade fence posts.
Plastic lids	Plastic lids are collected by local business, melted and reprocessed to new product i.e. soap dish.
Poly bins	Poly bins are donated to local business for reuse.
Printers	Decommissioned printers are returned to supplier for recycling.
Shrink/pallet wraps	Shrink wraps are collected by Taranaki DHB waste contractor. Shrink/pallet wraps are sorted, bailed and recycled.
Sterile wrap	Sterile wraps are reused for packaging.
Toner cartridge	Empty toner cartridges are returned to supplier for recycling.
Unused surplus forms & brochures	Unused surplus forms & brochures are returned to stores for redistribution.

Waste stream	Pathway of landfill diversion
Single use scissors, tweezers, & forceps	Single use scissors, tweezers, & forceps are returned to supplier for recycling.
Wheelchairs	Metal parts from decommissioned wheelchairs are sold or donated to non-profit organisations or charity.

PVC RECYCLING - FOR HOMECARE PERITONEAL DIALYSIS PATIENTS



Did you know the average patient receiving peritoneal dialysis (PD) at home uses about 900 PVC solution bags, over 900 pouches and 300 cardboard boxes per year. This creates a significant waste burden on both the patient and the environment because the majority of this waste would normally end up in land fill.

Taranaki DHB has identified this and has initiated a recycling for home patients program in partnership with Baxter. In this program, patients who have their PD therapy consumables delivered by a Baxter driver can now have all of their Baxter PVC and cardboard waste collected and recycled on their behalf at no cost to the patient.

The recycled waste from one patient will produce 750 meters of garden hose or 36 play mats and create a 42% reduction in the carbon foot print of the patient. Along with a reduction in land fill, the program also reduces the use of both power and water in the re-manufacturing process significantly benefiting the environment through water conservation and reduced CO2 emissions.

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING



Taranaki DHB is set to divert 44 tonnes of its soft plastic waste from landfill each year in its latest waste reduction initiative.

Taranaki DHB's sustainability lead, Maria Cashmore, says Taranaki Base Hospital and Hāwera Hospital uses around 44 tonnes of soft plastic each year across all departments, clinical and non-clinical.

"This includes the packaging used for single use and reusable items such as syringes, IV bags, other medical instruments and even courier bags," says Maria.

The soft plastics will be collected and transported to the Future Post Waiuku plant and turned into fence posts that will pop up in vineyards, farms, parks and private land around the country. Over the next couple of weeks, soft plastic recycling bins will be distributed around Taranaki Base and Hāwera Hospitals as part of the initiative.

Future Post's general manager, Chris Meyer says Taranaki DHB is the first DHB they have partnered with.

"Our posts are now in vineyards, farms, parks and private land from Northland to Southland. We have added new products such as square posts, veggie boxes for gardens, retaining walls and parking stops to our range. "

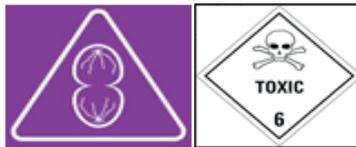
Maria says after several months of research it's great to be able to work with Future Post on this and build towards Taranaki DHB's sustainability goals.

"This initiative is aligned with the Go Zero Carbon work we do as an organisation to achieve our 'zero-carbon by 2025 and zero waste by 2040' goals. There is still plenty of work to be done, however initiatives like this go a long way to achieving them.

Taranaki DHB is also diverting 29 other waste streams from the landfill, including batteries, glass and cardboard.

WHAT DO WE DO WITH OUR CYTOTOXIC WASTE?

Cytotoxic waste is waste that is generated from our cancer centres. Anything that has contact with our chemotherapy treatments is treated as cytotoxic and put into a purple coloured container, packaged and labelled with telophase and toxic symbol:



Cytotoxic waste is collected by our waste contractor and shipped to Australia for incineration.

WHAT DO WE DO WITH OUR MEDICAL BIOHAZARD WASTE?

Our medical/infectious wastes are disposed in approved yellow medical containers marked with the biological hazard symbol and disposed of as biohazard waste.



Medical wastes are collected by our contractors, autoclaved and grinded (into small pieces) before disposal into landfill.

HOW TO DISPOSE MEDICAL WASTE AT HOME?

All medical waste has the potential to carry the human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B or C viruses, and other transmittable infectious agents. For people who have medical waste at their home, it is essential that you dispose your medical waste properly. Without proper disposal of medical waste at your home, the risk of contracting illness and injury is inevitable. Examples of medical waste that you might encounter in the home include discarded:

- Needles & syringes
- Lancets
- Sharps containers
- Used gloves and other PPE
- Bandages and dressings soiled with blood and/or body fluids
- Cotton swabs used for wound care
- Tissues with sputum or other body fluids
- Surplus and expired medications
- Peritoneal Dialysis therapy set
- Biohazard bags

Simple steps

You can help prevent injury and illness by following simple steps when you dispose medical waste used in administering health care in your home.

(1) You should dispose:

Needles

Syringes

Lancets

Other sharp objects

in hard or puncture resistant plastic or metal container with screw on or tightly secured lids.

You may purchase containers specifically designed for disposal of medical sharps waste from medical waste disposal companies, which may include a pick-up service.



Before discarding your sharps container, be sure to reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape and take them to your local pharmacy. Place the sharps container into the pharmacy's sharps bin.

People who are injecting drugs can also dispose their sharps container through the New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme <https://www.nznep.org.nz/>. This is an alternative discreet system that allows for anonymous IV drug users to dispose and purchase needles and syringes.

Important

- ❖ Some containers such as milk bottles can be quite dangerous as the needles can pierce the plastic.
- ❖ Do not put sharps objects in any container that you plan to recycle and do not use glass or clear plastic containers.
- ❖ Make sure that you keep all containers with sharp objects out of reach of children and pets.
- ❖ Do not flush sharps down the toilet.
- ❖ It is essential that your sharps are not disposed directly into Council's residential waste bins for roadside collection as it is considered to be a hazardous waste.

(2) You should dispose:

Soiled bandages

Disposable sheets

Used gloves and other PPE

Cotton swabs used for wound care

Tissues with sputum or other body fluids

in securely fastened waste bags before you put them in Council's general waste bin for roadside collection.



- (3) **Surplus and expired medications** which require disposal can be returned to your local pharmacy. This service is free.

Important

It is essential that your medicines are not disposed directly into Council's residential waste bins for roadside collection.

- (4) Taranaki DHB patients who have their **Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) therapy** at home are provided with two waste bins: a blue coloured bin for printed solution PD bags and a green coloured bin for the over pouch.

A Baxter driver will collect the waste including the cardboard (used to package PD therapy kit) at patient's home for recycling at no cost.



Patient responsibilities:

- General cleanliness of the recycling bins.
- Ensure that recycling bins are not damaged.
- Dispose suitable items in each bin.
- Allow reasonable access for the delivery driver to empty the bins.

Important

- ❖ Before disposing the printed solution PD bag ('clean') into the blue bin, patients **MUST** remove ports from the PD bag.
- ❖ The peritoneal fluid in the other PD bag ('dirty') **MUST** be drained into the toilet before disposal into general waste bin.

- (5) **Biohazard bags** (for infectious waste) supplied to Taranaki DHB patients should be tied securely before disposal at the Base or Hawera Hospital's waste collection and disposal areas. Make sure that you know the waste disposal arrangements before accepting the bags.

Biohazard bags purchased from a medical waste disposal company, may include waste collection from home. Make sure that you ask the company before purchasing the bags.



Important

Biohazard bags **MUST NOT** be disposed into Council's residential waste bins for roadside collection.

Your Responsibility

It is your responsibility to be aware of which items in the home are considered medical waste and know how to properly dispose of them. All medical waste must be safely:

- Segregated
- Stored
- Disposed
- Handled
- Labelled

Contact us

For more information, please email Maria Cashmore, sustainability lead at GoZeroCarbon@tdhb.org
