



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*

# Waste system policy updates

Detailed review of the new waste strategy, waste legislation, and changes at the kerbside



## The webinar will begin at 10am, 2 May 2023

# Karakia timatatanga

Tuia i runga,

Tuia i raro,

Tuia i roto,

Tuia i waho

Tuia i te here tangata

Ka rongo te pō

Ka rongo te ao

Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē!

Let us connect to the heavens above

Let us connect to the earth below

Let us connect within

Let us connect externally

Let us connect to the essence of humanity

Exploring the unknown (night) connection

Realising the potential (day) of connection

Uniting as one, Uniting!

# Today's session

A new era for New Zealand's  
waste system

- New waste strategy and legislation
- Kerbside changes
- Q&A time

# Webinar housekeeping

- If you would like to ask a question, please type it into the **Q&A panel** at the bottom of your screen.
- The chat box is only for technical questions (eg, if you can't hear the presenter).
- This webinar will be **recorded** so those who can't attend the session today can view it and the **Powerpoint slides** on our website.
- For any questions after the session, email [transformingrecycling@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:transformingrecycling@mfe.govt.nz)

# Te rautaki para Waste strategy

Getting rid of waste for a circular Aotearoa New Zealand



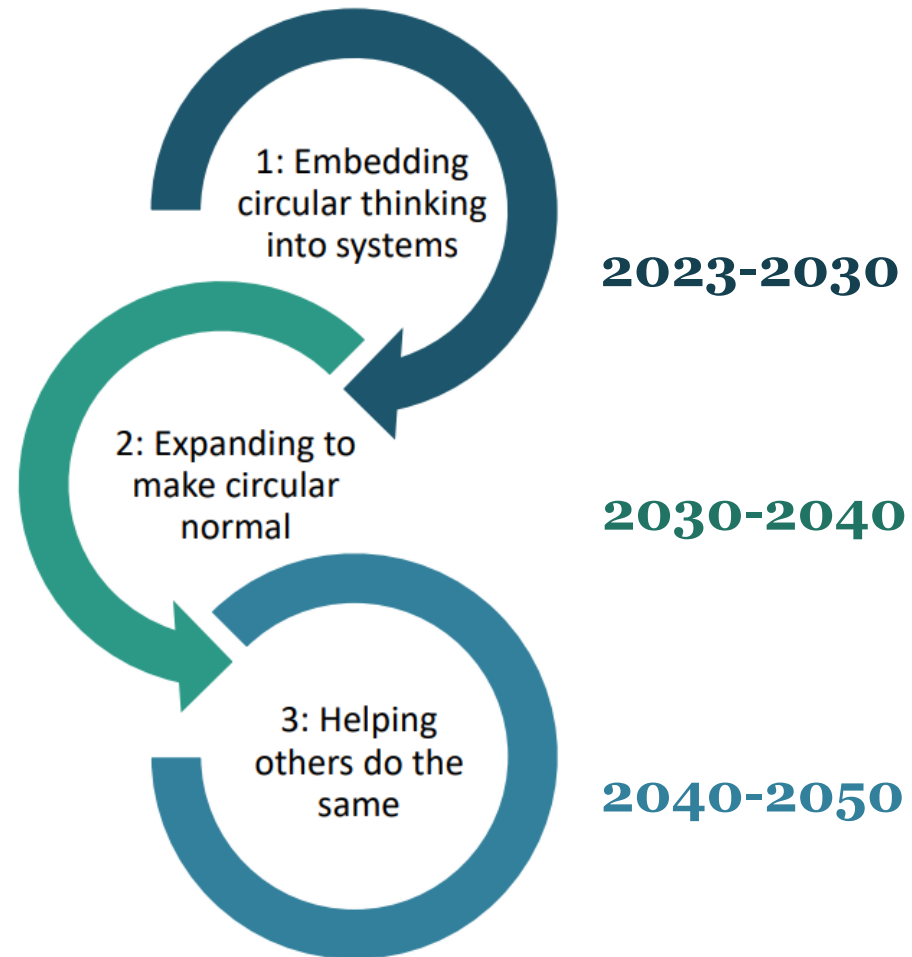
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# Vision

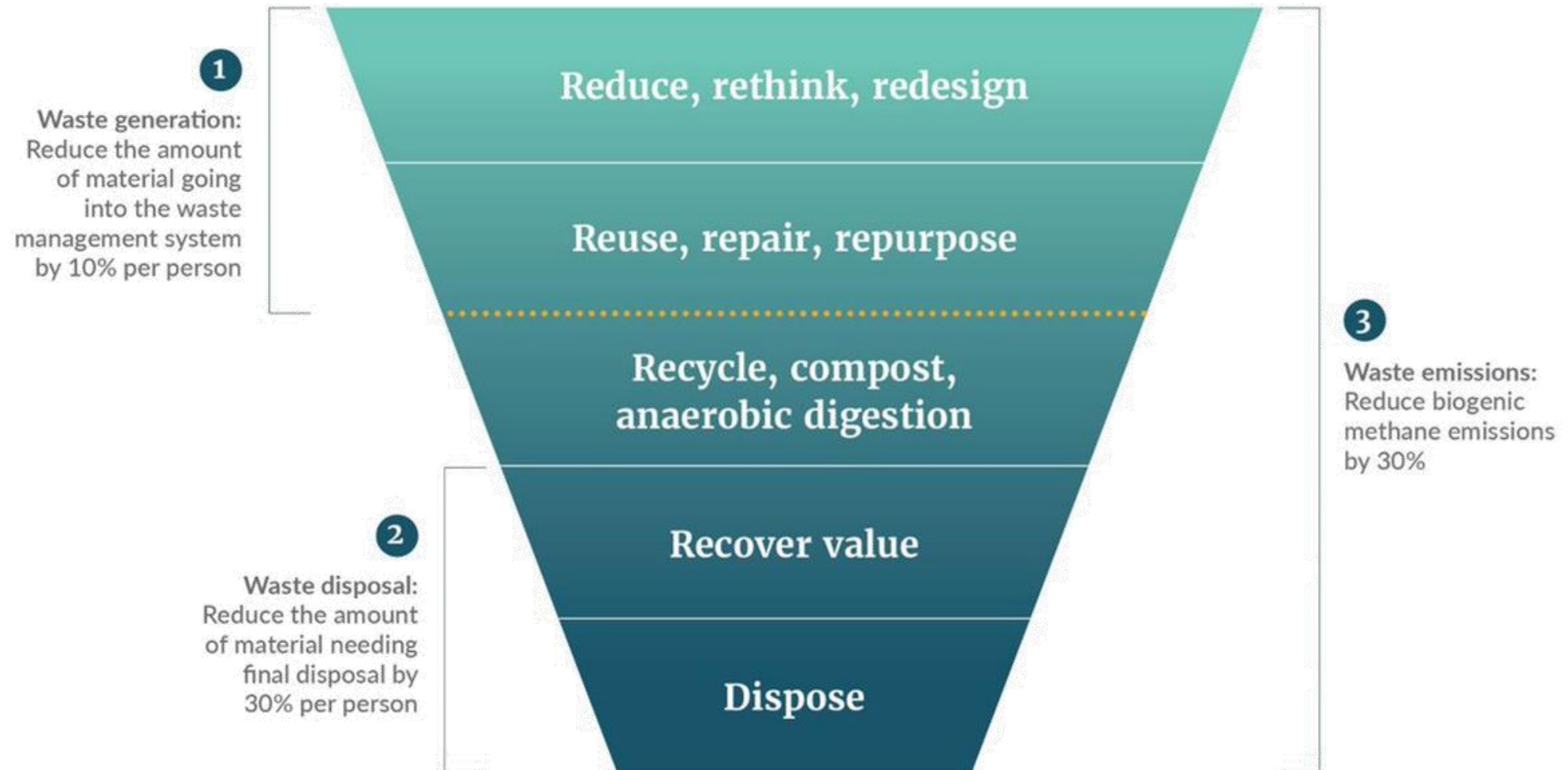
By 2050, Aotearoa New Zealand is a low-emissions, low-waste society, built upon a circular economy.

We cherish our inseparable connection with the natural environment, and look after the planet's finite resources with care and responsibility.

# Implementation phases



# Targets - Phase one



# Goals - Phase one

<b>The building blocks are in place to enable change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ The strategic planning, regulatory, investment and engagement systems are in place and operating to drive and support change</li><li>▶ We have a comprehensive national network of facilities supporting the collection and circular management of products and materials</li><li>▶ We all take responsibility for how we produce, manage and dispose of things, and are accountable for our actions and their consequences</li></ul>
<b>More activity is circular and we produce less waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ We use fewer products and materials, for longer, through increased durability, repair, reuse, sharing and repurposing</li><li>▶ Resource recovery systems are operating effectively for core materials and across all regions</li><li>▶ We look for ways to recover any remaining value from residual waste, sustainably and without increasing emissions, before final disposal</li></ul>
<b>Emissions and other environmental impacts are improving</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Emissions from waste are reducing in line with domestic and international commitments</li><li>▶ Contaminated land is sustainably managed and remediated to reduce waste and emissions and enhance the environment</li></ul>

# Priorities - Phase one

## »» Goal 1: Systems

Strategic planning, regulatory, investment and engagement systems are in place and operating to drive and support change

### Priorities

**Goal 1** is about getting organised. It involves new or improved systems for regulation, investment, planning and reporting, data collection, and more. This effort will set us up to work together in new ways and clarify what we can each be doing.

To achieve Goal 1 by 2030, we must focus on the following priorities.

1.1	Pass and implement new legislation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• require long-term strategic planning and reporting</li><li>• enable a pipeline of regulatory changes to manage products and materials circulating in the economy and reduce the amount of waste that is recycled or sent for final disposal</li><li>• create a comprehensive regulatory regime for all waste management activity (ie, recycling and final disposal).</li></ul>
1.2	Set up strategic planning and reporting systems that provide everyone with clear direction.
1.3	Set up data collection systems that provide good quality information, to help us assess progress and agree priorities.
1.4	Set up funding and investment systems that will support this strategy's goals and priorities.
1.5	Establish partnerships and collaboration relationships that will enable us to pool our resources and coordinate our activities.

# Evaluating progress

- Building the data we need
- Using targets
- Evaluating and reporting

# Waste Action & Investment Plan

The action and investment plan will guide how the strategy is translated into action

## The plan will outline:

- priorities for the next five-year period, across different geographical areas, communities, material streams, and risk areas
- a mix of regulatory, investment, infrastructure, behavioural change and other actions planned to address priorities
- the sequence of actions and how they fit together

# Timeline for developing the action and investment plan

**Sector Engagement**  
May-July

**Prioritisation**  
June-July

**Targeted consultation**  
August

**Draft plan**  
September

**Finalise plan**  
Jan-March

# Waste legislation



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# Overarching provisions

- Roles and responsibilities
- Strategic planning and reporting framework
- Waste levy funds
- Bylaws

# Powers to control products and materials

- Product bans
- Landfill bans
- Mandatory recycling
- Provision of information on environmental performance
- Extended producer responsibility
- Environmental performance standards

# Proposed new systems and standards

- National licensing scheme
- Electronic tracking system
- National waste standards
- Duty of care

# Monitoring and enforcing the Act

- Regulation making powers for the levy administration
- Better reporting and data powers
- Modern compliance regime

# Container return scheme (CRS) deferral

## The what:

- The Government has deferred further work on a beverage container return scheme (CRS).
- It will be the responsibility of the next Government to make decisions on a CRS for Aotearoa New Zealand.



## The why:

- The Government's current focus is on supporting New Zealanders with cost of living issues, and recovering from the effects of the severe weather events.
- A CRS remains on the agenda, Government "will look to assess it again in the future, when the time is right to do so."



## What this means for kerbside changes:

- If a CRS is implemented in future, it could complement the upcoming kerbside changes by:
  - targeting 'on-the-go' consumption of drinks
  - reducing the volume (and costs) of containers managed at kerbside
  - increasing the value of drink containers still recycled at kerbside.



# Changes at the kerbside

Standard materials, food scraps and recycling collections for urban households and performance standards



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# Why are kerbside changes needed?

Greenhouse gas emissions

Food waste sent to landfill

Hard to know what can and can't  
be recycled

Recyclable items mistakenly sent  
to landfill

High recycling contamination  
rates



# Kerbside standard materials

**From February 2024**, all district and city councils are to accept only these materials in their recycling collections:

- glass bottles and jars
- paper and cardboard (including pizza boxes)
- plastic bottles and containers marked with recycling symbols 1, 2, and 5
- aluminium and steel tins and cans.

Glass and fibre (paper and cardboard) can be collected either separately or in a comingled collection.

## Materials for kerbside collection:



Glass bottles and jars



Paper and cardboard



Plastic bottles and containers  
1, 2, and 5



Aluminium and  
steel tins and cans

# Excluded and pending items

## Kerbside recycling

Excluded materials
Plastics numbers 3, 4, 6, and 7
Aerosols
Liquid Paper Board
Aluminum foil
Min and max item size thresholds
Lids
Items likely to be contaminated (toothpaste tubes, plant pots, etc.)

Further details will be provided in the forthcoming Gazette Notice and guidance document, released later this year.

# Food scraps collections in urban areas

**By 2030**, all district and city councils are to provide food scraps (or food and garden waste) collections to households in urban areas of 1000 people or more.

Councils with organics processing facilities nearby provide a food waste service **by 2027**.

Once councils start collecting food scraps (or food and garden waste), these services must only collect food scraps and garden waste.



# Excluded, discretionary, and pending items

## Food scraps and FOGO

### Excluded materials

Compostable packaging

Paper and cardboard

Animal and human waste  
(droppings and hair)

### Discretionary materials

Compostable bin liners

Fibrous plants and weedy species

### Status to be listed in guidance

Tea bags

Further details will be provided in the forthcoming Gazette Notice and guidance document, released later this year.

# Recycling collections in urban areas

**By 2027**, all district and city councils are to provide recycling collections to households in urban areas of 1000 people or more.

Only 7 councils will have to establish new services.

There are 3 councils that will have to start accepting glass in their recycling collections.

Councils can contract a private company to provide the required kerbside service.

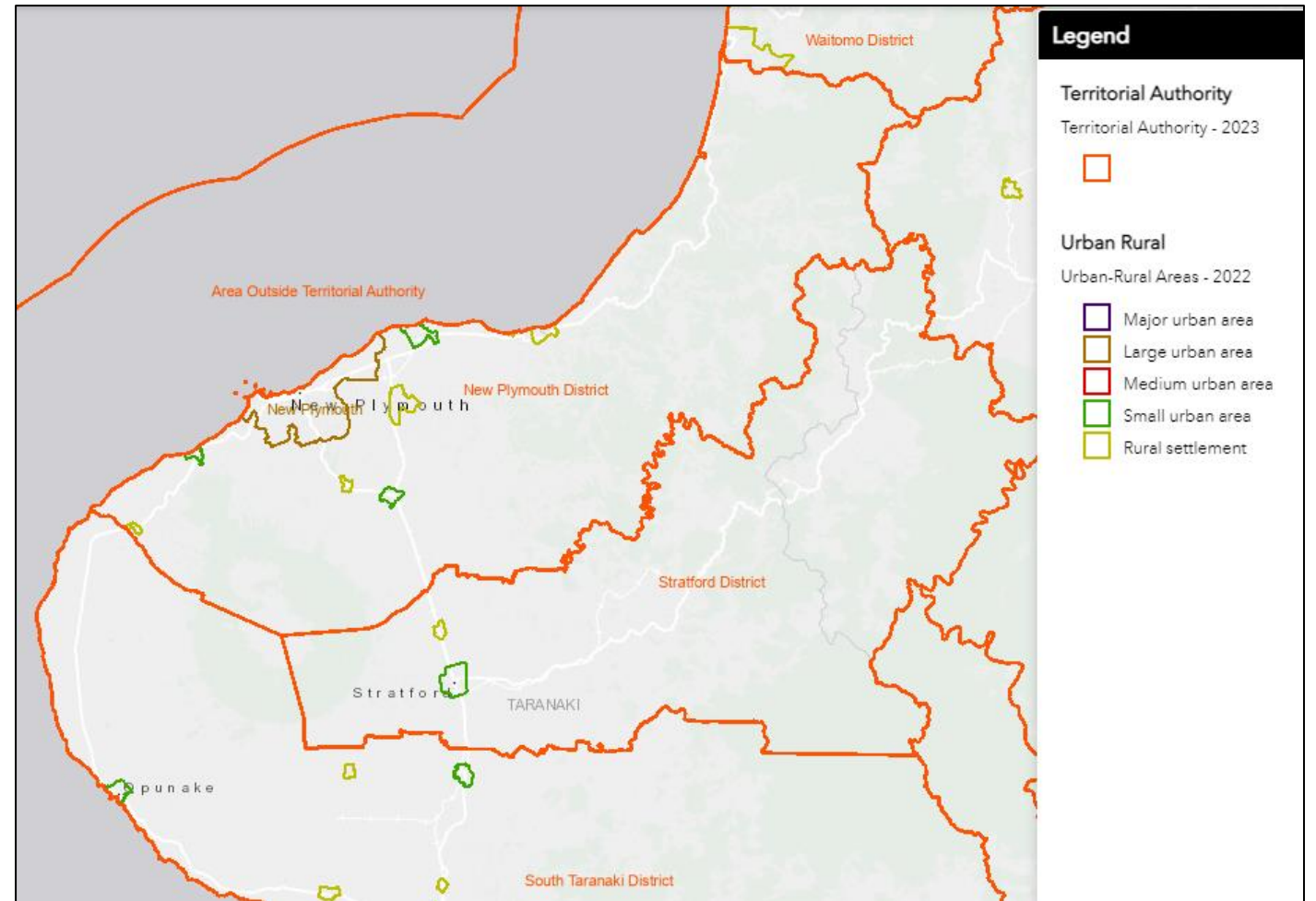


# Defining an urban area

To check whether your towns meet this threshold to be defined as an "urban area" use the [Stats NZ Geographic Boundary Viewer \(for the 2022 year\)](#).

In the Layer List, tick 'Urban Rural', untick the layer 'Urban-Rural areas 2023' and tick the 2022 layer instead. Turn on the legend to see the colours for types of areas. Rural settlements are not considered urban areas.

The smallest urban areas (those with between 1,000 and 2,000 people) will be included in the regulation for clarity.

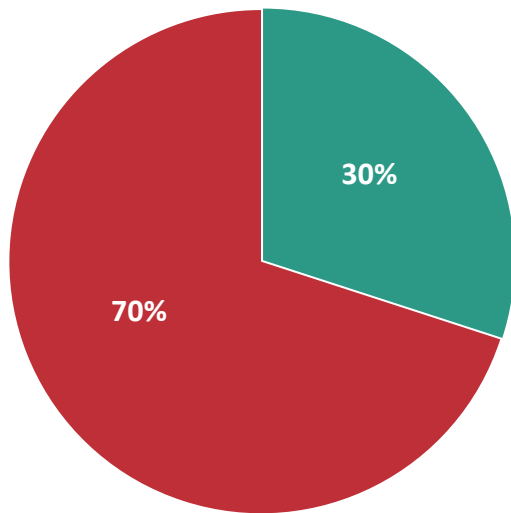


# Performance standards

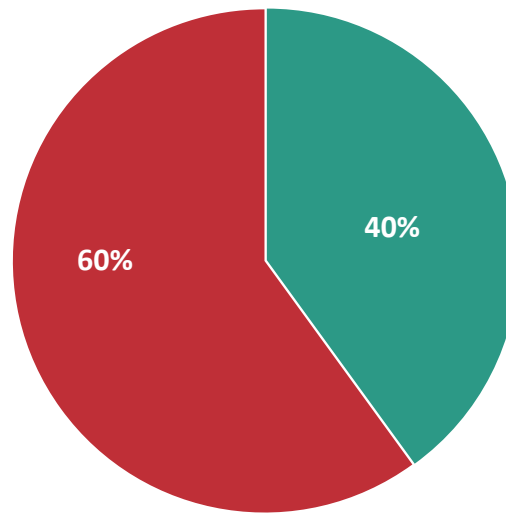
All district and city councils will have performance standards for the amount of household kerbside waste diverted from landfill.

The performance standard will increase over time:

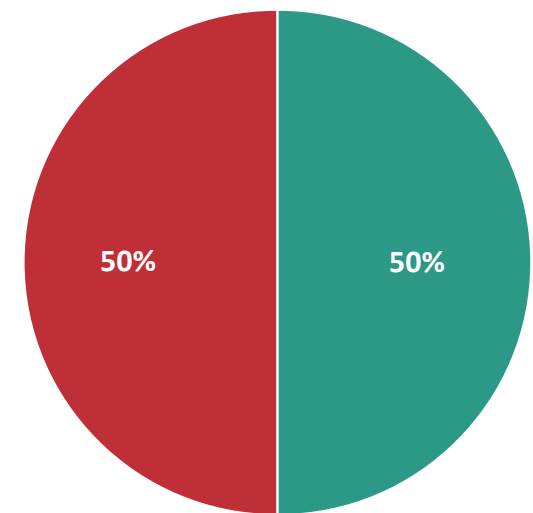
**2026 minimum**



**2028 minimum**



**2030 minimum**



 Recycling and food scraps       Refuse to landfill

# Data reporting

TAs to report on waste collection,  
resource recovery facilities

Mandatory TA report on waste  
levy spend

Private companies with regular  
kerbside collections – annual  
tonnage reporting

Updated volume to weight  
conversion factors for facilities  
without weighbridges provided

Landfills operators to report on  
sources of waste

# When are these changes happening?



# Regulatory and reporting timeline



# \$\$ Funding

Always open



## Waste Minimisation Fund

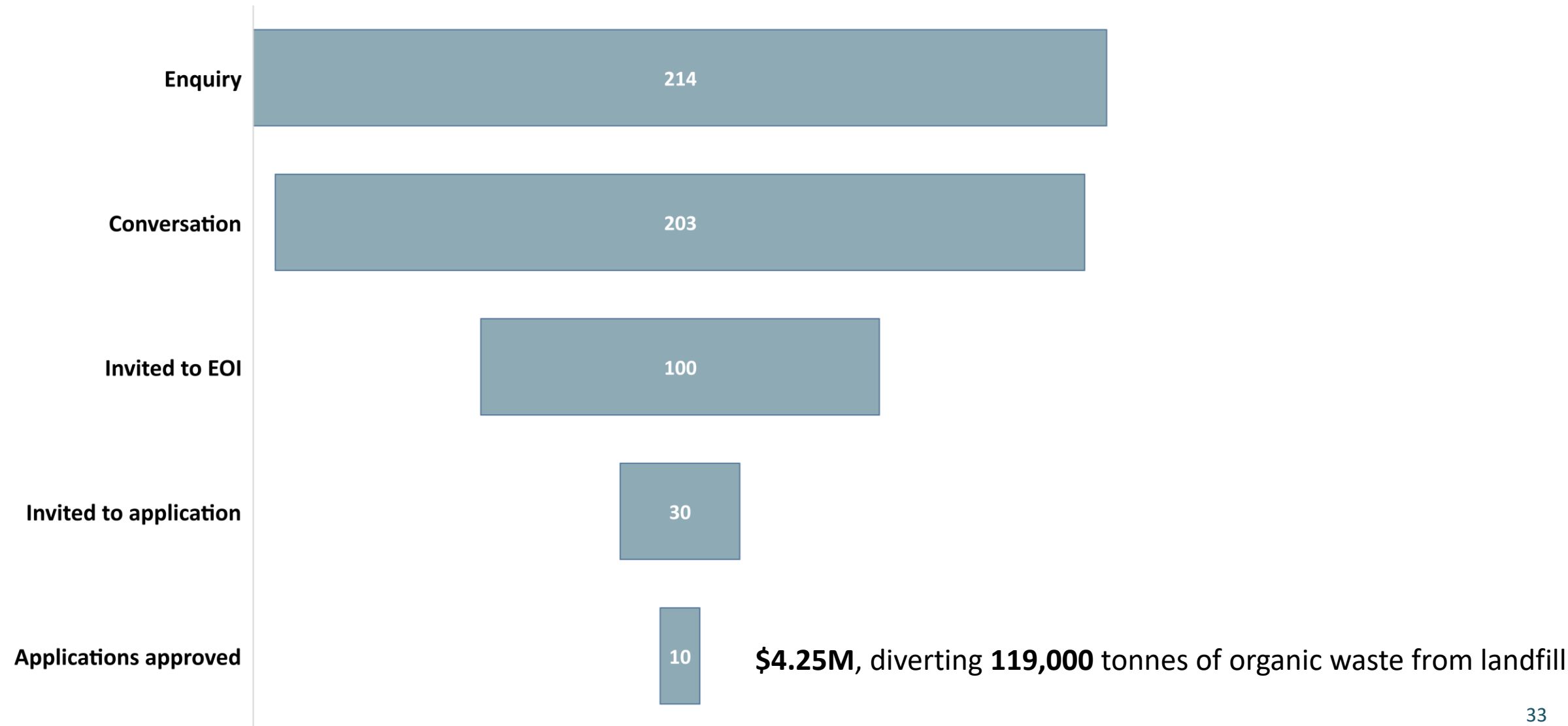
- \$120M – June 2024
  - Organics
  - Council packages

## Plastics Innovation Fund

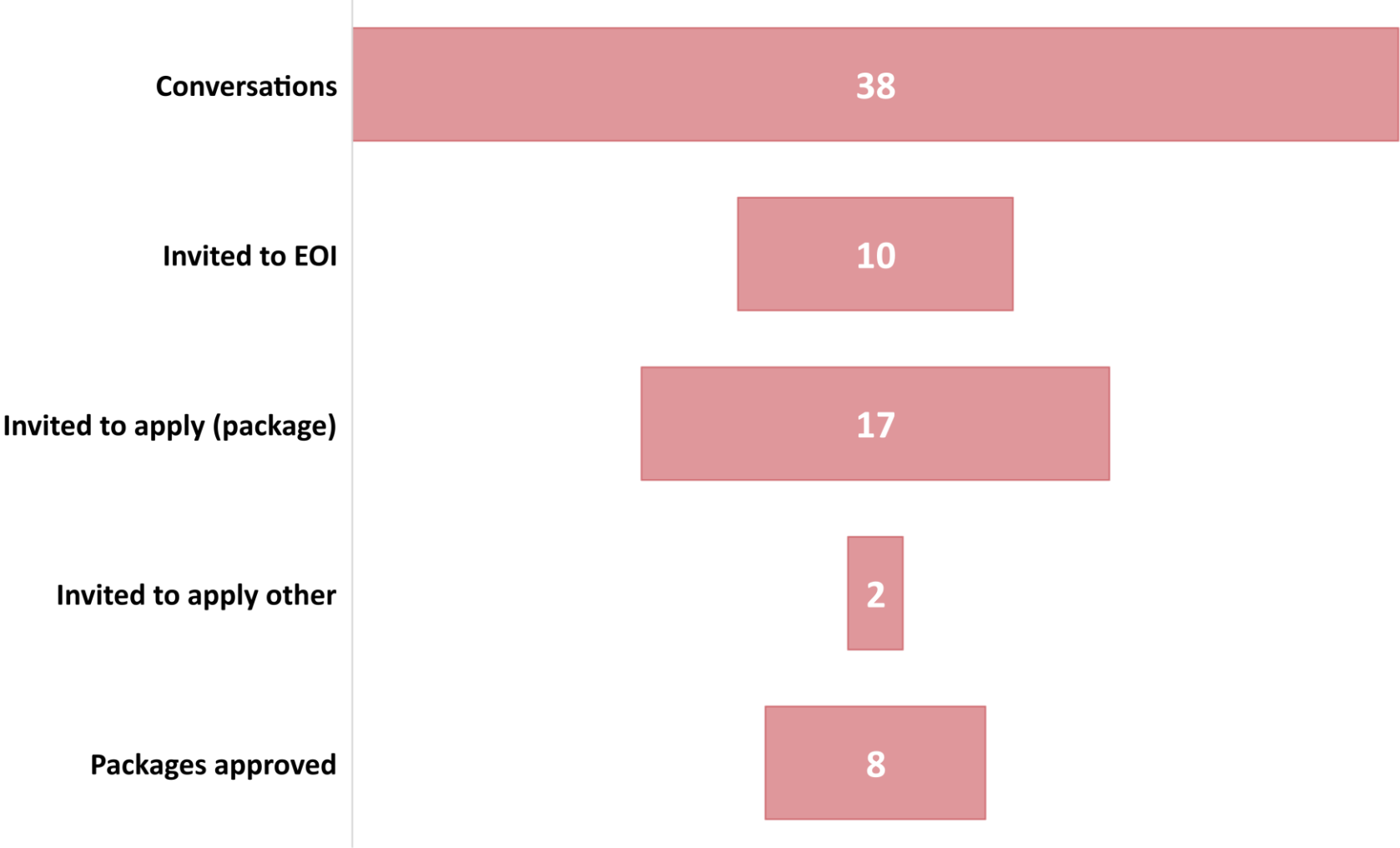
- \$50M – June 2025
  - Soft plastics (till June 2023)

*All active and past waste investments are searchable through the online dashboard*

# Waste Minimisation Fund Pipeline Snapshot



# Council Pipeline Snapshot






# Behaviour change

The Ministry has set up a new behavioural insights team.

Our initial focus is:

- Food waste reduction and diversion from landfill
- Reducing contamination in recycling and improving capture
- Conducting research on attitudes towards waste and recycling, which can be downloaded [here](#)

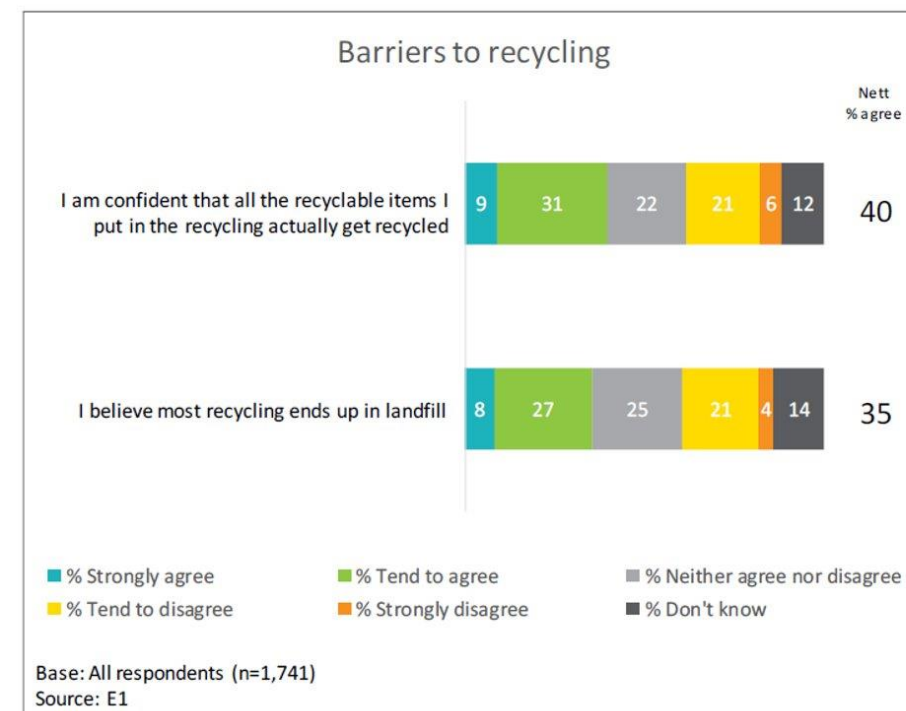
Testing the effectiveness of graphic design for food scraps collection flyers

	Clear, and simple, visually appealing and easy to interpret for children and adults.
	While busy, the additional information listed on what not to include in the food scrap bin was helpful Ticks and crosses reinforce what was in and what was out
	Separate list from food images meant some could just look at the list, appealed most to older participants

# Behaviour change: Food waste and recycling

We are working on the following projects:

- A communications toolkit for councils with resources for rolling out rubbish, recycling, food scraps and food and garden waste collections.
- Communications campaign to support the standardisation of kerbside recycling in February 2024.
- Best practise guide to writing effective communications
- Funding campaigns and interventions to help households and businesses to reduce food waste.
- Annual surveys to track behaviour change looking at both reduction and recycling.



# Pātai | Questions?



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# Further information

Take a look at our [webpage](#) for further details.

Information about additional webinars targeted at the waste sector can be found [here](#).

Email us at [transformingrecycling@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:transformingrecycling@mfe.govt.nz) with any outstanding questions or to be added to our mailing list.

# Karakia whakakapi

Kia whakairia te tapu

Kia wātea ai te ara

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Haumi ē. Hui ē. Tāiki ē!

Restrictions are moved aside

So the pathway is clear

To return to everyday activities

Enriched, unified, and blessed



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