



Frequently asked questions

Consultation on proposed product stewardship regulations: Agrichemicals, their containers, and farm plastics

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions on the proposals in the consultation. For further information, please visit [the consultation page](#).

Where will drop-off sites be located?

In line with the scheme's accreditation, the proposed regulations would require the scheme to provide a service that is convenient and free to most New Zealand farmers. The exact locations of drop-off sites will be confirmed during implementation, but Agrecovery already has a national network of over 160 drop-off sites, and this will be expanded under regulation. The scheme will work with rural suppliers and community locations to improve coverage.

Drop-off sites will be strategically placed to minimise travel distances for most farms. They will be located in or near places that farmers would already be using, such as towns and urban centres, rural supplies merchants, and service providers for the rural sector.

Who will be eligible for on-farm collections?

Farmers and growers that are too remote from drop-off services and have sufficient product quantities will be offered free on-farm collections. Guidelines will be promulgated when the scheme is implemented.

How will the scheme ensure the collected plastic is recycled?

Agrecovery build strong relationships with specific trusted recyclers. Before sending them any new plastics, Agrecovery have a sample tested with them to confirm that it can be recycled. Agrecovery prioritises the highest yield for the plastic being recycled.

How will the scheme improve recyclability of the plastic being collected?

Under the regulated scheme, Agrecovery will educate scheme users on how to treat and manage plastic better for recycling. Agrecovery is also working with Plasback on building a processing site where the plastic will be cleaned and have other organic waste removed before it is sent to the recycler.

How will the scheme manage contamination? Will some collected products be landfilled?

The vast majority of plastic collected through the current Agrecovery and Plasback voluntary schemes is successfully recycled. The materials in scope—such as bale wrap and containers—are highly recyclable when prepared correctly, and contamination levels are generally manageable. Most of the contamination encountered is organic, such as soil and silage residue, which can be removed during processing.

With regulation, the new scheme will have the certainty and funding to invest in improved infrastructure, including wash plants that will further reduce contamination risk and maximise material recovery. Education and support for farmers will also be scaled up to ensure they understand how to prepare plastics correctly.

Landfilling of collected products will only be a last resort. It currently accounts for only a small portion of what the two voluntary schemes collect—typically when material is too degraded or hazardous to process.

What are the information requirements under the proposed regulations?

Producers and importers will have to make declarations to the Product Stewardship Organisation (Agrecovery) at set intervals (eg, quarterly), reporting the type and volume of regulated products sold. This information is used to calculate fees and monitor compliance. Agrecovery will verify data through audits and cross-checks to ensure the scheme is fair and transparent.

What are the collected plastics re-processed into?

HDPE containers are re-processed into new products, such as underground cable cover. Silage wrap is turned into products such as Tuffboard, building insulation, and moisture barriers. Recycled plastic from woven polypropylene (PP) bags is used in the production of new woven PP bags.

Recyclers are very keen to find an end market for the recycled products. The scheme will work with manufacturers to drive demand for the recycled plastics.

How will users be able to distinguish between in-scope and out-of-scope products?

Users will be supported through clear communication from Agrecovery, including guidance on the scheme's website, through retailers, and at the point of sale. With stable funding and national consistency, the regulated scheme will be able to roll out clear, targeted communications across all regions, ensuring retailers, farmers and other users know exactly what is in scope, how to return it, and why it matters.

How will imported products be managed?

Imported products will be treated the same as locally made products. Importers will be required to register with the scheme, report how much product they place on the New Zealand market, and pay the regulated product stewardship fee to support the recycling system. This ensures all producers contribute fairly, regardless of where the product comes from.

How will household pest and weed product containers be collected

Users will be able to drop off these containers at specific sites (eg, dedicated skip bins at transfer stations). A chemical contractor would then collect and triple-rinse the dropped-off containers so that it can be go on to recycling. The scheme will first develop drop-off points in high-use areas such as large cities and then roll out to the rest of the country, working closely with councils.

Are biodegradable plastics in scope of the scheme and proposed regulations?

Regulated products containing biodegradable plastics would be collected by the scheme and incur the stewardship fee. If they are not recyclable, such products would be considered contamination in the scheme collections and sent to landfill.

