Zero Waste Indoor Bin Stations – A guide for businesses

This document outlines how to go about reducing waste in your organisation by setting up a commercial recycling and compost collection, and internal 'waste stations', signage and the infrastructure required for staff desks or workstations. It also includes advice on where you can buy bins and equipment.

This document is focused on workplaces, but can also be of use for clubs, community organisations and schools. If you have other bin suppliers or suggestions to add, please get in touch via enquiries@npdc.govt.nz.

1. Commercial waste overview

Minimising and managing waste is a key part of doing business. As well as reducing your environmental impact, reducing the waste your business generates can create a wide range of benefits.

Avoiding waste can reduce costs and increase business efficiency, enhance your brand and attract customers, create competitive edge, attract and retain engaged employees, and increase innovation and partnerships, as well as saving natural resources.

Nationally, the cost of waste sent to landfill is likely to rise in coming years, and more may be expected of manufacturers and producers in reducing waste and using waste-free packaging. In the New Plymouth District, we are working towards a vision of Zero Waste going to landfill by 2040. Waste from the commercial and industrial sector currently makes up roughly 60% of what is sent to landfill locally.

NPDC has a Commercial Waste Minimisation Officer and Resource Wise Business Programme to help businesses avoid and reduce waste, and separate out items that can be reused, repaired, recycled or composted, rather than just being wasted in landfill. However Council does not currently collect recycling, food waste or landfill waste from businesses.

So, businesses need to set up a waste collection contract/s or drop off system which covers all waste types.

2. Set up a waste collection contract or drop off system

To keep items that can be recycled or composted from all going together to landfill where they can no longer be of use, it's important to have a waste collection or drop off system that covers all waste types produced in your business.

What suits your business will depend on your size, budget, and the types and amounts of waste you produce. There are generally three options for commercial waste, which are set out below. When deciding what works best for your organisation, talk to your Facilities team, office manager or owners/management.

A. Reuse avenues

For any items that are in usable condition but no longer needed by your business, it's ideal to donate or on-sell these items for further use by others. This keeps resources within our economy, reduces purchasing costs for charities and schools, and saves natural resources being wasted.

Common items that can be rehomed and reused include excess food, IT equipment and mobile phones, stationery, furniture, construction materials, textiles, carpet, fixtures, billboards, banners, and outdoor equipment. A labelled box or bin can be an easy way to collect stationery and IT equipment in particular from your staff and customers.

To download a full list of local reuse avenues, go to the Zero Waste Taranaki Business webpage.

B. Commercial waste collection - Contracts

A number of commercial waste contractors offer a pick-up service from businesses, using bins that they provide. This can be done on a fixed schedule, where bins are emptied on a set schedule, or "on-call", when you ring to arrange a pickup, or put out bins when they are full alongside bins on a set emptying schedule. This is a better option that cleaners taking separated recycling, compostables and landfill waste off site. Having collection bins onsite lets you track and measure your waste, and ensures that what staff are separating is actually recycled and composted.

Common recycling and commercial composting options waste contractors provide include:

Collection type	Items that can be included:	Bin sizes
Mixed recycling	Paper Cardboard Plastic 1 & 2 Cans Tins	240 litre wheelie bin
Cardboard recycling If your business produces more cardboard than can be fitted in mixed recycling wheelie bins.	Cardboard boxes Cardboard packaging	240 litre wheelie bin 660 litre large bins Large metal cages
Paper recycling For placing next to photocopiers/stationery areas. Note these are emptied into the same truck as mixed recycling.	Paper Publications, reports Envelopes Newspapers, magazines	120 litre wheelie bin 240 litre wheelie bin
Secure document destruction	Secure documents (shredded and then recycled)	240 litre wheelie bin with chain
Printer and toner cartridges	Printer and toner cartridges of specified type	Cardboard box to sit beside printers
Commercial compost (Organics)	Food scraps Paper towels Coffee grinds, tea bags Compostable cups, food containers, cutlery, straws, courier bags Food stained paper and pizza boxes Shredded paper	120 litre wheelie bin 240 litre wheelie bin
Glass - clear	Commercial glass recycling needs to be separated by colour at your workplace,	120 litre wheelie bin
Glass - green	into separate 120 litre wheelie bins.	120 litre wheelie bin
Glass - brown]	120 litre wheelie bin

Landfill (General waste)	Non-recyclable materials such as plastic wrapping, 3-7 plastic containers, lids	240 litre wheelie bin 660 litre large bins	
		Skips	

To download a list of commercial waste collection providers in the New Plymouth area, go to the Zero Waste Taranaki Business webpage.

C. Commercial waste collection - One-off recycling

For events, an office move or clear out, or for materials that you have in low volumes or only irregularly, contractors can provide bins, skips, cages, boxes or buckets for your business to fill and then pick up when requested. This one-off recycling collection is available for items such as:

- Cardboard
- e-waste (electronic/electrical/IS/IT equipment)
- Mobile phones
- Batteries
- Light bulbs
- Medical waste
- Metals
- Mixed recycling (paper, cardboard, plastics 1 & 2, tins, cans)
- Pallets (untreated)
- Pallet wrap
- Paper
- Plastic/building wrap
- Secure document destruction
- Tyres.

D. Drop off options

For some businesses, commercial collection costs can be a financial barrier, or bins might not fit within limited storage space. If this is the case, there are still avenues to recycle or compost:

- Recyclables can be dropped off for free at <u>NPDC Transfer Stations</u>. Glass should be kept separate from mixed recyclables (cardboard, paper, tins, cans, plastic containers 1 7), and emptied out of any bags into recycling collection containers. Batteries can also be recycled for free.
- Compostable items such as food scraps, coffee grinds, tea bags and paper towels can be dropped to a local ShareWaste host. Get in touch to discuss your items and arrange a regular drop off. A local community garden or school may also be interested in receiving your compostable waste.
- Kerbside recycling and food scraps bins. For small volumes of waste from small businesses it may
 make sense to take recyclables and food scraps home to incorporate within staff kerbside collections.
 Additional glass recycling crates can be purchased from NPDC on Liardet St to carry home glass for
 recycling.

3. Set up internal bin stations

Once you have your collection system in place to cover all recyclable and compostable items, you then need to set up internal bins and signage to match your collection or drop off system.

Our <u>Zero Waste Taranaki Business webpage</u> has more guidance on how to get started, working with management, Facilities, Procurement/Office Manager, cleaners and a green team/engaged staff.

We recommend placing all the bins needed to collect all waste streams together in one station, at key locations. This creates 'Zero Waste bin stations' or 'Recycling Stations', where staff can go to separate items into all available waste streams. If people have to walk to different locations to recycle or compost an item, even a few metres away, they may not make the effort, and place items into a 'catch all' landfill bin.













For bin stations to work in getting different resources separated for recycling and composting, it's essential to remove all individual under-desk landfill bins from staff desks, meeting rooms and stationery areas. As long as you have landfill bins everywhere, all resources get mixed in together, and you won't get correct separation happening. Individual bins are also a lot more work for your cleaners, and require lots of plastic liners.

If you have paper towels in toilets and a commercial compost collection, toilets should also have two bins set up with clear signage, as well as sanitary waste bins in women's/unisex toilets:

- 1. Paper towels and other compostables
- 2. Landfill waste

Before you set up bin stations

Before you make the shift to central bin stations and cubes, it's really important to discuss the shift with your cleaning company. Not emptying individual landfill bins or cubes will likely save cleaners time, so a cost reduction may be possible in your contract or agreement. However, to get internal bins emptied into the right wheelie bin, it's important to train all cleaners at your site/s in the new system.

As well as training and regular checks in wheelie bins, these bag and trolley options can help get better results in cleaners or staff emptying the contents of internal bins into the right collection bins:

Compostable bags (green, brown or white) for compostable bins. The contents of compostable/organics bins can then be placed straight into green wheelie bins for compost collection.

Clear bags for recycling and landfill bins. You can then check inside landfill wheelie bins and easily see that cleaners have not placed bags of recyclables in landfill wheelie bins. Bags of recycling need to be emptied out of bags straight into recycling wheelie bins, otherwise they will not be emptied.

Green bag for recycling, clear bag for landfill bin. This makes it easy for cleaners to tell what to do with each bag they're carrying – clear for landfill bins, green to be emptied into recycling bins.

Cleaner trolleys with 2-3 sections, to empty individual bins into. This reduces confusion for cleaners, carrying multiple bags, and saves on plastic bin liners. Alternatively, cleaners can carry one big bag, and empty individual bins into this.

If you have a small team of keen recyclers, you could also trial going bag free for recycling bins or small food scraps bins, washing out bins when needed, or having a swap in swap out system with two bins or lidded buckets.

4. Give out desktop cubes

To make bin stations work for your staff, each desk or workstation should be given a desktop cube or container, to temporarily place all their unsorted items into. This ensures that there's no interruption to workflow when staff have an item to dispose of, as they can place it in the container on their desk.

When the cube is full or they want a break, staff can then 'walk their cube' to the closest bin station and separate each item into the correct bin.

Make sure you let staff know of the up-coming shift to central bin stations (but don't provide an opt out!). Show staff what the new bin station will look like and where they will need to go to separate items. It's also helpful to give people their cube beforehand, possibly with a gift such as a reusable mug, or chocolate/sweets in a compostable wrapper. NPDC can also provide yellow Zero Waste Taranaki stickers to brand your cubes with.

Finding a new home for individual landfill bins

If you leave individual landfill bins somewhere on site once they are removed, they will likely be found by staff and creep back under desks, so take them offsite as soon as you make the shift to central bin stations! Hospice, The Junction and other reuse stores should accept bins in good condition – phone them to check.

5. Set up clear signage and visual posters, educate your staff

Don't assume that your team will know what items should go in each bin in your bin station. Clear colour coding and visual posters are really important to help guide sorting.

NPDC supply free posters to match commercial recycling collections, as well as Transfer Station free recycling collections. Contact Kati Freeman, NPDC's Commercial Waste Minimisation Officer: kati.freeman@npdc.govt.nz.

Many bin suppliers also provide recycling labels. Method Recycling design and print customised labels, including bilingual bin name stickers that feature the icons and te reo Māori translations in the table above.

Bin label posters can also be downloaded free of charge from the <u>WasteMINZ website</u>.

Make sure you provide good education for staff on what items should go in which bins. Staff/team meetings, tool box sessions or a launch morning tea can be good opportunities to reach lots of staff at once, and to show them example products and which bin they should go in. You can also make use of posters, email, the intranet, internal newsletters and CEO updates to get the word out on new bin stations and how to use cubes.

Please walk & sort me daily

6. Waste station bin names, colours and icons

When you go to select the bins and posters for your bin station, it's useful to know that New Zealand has standardised:

- Colours for different waste stream bins and signage;
- Symbols for different waste streams; and
- Names for different waste stream bins (in English and te reo Māori). NPDC also has its own standardised wording for bins.

We recommend that you use the colours, icons and names outlined in the following table wherever possible when selecting bins, bin lids, labels and posters. This creates consistency across the bins people use at home, at work, at school, at events, and when they're out and about, making it easier for people to correctly separate materials.

More information on the standardised colours, symbols and names for different bins can be found here.

Select the relevant waste stream for **commercial collections** for your workplace in the table below:

Waste	Waste steam/bin	Collectors	Yes – allowable items	No – do not include	Symbol	Bin/bin lid colour
steam/bin	name: Te Reo					
name: English	Māori	*Requirements				
Recycling - Commercial	Hangarua	 EnviroWaste commercial collections Waste Management commercial collections Events (with a commercial collection) *Contents must be tipped into bins - no bin liners or bags in wheelie bins. 	Plastic bottles & containers 1-2, without lids Cans Tins Printer paper, note paper & envelopes Newspapers & magazines incl. glossy Cardboard, books & diaries	Plastics 3-7 Paper towels Food stained paper Plasticised paper Shredded paper Thermal receipts Drink cartons & coffee cups Glass Plastic bags, plastic wrapping Polystyrene Dirty pizza boxes		PMS 109 CMYK 0 16 100 0
Compostable (kitchen) - Commercial	Whakawairākau	 Commercial compost collection (EnviroWaste, Waste Management) Events *Must use compostable bags/bin liners 	Compostable food containers & cutlery Compostable cups, lids & straws Paper towels, paper bags, serviettes & tissues Food scraps Teabags & coffee grinds Tissues	Plastic-lined coffee cups Plastics Plastic wrap Tinfoil Waxed baking paper (muffin wraps)		PMS 361 CMYK 75 0 100 0

Paper towels and other compostables (bathroom) - Commercial	Tāora pepa	Commercial compost collection (EnviroWaste, Waste Management) *Must use compostable bags/bin liners	Paper towels Tissues Food scraps Compostable coffee cups & lids	Sanitary waste Plastic Rubbish	PMS 361 CMYK 75 0 100 0
Glass: Clear - Commercial	Karaehe		Bottles, without lids Jars	Lids Full bottles Dirty jars Broken glass Plate glass, windscreens Pyrex etc.	Blue PMS 299 CMYK 80 18 0 0 Clear PMS 338 CMYK 50 0 30 0
Glass: Brown - Commercial	Karaehe		Bottles, without lids Jars	Lids Full bottles Dirty jars Broken glass	PMS 469 CMYK 40 70 80 50
Glass: Green - Commercial	Karaehe		Bottles, without lids Jars	Lids Full bottles Dirty jars Broken glass	PMS 7496 CMYK 70 50 100 10
Paper - Commercial	Pepa	EnviroWaste commercial collections Waste Management commercial collections Note paper will be emptied into mixed recycling truck with other recycling	Printer/copier paper Newspaper & magazines including glossy Envelopes Books & diaries	Coffee cups, compostable containers Paper towels, food-stained paper Plasticised paper Thermal receipts Shredded paper	PMS 423 CMYK 20 15 20 45

- Commercial	Kāri mārō	 EnviroWaste commercial collections Waste Management commercial collections Note cardboard will be emptied into mixed recycling truck with other recycling 	Flattened boxes Clean card food & tea boxes Corrugated cardboard Clean pizza boxes	Food or oil-stained boxes Courier slips Tape	PMS 423 CMYK 20 15 20 45
Landfill	Ruapara	 EnviroWaste commercial collections Waste Management commercial collections Kerbside collection Transfer Stations 		Lithium batteries Medical waste, needles Hazardous waste, chemicals Hot ash Garden or green waste Electronics or electrical appliances Liquids Reusable items Recyclable items	PMS 032 CMYK 0 100 90 0

Drop off at Transfer Station or kerbside recycling

Recycling - Transfer Station drop off / kerbside recycling (The same as residential recycling)	Hangarua	Transfer Station drop off (free) Kerbside collection *Contents must be tipped out of any bags or containers into large recycling bins at Transfer Station.	Plastic 1-7 containers, clean and without lids Cans Tins Paper Cardboard	Drink cartons Coffee cups Plastic bags Expanded polystyrene (even with a 6 in a triangle) Soft plastic packaging & film Lids less than 10cm in size Nappies Packaging made of more than one material Medical waste Hot ash Garden/green waste Clothes, toys, shoes	PMS 109 CMYK 0 16 100 0
Glass: mixed Kerbside recycling		 Transfer Station drop off (free) Kerbside collection 	Bottles, without lids Jars, clean	Lids Full bottles Dirty jars Broken glass	Blue PMS 299 CMYK 80 18 0 0

Glass: Clear - Transfer Station	Karaehe		Bottles, without lids Jars	Lids Full bottles Dirty jars Broken glass Plate glass, windscreens Pyrex etc.	Blue PMS 299 CMYK 80 18 0 0 Clear PMS 338 CMYK 50 0 30 0
Glass: Brown - Transfer Station	Karaehe		Bottles, without lids Jars	Lids Full bottles Dirty jars Broken glass	PMS 469 CMYK 40 70 80 50
Glass: Green - Transfer Station	Karaehe		Bottles, without lids Jars	Lids Full bottles Dirty jars Broken glass	PMS 7496 CMYK 70 50 100 10
Food scraps (kitchen) - Kerbside	Whakawairākau	*Items must be tipped into the food scraps bin - no bin liners or bags. Can use newspaper, kitchen paper towels or leaves to line bin.	Food scraps Teabags & coffee grinds Meat, bones Kitchen paper towels	Plastic or compostable bags Compostable food or drink containers Plastic-lined coffee cups or food containers Compostable packaging Plastic, plastic wrap Bathroom paper towels, tissues	PMS 361 CMYK 75 0 100 0
Landfill	Ruapara	 Kerbside collection Transfer Stations (charged) 		Lithium batteries Medical waste, needles Hazardous waste, chemicals Hot ash Garden or green waste Electronics or electrical appliances Liquids Reusable items Recyclable items	PMS 032 CMYK 0 100 90 0

7. Bin suppliers

There are a range of suppliers of internal bins for bin stations. The following list does not confer any preference or recommendation from NPDC.

Method Recycling

Location: Auckland/ Wellington
Type: Manufacturer, designer

Telephone: 04 801 9666 (Wellington)

09 379 7747 (Auckland)

Email: <u>info@methodrecycling.com</u>
Website www.methodrecycling.com





Provide indoor recycling bins designed for offices that can lock together to form a station: 60 litre and 20 litre bins. (20

litre bins are more suited to small kitchenettes or meeting rooms.)

Bin lids can be open, or push top ('touch'), which reduces smells and can provide a disincentive for mixed items to be placed straight in the landfill bin.

Custom-designed lids and stickers can also be designed and printed by Method.







Note that the icons on Method bin tops do not match the nationally standardised symbols. These can be covered by bin label stickers. NPDC have designed Method bin label stickers that feature the nationally standardised symbols and bilingual names, which can be purchased for \$5-9 per sticker.

This <u>video</u> guides cleaners in how to hide 60 litre bin liner bags for a clean-lined look. (Note bin liners do not need to be purchased from Method – 60-80 litre bags are available from a range of suppliers.)

Brabantia

Location: Auckland

Type: Manufacturer/Distributor Telephone: 0800 835 725 Email: info@totalbins.co.nz

Website: https://totalbins.co.nz/product/brabantia-sort-go-6l



Resource Recovery

Location: Fielding Type: Manufacturer Telephone: 06 326 8888

Email: gary.king@mouldingsunlimited.co.nz
Website: www.resourcerecovery.co.nz

Provide a variety of bins that can be branded for m







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Friendlypak

Location: Auckland Type: Manufacturer Telephone: 021 960 743 Email: sales@friendlypak.co.nz Website: www.friendlypak.co.nz





Provide bins and kitchen caddies for the collection of organic food waste and stackable bins. Bins are also available for monthly hire.

Port Nicholson Packaging

Location: Lower Hutt Type: Manufacturer Telephone: 04 568 5018 Email: <u>sales@pnp.co.nz</u> Website: www.pnp.co.nz





Storage Box

Location: 7 Struthers Place, Waiwhakaiho, New Plymouth (also deliver)

Type: Retailer

Telephone: 06 215 4957

Email: newplymouth@storagebox.co.nz Website: www.storagebox.co.nz/



Pioneer Waste & Recycling Equipment

Location: Whangarei
Type: Retailer/Distributor
Free phone: 0508 474 66 337
Email: sales@pioneergroup.co.nz
Website: www.pioneergroup.co.nz

Provide indoor and outdoor bins, as well as balers, shredders and glass



crushers.

Stowers Plastics

Location: Nationwide

Type: Retailer

Telephone: 09 273 5987 Email: sales@stowers.co.nz Website: www.plastic.co.nz





Provide mobile bins and a wide range of spare parts & wheelie bin accessories.

SULO NZ

Location: Auckland Type: Manufacturer Telephone: 09 968 2180 Email: <u>info@sulo.co.nz</u> Website: <u>www.sulo.co.nz</u>

Provide a range of waste and recycling containers, some

with different sized openings to guide what items should be placed in which.



TooGood Environmental

Location: Auckland
Type: Retailer/Distributor
Telephone: 09 3691199
Email: enquiry@tgenviro.co.nz
Website www.tgenviro.co.nz

Provide the UK <u>Nexus</u>™ range.





Total Bin Supplies

Location: Wellington Type: Retailer/Distributor Telephone: 0800 835 725 Email: info@totalbins.co.nz

Website: www.totalbinsupplies.co.nz

Provide a range of coloured bins including wheelie bins and recycling bins, including Brabantia, Method and Resource Recovery bins. Also sell bin label stickers, and event bin lids and stands to lock wheelie bins together.

Ravenwood Products

Location: Napier Type: Manufacturer Telephone: 022 687 0300

Email: christine@ravenwoodrecycle.com Website: www.ravenwood-products.co.nz/





Provide bins from recycled plastics, with smaller internal bins within a closable combined bin station.

Metal Art

Location: Lower Hutt

Type: Manufacturer/Distributor

Telephone: 04 939 6666 Email: <u>info@metalart.co.nz</u> Website: <u>www.metalart.co.nz</u>

Provides litter bins for public spaces and amenities



Hygiene Services

Location: Auckland

Type: Manufacturer/Distributor Telephone: 09 820 4969 Email: <u>info@kriston.co.nz</u>

Website: www.kriston.co.nz



Provide stainless steel recycling bins with labels for commercial use.

DESK TOP CUBES

Storage Box

Recyclable (in residential collection) plastic. Washable. www.storagebox.co.nz/bins-boxes/hobby-cubes/hobby-cube-2lt-clear



FriendlyPak

Recyclable cardboard. Not washable. Requires a compostable liner or piece of paper to line. www.friendlypak.co.nz/Products/Bin-Care/Bin-Desk-Cube



Port Nicholson Packaging

Made from polypropylene. Not recyclable, unless sent to Astron Plastics or similar in Auckland. Can be wiped.

www.pnp.co.nz/shop/recycling/recycle-desk-bins/recycle-cube-green-2/



Method

Made from polypropylene. Not recyclable, unless sent to Astron Plastics or similar in Auckland. Can be collapsed and washed in a dishwasher, or wiped.

https://methodrecycling.com/nz/shop/waste-recycling-precycler



UNDER DESK PAPER RECYCLING BINS

Empty paper or other existing cardboard box

Can be labelled with Paper recycling icon.



FriendlyPak

Cardboard, recyclable.

www.friendlypak.co.nz/Products/Bin-Care/Bins---Recycling-Tray



Waste Management

Cardboard, recyclable.

www.wastemanagement.co.nz/for-business/products/office-paper-recycling



Port Nicholson Packaging

Made from polypropylene. Not recyclable, unless sent to Astron Plastics or similar in Auckland. Can be wiped. www.pnp.co.nz/shop/recycle/desk-bins/desk-side-recycling-tray-green-2/

