



## Report to Auckland Council Waste Minimisation & Innovation Fund

### East Tamaki Commercial Recycling Feasibility Study

June 2014

#### Executive Summary

The GETBA Waste Minimisation Feasibility Study was undertaken to investigate the potential for an active recycling programme in the East Tamaki business precinct, which is the largest commercial/industrial hub in NZ with 2000 businesses and 30,000 employees. During the course of this study we also aimed to educate businesses on the benefits of Waste Minimisation (WM).

We took into consideration the environmental demand for WM initiatives in East Tamaki, the willingness of local businesses and commercial contractors to participate, and the potential difficulties associated with trying to establish and maintain WM projects.

We have consulted with over 200 local businesses and more than a dozen commercial contractors and industry experts, developed key relationships with local stakeholders, held a successful WM Forum presented by local stakeholders and industry experts, created various publicity through our own publication and local media, and formed an online WM Networking Group with a mix of local businesses and industry experts, which has already achieved positive outcomes and has the potential for significant growth.

During our consultation we identified three major areas for development to reduce waste to landfill from East Tamaki:

- Industry specific by-products (waste materials)
- Lack of knowledge and understanding of available resources
- Difficulty for small businesses to recycle efficiently

Subsequent to these findings we have developed a pilot programme with two recycling contractors as part of our Wood Waste Promotion, to divert all uncontaminated MDF dust and offcuts currently collected by Green Gorilla in East Tamaki away from landfill, which could end up being over 1000 tonne per annum, and we have organised a free pallet collection service for members which resulted in more than 1700 pallets being recycled.

We have also developed a webpage with current information and resources relating to WM, and a recycling directory with details of local collection contractors and drop-off locations, and up to date promotions in East Tamaki.

After close investigation and some negotiation our original goal of developing a resource sharing network has evolved into the appointment of a plastics recycling bin/bins at the Waste Disposal Services East Tamaki Transfer Station, and the promotion of this and other recycling services offered onsite such as cardboard, glass, cans, and organic materials. This service is designed for small businesses.

## Consultation

Consultation for this study began in August 2013 by identifying and engaging local businesses and industry experts that already had extensive experience in WM practices, and using this as a platform to promote the benefits of recycling and having a WM plan by showcasing these success stories.

We coincided the delivery of this message with the distribution of a WM Survey, which asked businesses targeted questions about their current waste management practices. The intention of this survey was to quantify the amount of commercial waste to landfill from East Tamaki, measure how much was being recycled, and identify problematic commercial waste materials that are currently difficult or impossible to recycle. We also asked respondents of this survey if they would be interested in WM initiatives for businesses in East Tamaki.

The results of this survey and the subsequent consultation were positive in regards to local businesses willingness and/or desire to recycle, however this process also highlighted the difficulties faced by small companies in trying to do so, such as the lack of a Council curbside collection, and a lack of understanding of what commercial resources are available.

## Data

Below is the statistical data we collected as a combined result of our survey and subsequent face to face consultation. This data is based on 160 local businesses both big and small, and has been collated and summarised for ease of interpretation.

### Current habits

- ⊗ 51% of respondents identified as having a current WM Plan
- ⊗ 83% of respondents who did not have a current WM Plan still recycle
- ⊗ 8% of respondents do not currently recycle any waste materials

### Types of commercial waste

<b>Landfill</b>	<b>Recycled</b>	<b>Problematic</b>
Foam	Paper/cardboard	Plastic
Ink	Steel	Paper
Oil	Glass	Wood
Plastic Wrap	Oil	Cardboard
Glass Bottles	Wood	MDF Dust
Milk Bottles	Copper	Label Liner
Timber	Aluminium	Food
Demolition Waste	Food	Batteries
Food Packaging	Packaging	Oil

### Quantities (based on 160 local businesses)

- ⊗ Estimated 745 cubic metres per month of recycling diverted from landfill
- ⊗ Estimated 664 cubic metres per month of waste to landfill

## Interest

- ⊕ 83% of respondents expressed interest in a WM project in East Tamaki
- ⊕ 42% of respondents identified having waste materials they would like to recycle but don't know how.

## Summary

Overall we had a very good response to our consultation, and the data shows that most businesses are recycling already, but could recycle more. As shown in the Waste Type table many recyclable products and materials are currently going to landfill, but subsequent to our research and consultation we have identified and facilitated a number of resources and initiatives to further reduce waste to landfill from East Tamaki as indicated below.

## Outcomes

### Industry specific waste diversion

One of our focusses throughout this feasibility study has been to identify industry specific waste streams and work with recycling contractors and industry experts to find a sustainable solution to recycle these by-products.

#### ***Wood Waste Promotion***

We have confirmed a pilot programme to recycle MDF dust and offcuts, which if successful could divert over **1000 tonne** of waste away from landfill per annum from East Tamaki alone. MDF Dust will be transported to Envirofert in Tuakau by Green Gorilla who are currently transporting the same material to landfill for existing clients. Once at Envirofert this material will make up part of their commercial compost system.

This programme forms part of an overall wood waste promotion which offers GETBA members exclusive discounted rates to recycle all types of wood waste.

We have also identified label release liner as a significant waste product for a number of industries in East Tamaki and the greater Auckland area. We are continuing to investigate potential solutions for this material.

### **East Tamaki Recycling Station – Waste Disposal Services**

With the assistance and cooperation of Astron Plastics and Waste Disposal Services, we will be starting a plastics recycling drop off for type 2 & 4 plastics at the Waste Disposal Services East Tamaki Transfer Station.

This service will provide a local recycling point for small to medium businesses in East Tamaki to dispose of milk, juice and water bottles, yogurt and margarine tubs, flexible container lids, plastic bags, and industrial shrink wrap.

This service will complement the current recycling bins available at the Waste Disposal Services Transfer Station, which currently provide provision for the recycling of cardboard, batteries, cans, tins, and glass.

### **East Tamaki Recycling Directory**

This is a comprehensive guide on the GETBA website which will provide information on what materials can be recycled, where to recycle them, and who to contact. This page will also have up to date information about any Waste promotions for GETBA members.

## **Pallet recycling**

We have developed a pallet recycling initiative where we asked members if they had pallets they would like to recycle. We then arranged pick up or delivery of these pallets to three different sources for recycling. We had an excellent response to this initiative with **1770** pallets being recycled in total.

**170 pallets** went to the Roots O'Waste project team to support a local community program to transform a section of the Otara Shopping Centre Carpark into a social area. These pallets are being dismantled and reconstructed into a permanent transportable installation called a 'parklet'. This is a very worthwhile project and we are glad to be able to collaborate with the Roots team to gain a mutually beneficial outcome with a positive effect on both residential and business communities.

**100 pallets** went to a local company who we have identified has a need for extra pallets to distribute his product, and could take more pallets in the future. The remaining **1500 pallets** were recycled by Green Gorilla as part of our **wood waste promotion** we are offering GETBA members

## **Waste Minimisation Network**

We have created a Waste Minimisation Network Group via LinkedIn which is made up of local businesses and industry experts. This is an open forum to discuss waste issues facing businesses in East Tamaki, and provide tips and advice about diverting waste from landfill. This has already proven helpful to those involved and we hope to build on that further by extending the audience, and providing regular updates about the waste industry.

## **Environmental Showcase**

We are hosting an environmental showcase for GETBA members on 3 July at F&P Healthcare. They will share their journey to achieving their goal of zero waste in 2015, and demonstrate the sustainable initiatives they have implemented by taking a short tour through their facility.

## **Closing**

Throughout this feasibility study we have gained great insight into the issues East Tamaki businesses face with waste management and recycling, and the uphill battle Auckland has to achieve its goal of zero waste by 2040.

We are committed to assist our membership to recycle more and reduce the waste going to landfills around Auckland from East Tamaki. We will continue to educate members, and provide promotions and access to information and resources via the industry relationships we have built and the infrastructure we have developed.

We will also continue our dialogue with contractors and local businesses to identify more industry specific waste streams and potential projects, and we may apply for further funding in the next available WMIF round.