
Annual Inorganic Collection

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Overview Several other districts / cities offer an annual inorganic collection. This report discusses the issues of such a collection.

Background A number of districts / cities operate an annual or biennial inorganic collection designed to collect items too large for the normal weekly refuse collection. Most of these collections are in the larger cities of the North Island.

Issues experienced with these collections include:

- Health and safety – movement of large numbers of heavy objects
- Public Health – potential for broken glass or other hazardous substances near public area.
- Scavengers making mess
- Substantial cost

However many of the public would appreciate the opportunity for clearing out unused goods and their cheap, convenient disposal.

Proposal That an annual inorganic collection be undertaken within the Waimate township.

Options Options available are:

- A kerbside collection of approved inorganic waste
- Facilitate a swap day, where residents could put out items that anyone could uplift, but must take back items not taken. This encourages longer product lives through reuse, but maintains individual responsibility and cost for non usable, refuse items. The costs of organising a swap day might be less than \$1,000.

Obstacles The main obstacle is the cost of the collection and disposal of any large non-recyclable items involved. As this is the first collection, a large number of items should be expected. Many factors can affect the scale of the collection e.g. weather, level of advertising. These factors make it difficult to estimate total cost.

Unless a large proportion of the items can be reused / recycled, substantial disposal costs will result. With the low value of recyclables, little income can be expected to offset collection and disposal costs. Inclement weather would tend to damage many items quite apart from the handling during

collection.

The lack of storage space at the Resource Recovery Park makes sorting a large quantity of items problematic. The existing disposal skips are likely to be inadequate for the type and volume of the undiverted waste anticipated. A system using larger containers may be necessary, at a cost. One of the disadvantages of a concentrated collection as opposed to continuous drop-off, is that all resources e.g. labour, storage, disposal containers, must be sufficient for the peak demand.

Budget Details

- i) Solid Waste Manager is the budget holder
- ii) Activity affected:
Collection (User Pays) est. \$50,000 - \$100,000

Budget Considerations (for Council)

A collection where Council is responsible to uplift and dispose of a large quantity of material is likely to cost in excess of \$50,000. As this is an unbudgeted service, any costs would The Waste Management budget will almost certainly be overspent for the 2008 / 2009 financial year, because of increased contractor prices and the world financial crisis affecting markets for recyclable materials.

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL RESOLVE STAFF STUDY AND REPORT ON IMPLEMENTING A SWAP DAY, TO GAIN DATA ON THE PRACTICALITY OF SUCH COLLECTIONS.