



FAQ's - Transforming Recycling What does this mean for Hurunui?

1. What does the Transforming Recycling legislation mean for Hurunui?

The Government has introduced the [Transforming Recycling legislation](#) to make the materials collected from households for recycling in towns of 1000 people or more, the same across New Zealand.

Although Transforming Recycling commences on 1 February 2024, the Government acknowledges for some councils including Hurunui, a longer lead in is required to permit changes to be made, infrastructure funded, and arrangements to be put in place.

The council have been working with the Ministry for the Environment and for Hurunui, the new legislation means the following.

- Ensuring kerbside recycling collections are provided to households in urban areas (towns of 1000 people or more) by 1 January 2027. For Hurunui this applies to Amberley township only and will include the collection of glass.
- Making food waste collections available to households in urban areas (towns of 1000 people or more) by 1 January 2027, providing an existing organics processing facility is located within 150km. For Hurunui this is Amberley township only

2. What can be recycled from 1 February 2024, when the legislation comes into force?

From 1 February 2024, there are no immediate changes for Hurunui in that only the items below can be recycled via the collections and must still be loose, in securely tied recycling bags, with nothing sticking out. The [council website](#) provides upto date information.

- Newspapers, magazines, brochures, catalogues, leaflets, pamphlets, office paper and telephone directories.
- Flattened and clean cardboard.
- Clean food and drink tins and cans - make sure not to squash them.
- Clean plastic bottles, trays, and containers - larger than a yogurt pot and smaller than 4 litres, these are:
 - Number 1 plastics - soft drink, juice, and water bottles with no lids.
 - Number 2 plastics - milk bottles, bathroom, and laundry product bottles with no lids.
 - Number 5 plastics - yoghurt, margarine, and ice cream tubs with no lids.

Plastics numbered 3, 4, 6 or 7 or with no number are non-recyclable and should continue to go into the rubbish or be reused. **Remember if in doubt, throw it out.**

Glass bottles and jars will still be accepted for recycling, but only via the transfer stations and Hanmer Springs household glass collections. Glass bottles must not be put in the recycling bags.

All lids must be removed and put in the rubbish and soft plastics (those you can scrunch) are not recyclable via the recycling bag, transfer stations, or recycling banks. In Hurunui, [soft plastics](#) can be recycled via Amberley Countdown or otherwise disposed of as waste.

3. Will I be able to recycle glass in my recycling bag from February 2024?

No – glass must not be placed in the recycling bag and recycling bags found to contain glass at the point of collection will be stickered and left.

Under the Transforming Recycling legislation, glass bottles must be collected in Amberley township only from 2027; so the council is working towards this, as it is necessary to arrange infrastructure and determine how this will be funded.

4. Why can I not put glass into my recycling bag?

Glass bottles in Hurunui and the contents of the recycling bags are processed at different locations in Christchurch, so it is essential they are kept separate.

All glass bottles from Hurunui are transported to Christchurch in empty trucks returning from Kate Valley landfill to be crushed and used in roading. On average, backloading glass saves over 70 return trips from Christchurch with an empty truck each year, resulting significant financial savings of more than \$180,000 per year.

5. Will food waste be collected for recycling in Hurunui from February 2024?

Not immediately, but under the Transforming Recycling legislation, food waste will need to be collected in Amberley township from 2027.

The council is working towards this date, as it is necessary to arrange infrastructure, arrange how this will be funded and where the food collected will be processed.

Council acknowledges that others will want to recycle food waste and some in Amberley township are likely to want to divert and reduce food waste prior to 2027. So [bokashi composting kits](#) are sold via Amberley and Hanmer Springs transfer stations, the council offices and Cheviot, Culverden and Hanmer Springs libraries.

[Love-Food-Hate-Waste](#) offers great ideas and suggestions to reduce and re-use food waste to ultimately save money and help the environment.

6. What is recycling contamination?

Recycling contamination is when non-recyclable materials (plastic bags, polystyrene, soft plastics, glass, food waste, etc) are put in the recycling.

Hurunui has been recognised as a Recycler of Merit due to its continual low contamination rates (frequently under 1% per month) and is proud to have never sent recycling to landfill. Those using the services in Hurunui should be commended for this and the council is asking everyone to help to maintain this excellent recycling record.

7. What will happen if levels of contamination of recycling from Hurunui increases?

If contaminated recycling is observed at the point of collection, council has provided its collection contractor with stickers to place on the bag to identify the contamination and instructed them to not collect contaminated recycling bags.

Contaminated recycling will result in good recycling being wasted and could result in recycling being sent to the landfill. Besides harming the environment incorrect items in a load of recycling result in an increased cost of service for ratepayers.