



ENVIRONMENT

Waste Management

Commitment 13: Businesses have waste reduction and management programmes.

What does this mean?

- Waste presents a significant burden on our environment and forms an important part of the environmental footprint of many tourism businesses.
- Managing our waste with the objective to reduce or eliminate residual waste ending up in landfill should be everybody's goal.
- This Commitment acknowledges the importance of the tourism industry taking an active approach to manage our waste with the objective to reduce, recycle and recover as much as possible.

How does this benefit me?

- Managing our waste responsibly benefits everybody - you, your customers, your business, your community, the environment and the atmosphere.
- You can reduce your waste footprint through improved purchasing and by better handling the waste you do generate by recycling, treatment and composting, with only the residue going to landfill.
- Reducing your waste usually translates into cost savings from reduced purchasing needs and reduced waste disposal costs.
- By being better at managing waste and reducing the footprint of tourism, you can establish a leadership position and showcase this to your visitors and the New Zealand public.

Actions for your business

- Review the goods you purchase for their potential impacts: how they are packaged; how much wastage you experience from them; and how much ultimately ends up as landfill. Identify the worst 'offenders' and make them your first targets for corrective action.
- Reduce waste at the point of purchasing. You may be surprised how much packaging materials and non-recyclable waste you may be able to reduce simply by making this goal an integral part of your purchasing decisions.
- Take a systematic approach to managing and reducing your waste: establish the quantum of waste your business produces and how much of it goes to landfill; set reduction targets; monitor your progress and evaluate your efforts.
- Establish a purchasing policy based on Commitment 10 'Sustainable Supply Chains' and avoid purchasing goods that are not compostable, recyclable or otherwise recoverable.

- Source your goods locally as much as you can. Doing this is likely to reduce your waste significantly as your goods will not require packaging for long-haul transport and re-usable packaging methods can be deployed.
- Communicate your requirement to reduce non-recoverable waste to all your suppliers. Consider discontinuing ordering goods from suppliers or supply chains that do not support your efforts to be sustainable.
- Avoid green waste, kitchen waste and other biodegradable waste going to landfills. The organic matter is packed with nutrients that belong back in the natural cycle, not in landfills.
- Aim to compost all of your organic waste and if you can't do so, there are likely to be happy takers for it in your community provided it is free from other waste and contamination.
- Reduce packaging materials as much as possible at the point of purchasing, especially plastics and packaging made from multiple materials that cannot be recycled and end up in landfills.
- Consider stopping the use of single-portion packaged items, from sugar sachets to miniature toiletries. Aim to substitute them with locally produced sustainable alternatives without excessive packaging – you may be surprised how positively your customers will react.
- Ensure that all your hazardous waste is separated, safely stored and disposed of properly and in a compliant manner. Do not put hazardous waste in your kerbside rubbish or recycling bin.
 - Hazardous waste includes all waste that is toxic, flammable, explosive, corrosive and radioactive.
 - Common examples include paint waste, solvents/thinners, pesticides, used oil and grease, batteries, bulbs, fluorescent tubes, most chemicals and gas cylinders.
 - Check your local council's website for authorised collection and disposal facilities and service providers in your region.
- Practice leadership by example and report your progress and achievements to your staff, your community and your visitors.

Become an inspiration for others!

We would love to share your contribution to creating a sustainable New Zealand tourism industry. Email us at info@tia.org.nz with your sustainability success stories and inspire others across the industry.

Additional information, resources and useful links can be found on www.sustainabletourism.nz