

2025

REDUCING WASTE

IN YOUR COMMUNITY
AND ON FARM

A Farm Guide



Thanks to the following:

- Trish Rankin, Thriving Southland and Environment Southland
- The WasteMINZ Farm Waste Guide Working Group

Disclaimer

The information contained in this guide was correct at the time of publication (July 2025).

We have checked the information at the time of going to print, but recommend checking the relevant website, Facebook page or calling ahead before you arrange to drop off any materials. You should also check any charges that may be associated with the recycling and drop-offs.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

LEAVING A POSITIVE LEGACY

Our rural communities produce world-class meat, fibre, fruit and wines that add huge value to our local and national economy.

Many producers, local people, as well as overseas markets, are recognising the need to improve how the waste created by our primary sector is dealt with. Burying and burning of waste is not a great legacy for the land or the business.

The rubbish being discarded today is not the same as the rubbish generated in our grandparents era.

Plenty of items that are deemed rubbish are potentially toxic to both the ground and air quality (if burnt) and some even pose a fire risk (eg batteries buried in on-farm dump sites).

Out of sight, out of mind is no longer enough. By not disposing of your farm waste responsibly you are potentially leaving an even bigger problem for future generations to deal with. Burning and dump pits are not the solution.

CREATING A CIRCULAR FARM SYSTEM

A circular economy is an alternative to the traditional linear economy (from creation to us to a dump). In a circular farm system we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them while in use, then recover and regenerate products and

materials at the end of each service life.

When a product is designed for the longest use possible, and can be easily repaired, reused, remanufactured or recycled (or used, composted and nutrients returned) we consider it to have a circular life cycle.

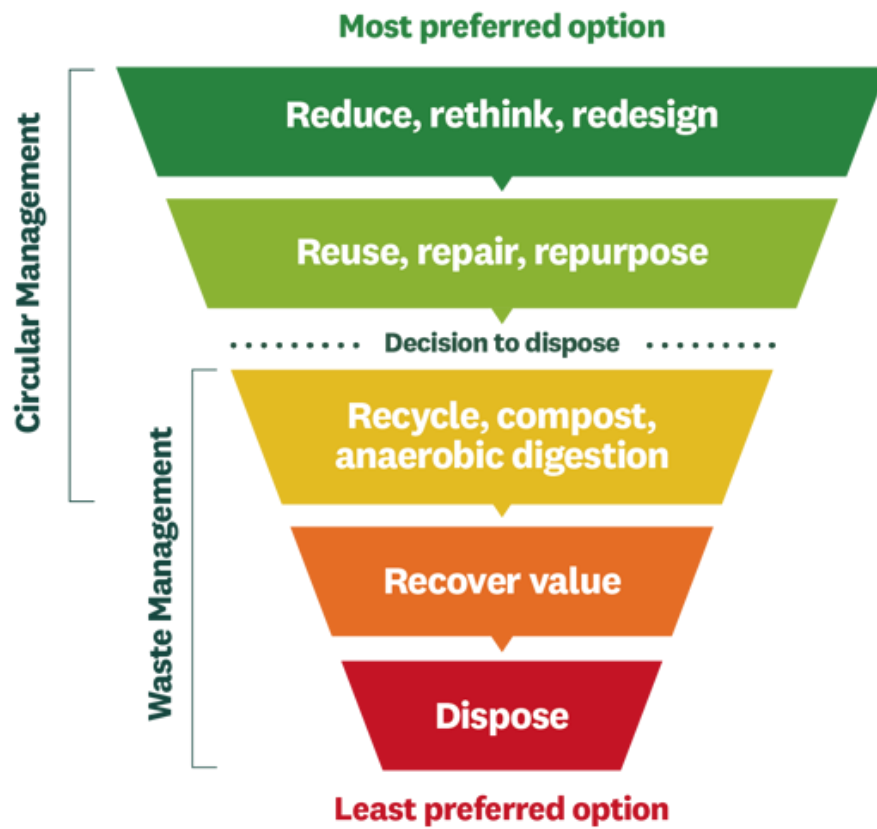
THE WASTE HIERARCHY

The Waste Hierarchy is a framework showing the preferred order of managing waste. By focusing our efforts at the top of the hierarchy we can avoid the extraction of virgin materials, keep resources in use for as long as possible and prevent them from going to landfill.

For more information visit:
<https://wastenothing.co.nz/our-zero-waste-journey/waste-hierarchy/>



THE WASTE HIERARCHY





GETTING STARTED

Waste isn't always rubbish - some can be reused, repurposed, recycled or sold

Getting started with what you are receiving onto the farm can be a powerful way to understand just how much stuff you receive, as well as see where changes can be made.

Make use of what you already have – creating dedicated, clearly labelled recycling bags or bins will help to make recycling easier. You don't need to have fancy racking and storage bins to start keeping your items for recycling. Use items you already have available to you – for small items use ice cream or yogurt containers, for larger items use old packaging boxes, old wheelie bins, or do a bit of DIY and repurpose old pallets into a storage bin. Think about how you're going to transport items for recycling to avoid double handling. Get the kids involved to decorate them with old paint etc.

Start small – one new action every month will result in great change over time.

Start with easy wins - Rome wasn't built in a day and neither will your recycling setup.

Do it together as a team or family – Make it a group effort so everyone learns together and you all pitch in. Try initiatives like "farm tidy Friday"!

Keep recycling information in an easy to access place – pinned to a notice board, labels on containers, digital farm maps etc.

Celebrate your wins - Reward your family and staff for great recycling,

reuse or reduce behaviours - pick up fish and chips as a thank you for their great efforts.

Google is your friend – not sure what to do with an item, local searches for "recycling <product name>" may surprise you with the results. Remember to make a note of any you find for future reference.



ESTABLISHING CHANGE

SYSTEMS ARE KEY TO SUCCESS

- Make it easier to recycle than put in the rubbish. Put containers or bags in a 'recycling' spot, where they are easy to grab and load onto the ute or trailer before you head into town.
- Clearly label your recycling containers so different materials don't get mixed up.
- Make a dedicated spot in your shed to dry out your bale wrap and make a time each week to pack your liner well.

THE CLEANER THE BETTER

All recycling needs to be clean - rinse, brush, or shake to remove dirt, silage, residue, etc. Ag-chem containers need to be triple rinsed. If it's not clean, it can pose a hazard or contaminate clean materials.

MAKE A CONSCIOUS CHOICE WHEN PURCHASING

- Look at reuse options to prevent waste in the first place.
- REDUCE is the best behaviour we can have. Look for products that are more easily reusable or recyclable or have less packaging.
- Consider second hand – there are great finds online!

- Is it something you could borrow from a friend or neighbour rather than buying your own?
- Could you co-purchase the item if it's not something you will use every day? Share the purchase costs of tools or machinery with trusted family, friends or neighbours.

REUSE AND REPAIR

- Know a good repair person? Or even Google can sometimes show you how to fix things – it could be a simple repair job!
- Kiwis are renowned for their 'number 8 wire' mentality – sometimes all it needs is a bit of kiwi ingenuity to mend something or get it working again therefore avoiding the need to replace it.

DONATE WHAT YOU NO LONGER NEED

- Check out local "Pay It Forwards" or Buy Sell pages on Facebook
- Contact your local transfer station, charity or second-hand store to drop off good and working items for someone else to pick up and use. Remember to confirm with them first what they do and do not accept.

ONLY BURN WHAT YOU SHOULD

- Untreated timber, paper, cardboard or dry vegetation. All other items when they burn

create ground leaching, possible carcinogens or offensive odours when they burn – check on the ORC website for further information.

[https://Enjoy outdoor burning safely in Otago | Otago Regional Council](https://Enjoy_outdoor_burning_safely_in_Otago_|_Otago_Regional_Council)

- On farm burning of plastics often occurs in a bonfire situation where temperatures do not usually get high enough to completely combust plastics. This can result in the release of carbon monoxide, heavy metals, dioxins and furans. These contaminants can have major negative health effects on people and animals and may be carcinogenic. The contaminants accumulate in animal fat and can be passed on to people when they consume animal products. (DairyNZ)

MARK CONTAMINATED LAND SITES ON YOUR FARM MAP

- Avoid issues in the future by marking contaminated sites so

people don't look for water sources or build near an old farm landfill.

WORK AS A COMMUNITY

- Think Global, Act Local - work with your neighbours or local school to consolidate your recycling or to set up collection drop off points.
- Donate, sell or buy good quality items on online forums – look for "Pay It Forwards" or local community pages.
- Utilise local organisations who may already offer collection services – eg Scout groups, community centres.
- Approach local retailers about setting up a collection drop point for goods related to their business.
- Found a good local recycling option? Give them a shout out on your local online community pages to let other people know about them. Add them to the notes pages in this guide for future reference

Talking with suppliers about where your farm waste comes from:

Talking with your suppliers about the issues some packaging and materials create for on-farm waste management can help affect change with manufacturers. With the knowledge that farm practices are increasingly under the spotlight to meet market and consumer demands for both transparent and sustainable practices, waste management and recycling improvements are just one aspect of a better outcome. Changes are beginning to be made by producers of ag and hort products to improve their products providing alternatives to single use items, reducing the waste burden on the end-user. This movement needs to continue so there is a decrease to the volume of materials used over time and significant changes to the materials we are responsible for dealing with at the end of life. This helps both practically on-farm, but also with the bigger picture of resource efficiency and material use.

ON FARM WASTE REDUCTION

Look for options to reduce your waste where you can. It's always easier to refuse it rather than deal with it later. Below are local options for recycling the waste you can't avoid.

CHEMICALS

Preparation: Keep in original container if possible.

Register them at Agrecovery.co.nz for free or subsidised pickup.

FARM PLASTICS RECYCLING

Farm plastics can be recycled through a range of providers including:

- Your local transfer stations.
- Agrecovery agrecovery.co.nz and their participating retail stores.
- Plasback Plasback.co.nz

Plasback and Agrecovery both offer proof of recycling if needed for auditing or reporting.

See information below for more information on recycling specific plastic products:

CHEMICAL CONTAINERS

Preparation: Triple rinse, dry, keep bungs & lids separate.

Recycled by:

Agrecovery. All sizes 1L – 1000L Drop containers off to participating retail stores or for large quantities arrange an on-farm collection.

Plasback: Ecolab 100L and 200L drums. Contact Plasback to arrange collection.

Local drop off:

- Clutha Vets; Balclutha & Tapanui 1- 60 litre containers.
- NZ Farm Source Balclutha

Plasback and Agrecovery both offer proof of recycling if needed for auditing or reporting.

BALE WRAP

Bale wrap must be as clean as possible and packed into approved bags.

Preparation: Clean, separated and bagged in liner.

Recycled by Plasback.

Buy bins and liners at plasback.co.nz or:

- Farmlands, Balclutha
- PGG Wrightson, Balclutha

Tip: keep the collection bin/liner as close as possible to your stored bales so that you can keep the plastic as clean as possible.

BALE NETTING

This cannot be recycled. The only safe disposal option is an off-farm, engineered landfill.

FEED AND FERTILISER BAGS

Preparation: Shake out – must be clean inside and out.

Small LDPE and Polypropylene (PP) woven bags – recycled by: Agrecovery.

- Can drop to Farmlands, Balclutha

Order a free purple liner (fits approx. 100 sacks) and coded zip-tie to collect participant branded sacks and return to a drop-off location.

Large 500kg and 1T woven bags recycled by: Plasback.

Collect in a Plasback liner.

BALING TWINE

Preparation: Clean, separated and bagged with a liner.

Recycled by Plasback.

IRRIGATION PIPE

Preparation: Clean, then coil up in a bag or rolled up. NO effluent pipe.

Recycled by Plasback.

METABOLIC BAGS

Elanco metabolic bags can be returned to vet practices.

Recycled by AgRecovery. Return to:

- Clutha Vets, Balclutha

NETTING

Preparation: Must be separated from tape, rope, wire, or any foreign objects. Black and white can be mixed.

Recycled by Plasback.

PLANT POTS

Clean plant, veggie and seeding pots can be returned to:

- Mitre 10
- Bunnings

- Many local plant and garden centres will also accept plastic plant pots.

SHRINK WRAP

Keep as clean as possible and separate from bale wrap and silage covers. Plasback can collect packed into their liners on a case-by case basis.

Clean shrink wrap can be dropped off to PGG, Balclutha (remove all stickers)

SILAGE COVERS

Silage covers, broomed off and folded up (not tied), can be collected by Plasback.

TREE GUARDS

Preparation: Clean, separate, and put in liner. Only PE plastic tree guards accepted – not corflute or cardboard.

Recycled by Plasback.

Your local catchment group might be interested in re-using these so check in before disposing of.

ZOETIS TEAT SEAL TUBES

Preparation: remove stoppers and strings. Return to your vets for recycling:

- Clutha Vets, Balclutha

LARGE BATTERIES

Can be recycled at a number of retailers, local transfer station (Mt Cooee) and mobile vans including:

- Repco: Accepts old batteries for free at many locations.

- Supercheap Auto: Accepts old batteries for free at many locations.
- Century Yuasa Battery: Accepts old batteries for free at many locations.
- Mitre 10: Accepts old batteries for free for Mitre 10 customers.
- Bunnings: Accepts old batteries at collection units.
- AA Battery Service: Accepts old batteries at their mobile vans.
- Mt Cooee Landfill will accept for recycling.

CARDBOARD

Clean and flatten. Drop off at Transfer Stations for recycling:

- Clinton
- Lawrence
- Maclennan
- Milton
- Owaka
- Taieri Mouth
- Tapanui

GUMBOOTS

Bata offers a gumboot recycling service (Bata brand only). Why not consolidate with your school or community group for a collection?

PAINT

Drop off old or unwanted paint pails and tins:

Resene stores – fees apply for non-Resene brands

https://www.resene.co.nz/comn/en/issue/paintwise_information.htm

PALLETS

You can reuse or repurpose to make compost bins, calf pens, hen houses, and they can be great for kids to build with, e.g. create shelves/display cabinets. Some companies offer a refund if these are returned.

Lions Clubs also offer a collection for some local companies.

SCRAP METAL

See if your local school is having or will run a fundraiser where they get a skip bin dropped off and locals can bring their scrap metal to donate.

A drum for scrap metal off cuts at home or on the farm is ideal. When it's full it can be taken to your scrap metal dealer, or some may be able to collect. You will usually receive payment for this.

Scrap metal can also be taken free of charge to many local transfer stations. Refer to local websites or contact them first to confirm.

SHARPS

Divert needles from veterinary medications from local skip bins or landfill by purchasing a sharps container from your local vet and returning it to them. Contact your vet to see if they will accept full containers. Some charges may apply.

MY LOCAL VET:

Name:

Contact Number:

TYRES

If you're getting your tyre changed at a tyre shop, they will take your old tyre for free as the cost of recycling is now included in the price of the new tyre.

Tyres (clean, no rims) for free, 5 or less:

- Mt Cooee Landfill will accept for recycling.

VEHICLE OIL

Supercheap Auto stores will also take used oil in sealed containers for recycling. Many field mechanics will take your oil and old filters for recycling, if you are receiving on-farm vehicle maintenance.

VACCINE PACKS

Zoetis Livestock Vaccine packs and MSD Vaccine Vaxipaks can be recycled for free via your vet clinic. Plastic pouches that contain MSD or Zoetis vaccination products can be returned to vet practices free of charge for recycling. Drop off at:

- Clutha Vets, Balclutha
- PGG Tapanui, Heriot & Balclutha.

Dairy NZ have some great guidance on how to implement on farm waste reduction and management.

<https://Waste management overview | DairyNZ>

COMPOSTING DEAD STOCK

There is increasing farmer interest in composting dead stock. With a bit of effort upfront, this can be an effective and cost-efficient way to manage dead stock with minimal impacts on the farm environment.

"Static pile composting is magical. The animal is enveloped in carbon-based material and left for months or years with no turning or work required." Cornell Waste Management Institute 2012. [Mortality Composting - Cornell Waste Management Institute](#)

Youtube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXJ30jXUx_I

LOCAL RECYCLING CONTACTS/OPTIONS

Find out what you can do (or not do) with your waste.

CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL

[Rubbish, Recycling and Waste Minimisation - Clutha District Council](#)

Environment Southland Factsheets are an excellent resource - <https://www.es.govt.nz/environment/pollution-and-waste/pollution-prevention-factsheets>.

Product Type	Where it can be recycled locally	Name/Address of place to take it or contact details to arrange pick-up
<i>Eg. sharps</i>	<i>VetEnt</i>	<i>Call Kaye @ Alexandra for a secure sharps container</i>

USEFUL RESOURCES/REFERENCES

Check out our local and national recycling providers websites:

AGRECOVERY <https://agrecovery.co.nz/>

FARMSOURCE <https://store.nzfarmsource.co.nz/campaigns/rubbish-to-reusable>

PLASBACK <https://plasback.co.nz/>

TERRACYCLE <https://www.terracycle.com/en-NZ/>



HOUSEHOLD & STAFF/OFFICE RECYCLING

BATTERIES

Did you know that one AA battery will contaminate around 1.5m² and are big land contaminants. They can be stored in a container (like a large yoghurt pottle) and taken to 4 different sites for recycling:

- Clutha District Council Reception
1 Rosebank Terrace,
Balclutha
- Balclutha Community Library
23 John Street, Balclutha
- Tapanui Community Library
1 Suffolk Street, Tapanui
- Tokomairiro Community Hub, Milton
61 Union Street (Opposite
Supervalue), Milton

They accept single use and rechargeable household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, 6V, power tool batteries, button cell batteries and other handheld sized batteries that fit into the collection unit slot. Tape over the exposed battery terminal, or tape top and bottom face for button cell batteries and keep the battery label information visible if you're not using clear tape. WasteMINZ also offers a battery collection sites map on their website:

<https://www.wasteminz.org.nz/our-work/hot-topics/battery-collection-facilities>

CLOTHING

Take clean clothing and other household items, which are in good used condition, to second hand shops. If not in good condition, drop off at labelled collection bins to be turned into rags.

COFFEE PODS

Terracycle accept a number of branded coffee pods for recycling including L'OR, Moccona, Jeds, Dolce Gusto, and Robert Harris - <https://www.terracycle.com/en-NZ>

Nespresso offer various capsule collection options from doorstep collection to instore or collection point drop offs - <https://www.nespresso.com/nz/en/how-to-recycle-coffee-capsules>

ELECTRONIC WASTE

- Mt Cooee will collect for recycling.

GLASS

Take to local transfer station:

- Clinton
- Lawrence
- Maclennan
- Milton
- Owaka
- Taieri Mouth
- Tapanui

HEALTH PRODUCTS

Many companies, such as Gillette and Colgate, are part of Terracycle.

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-NZ>

LIGHT BULBS

Any unbroken traditional, typical household bulbs (fluorescent or LED) can be dropped off at Mitre 10

<https://www.mitre10.co.nz/lightbulbrecycling>

NEWSPAPER, CARDBOARD, HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS RECYCLING

You can drop off at:

- Mt Coovee will collect for recycling

PET FOOD BAGS

Check with your vets what they can recycle.

Most Animates and Petstock stores accept pet food bags. All brands of Eukanuba, Royal Canin, Hills and Black Hawk cat or dog food – dry food bags and wet food pouches. Free to recycle.

PLASTICS 1,2,5

Plastics from domestic use can be recycled at Transfer Stations.

It must be clean and free of lids.

- Clinton
- Lawrence
- MacLennan
- Milton
- Owaka
- Taieri Mouth
- Tapanui

POLYSTYRENE

Expanded polystyrene (EPS) from domestic use can be recycled at some Mitre 10 stores. Check out their website -

<https://www.mitre10.co.nz/news/expol-recycling-cubes>

NOTE: Polystyrene should not be burnt as it releases toxic chemicals

RESEALABLE FOOD PACKAGING

Wash out, dry and reuse to package small items in school lunchboxes.

SECOND HAND ITEMS

Drop off at your local recycling hub.

- Salvation Army Balclutha Family Store

Mon – Fri 9am – 4:30pm

Sat 9:30am – 3pm

- Red Cross Shop

Mon, Wed & Fri 10am – 2pm

Tues, Thurs, Sat

- Milton Op Shop

Mon & Tues 9:30am – 5pm

Wed 9:30am – 6pm

Thurs & Fri 9:30 – 4pm

Sat 10am – 2pm

SOFT PLASTICS

Check out if your local supermarkets recycle soft plastics. If they don't, why not ask if they will start -

<https://www.recycling.kiwi.nz/sto-re-locator>

Some Warehouse stores also accept soft packaging for recycling.

WINE BOTTLE LIDS/CAN TABS

Provide to Lions Club as a fundraiser for Kidney Kids

<https://www.lionsclubs.org.nz/partnerships/our-partners/kidney-kids/>