

Sustainability News



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Operation Clean Sweep – Clean Up Week

Last week was OCS Clean Up Week and we had incredible clean-up mahi across the motu. There were clean-ups at seven locations: Takapuna, Rosebank, East Tamaki, Hamilton, Rotorua, Hawkes Bay and Christchurch.

We reshared a few posts on our [LinkedIn page](#) as companies posted afterwards.

But in summary it was fabulous – the weather was stunning in most regions, and a LOT of rubbish was retrieved. Two skips were filled in 90 minutes in Hamilton, along with 15 shopping trollies! 320kg of rubbish was found in 1 hour in Rotorua.



Weird and wonderful finds included: mini finger dumbbells, a half-burnt sleeping bag, a toddler's ride-on car, underwear, a kids' slide, a large couch, a kitchen bench, and a bong!

Prizes of chocolates were included for the first time in the packs, and there was also a larger prize sponsored by 3R Group, to anyone who found a tyre – they would be in the draw to win a Kathmandu jacket! The winners were joint, so it will need to be decided who gets to have it!



Enormous thanks to the sponsors: Aotearoa NZ Made for bags, Pact Group for hand sanitiser, Forward Plastics provided drinks in East Tamaki. BBQs were put on by Duttons Stormwater Maintenance.

And to the involvement of groups such as Rosebank Business Association, Westend Rowing Club and Local Councils for providing skips and rubbish collections.

Placeholder for next year's clean up with your workplace and wider community groups – it would be great if more people can be involved, making it a purposeful and fun day out.



This event is run by Operation Clean Sweep each year, if you are interested in participating and/or want to find out more about OCS certification, please contact OCS@plastics.org.nz

Recycling Week Recap

Recycling Week was 20-26 October, and PlasticsNZ shone the spotlight on members who are putting in the mahi to avoid, reduce, reuse, repair, and recycle smarter. These included:



- Celebrating **PPL Plastic Solutions** on their Recycling Week WIN for their innovations: firstly, reusable plastic coils that replace 1000+ cardboard coils weekly; and also reusable pallet wraps that save 4,200m of cling film every week!!
- **Marley NZ's** joint venture partnership with **Waste Management** that has led to NZ's first-ever uPVC recycling plant. They were runners up in the Recycling Week competition for this initiative – congratulations!

- **Kiwifil's** ability to recycle discarded PLA & PETG from 3D printing.
- **Bonson's** RePlay Returnable deli containers – more on RePlay below in this newsletter!
- How **Scion** solved a small but common lab problem by finding a recycler (Aotearoa NZ Made) who could take and recycle (free of charge) plastic pipette tip boxes.
- A take-back service where **Vision Plastics** provides free bulk bags for the collection and recycling of rotationally moulded plastic products that are at the end-of-life eg water tanks, mussel floats, troughs, kayaks and more!
- **Whurl Plastics'** efforts to recycle post-industrial plastic waste and improving product recyclability through redesign.
- **EXPOL's** EPS recycling programmes: Building Site Recycling, Commercial Recycling and Drop-offs for Households.
- **Pact Group** turning post-consumer plastics into durable, everyday products such as Sulo kerbside bins.





Replay is Underway!

RePlay is a two-year trial of a new returnable deli container system.

It has officially launched at New World Birkenhead in Auckland and New World Metro Willis Street in Wellington.

Developed by Bonson and co-funded by the Ministry for the Environment, the trial supports Foodstuffs' HereforNZ commitments to reducing single-use packaging and sending less waste to landfill.

The containers are free to borrow if returned within 4 weeks. Once the food has been consumed, the customer removes the price label and rinses the container & lid, bringing them back to the store and returning them to the RePlay smart bin. The containers & lids are then sanitised in-store and put back into circulation. Watch [this video](#) to find out more about how the returnable RePlay system works.

Replay has the potential to be sustainably scaled because it works on a viable business model, with integrated smart technology, and durable food-grade polypropylene to keep containers of value and in circulation.

If you're local to either store or know of someone who is – consider testing it out or encourage them to.

Construction Waste Week



The week of 27th Oct was the first Construction Waste Week in NZ. It provided a chance to create awareness of Construction & Demolition waste share stories on social media about businesses that have been working to hard to reduce impacts.

In case you missed them, PlasticsNZ shared articles about some members' plastics recycling efforts in this space: Marley's uPVC and HDPE pipe recycling; EXPOL's Building Site Recycling Programme; and 3R Group's partnership with Winstone Wallboards to collect and recycle GIB® compound pails.

Packaging Forum – Scheme Updates

The Packaging Forum (PF) has had a change of leadership with Craig Miller stepping in as the new CEO, and two new Scheme managers have been appointed:

- Greer Larsen-Compton (who sits on our Plastics NZ board, and in our Environment Committee) – who is managing both the Lids & Caps Recycling Scheme as well as the Food and Beverage Recycling Scheme.
- Kasun Ranga is the Scheme Manager for the Glass Packaging Forum.

We've been asked recently for updates on how the recycling schemes are running.

In short:



Caps & Lids

- After 12 months of operation, there are now 67 collection points (47 Foodstuffs' stores and 20 recycling and community hubs) throughout Auckland, Tauranga, Christchurch, Wellington, and in the Waikato.
- Since the launch, more than 19,000 kgs have been collected.
- Read more here.

Food & Beverage Cartons

- The Food and Beverage Carton Recycling Scheme offers around a hundred collection points across the country – across retail, education and community sites – there's even one at Scott Base, if you're heading that way.
- Materials collected are recycled largely at saveBOARD in Hamilton, to become wall-board products that kiwis can showcase in homes or commercial buildings.
- Read more here.

Soft Plastics

- The Soft Plastic Scheme is keeping up the good work – with collections far & wide across New Zealand.
- Updates on the Soft Plastics Recycling Scheme can be read in their September newsletter here.

Purecycle



Purecycle Ltd has recently joined PlasticsNZ as a new recycling member, although Stan Gilmore, (Technical Director,) has been involved with us for 38 years, including being a member of the Waikato Branch Committee.

Purecycle is a new Māori owned and operated enterprise recycling venture currently based in Huntly that can currently reprocess polyolefins

- HDPE - High-Density Polyethylene
- LDPE - Low Density Polyethylene
- PP- Polypropylene

Other polymers will be added in the future.

Their service offerings include custom recycling solutions. Key processing equipment includes a compounding extrusion line that has a continuous laser filter unit (processing ~300 kg/hour) to remove high levels of contaminants and enhance polymer performance. They also offer shredding/grinding, optical re-grind flake sorting.

If you're curious to find out more, contact details for Purecycle can be found [here](#).

An Interview with... Marc Gaugler

During our Sustainability News series, we're asking questions of our Environment Committee members so that you can get to know them.

in this issue, we're featuring Marc Gaugler from the Scion-Group.

Can you tell us a little about yourself and your role?



My name is Marc Gaugler. I am originally from Germany but have been in New Zealand (on and off) for 16 years. I studied chemical engineering and marketing with a focus on polymer processing. These days I lead the Distributed and Circular Manufacturing portfolio at the Bioeconomy Science Institutes Scion-Group. The focus of my role is on building pathways from lab to scalable pilots for processing technologies that enable New Zealand's circular bioeconomy.

What motivated you to join the PNZ Enviro Committee?

I think it is key that we keep science and research aligned with industry; only then can we bring innovation to life and make a difference. Being part of this committee helps to bridge those two worlds, and since my background is in plastic processing, this is a perfect fit.

What's one thing you wish everyone understood about your field of work?

The impact that innovation has on all of us, and, importantly, how much a country of New Zealand's size and global position has try to leverage and develop innovation. It is technological innovation that is key to New Zealand's economy (not just the manufacturing sector) growing and being strong. It is not a nice-to-have; we cannot compete globally without it.

What's one sustainability trend or innovation that excites you right now?

AI is cool, but advances in communication systems and data storage are the real exciting bits. AI is nothing without data (knowledge) and the ability to connect people and systems. Imagine how AI can leverage the system's connectivity to make sustainable decisions for the future. A recycling plant will know what's coming when I put it in my bin, can already start offering the product, and decide what to make based on demand.

If you weren't working in this field, what would you be doing?

I have done a stint in R&D for FMCG and if I weren't in NZ science and research, I'd probably enjoy the fast pace of consumer goods development and production.

Lunch n Learn – LCA Panel Discussion

3R Group, ThinkStep, and Fisher & Paykel

Date: Thursday, 20 November 2025

Time: 12:30 - 13:10 GMT+12

Location: Online Webinar

Cost: FREE to Plastics NZ Members

Members Register here: <https://lnkd.in/gkpKVuX3>

Non-Members \$50.00 per person (Exc GST),

Non-Members Register here: <https://lnkd.in/g2TASVRy>



Our last Sustainability News issue of the year will be out early December.

**If you have any environmental stories, or articles you'd like to include, please email us at:
info@plastics.org.nz**