



**Media Release:**

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## **Pines Resource Recovery Park underutilised**

Selwyn District is doing pretty well on its recycling and waste disposal but the Pines Resource Recovery Park is being underutilised, Council Solid Waste Manager Gavin Sole says.

The park is available for people to take their waste, including recyclables and organic waste and charges are “very reasonable”, Mr Sole says.

The New Zealand average waste each year is the third highest in the world, at 550kg per person. The Selwyn average is 260kg of waste per person. Just up the road in Kaikoura, they’ve achieved 215kg per person.

“We’re obviously doing a lot better than the New Zealand average, but we’ve got a way to go. And obviously it helps if people sort out their recycling. Not everything needs to be consigned to landfill,” he says.

“We divert about 38% of the total kerbside collection from landfill – approximately 25% is recyclables and 13% is organics. As a comparison Timaru diverts 75% from landfill. Residents can help to reduce the local amounts going to landfill by separating out recyclables and organics from their rubbish,” he says.

To make that happen, residents are able to choose garden and food waste bins to be picked up for collection. Opting for an organic bin could mean people are able to choose a smaller rubbish wheelie bin or Council rubbish bags, with a corresponding decrease in collection charges.

Getting rid of the organic matter to the Pines facility directly, or setting up a backyard compost bin can also help divert green waste from landfill.

All the green waste at the Pines facility is composted and reused as a soil conditioner.

“A couple in the city were reported as having only one supermarket bag of actual landfill rubbish after a year of intentionally choosing products with limited or no packaging and looking at their waste carefully. Obviously not everyone is able to go to those extremes, but we know waste reduction is possible.”

### **What can be recycled at the Pines facility:**

- Plastics 1, 2 & 4 (look on the bottom of your plastic container to find the number within the triangle)

- Metal - old appliances, steel, aluminium cans
- Glass
- Light bulbs (compact fluorescent)
- Tetrapak milk containers
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Paint
- Used oil
- Agricultural-related plastic waste (i.e. baling wrap, clean herbicide/pesticide containers)

**Process:**

Take your waste to the recovery park, drop off your recyclables and then head over to the incoming weighbridge. The staff will take a reading and record the type of waste (i.e. organic or rubbish), then you drop off your waste and head back to the return weighbridge and staff will calculate the difference in weight and charge you accordingly.

**What else can be taken to the recovery park?**

- Organic waste (trees, grass clippings, food waste)
- General rubbish
- Cleanfill (construction demolition waste)
- Tyres

**What can't be taken to the recovery park:**

- TVs (take these to Metacorp in Halswell)
- Hazardous waste (staff at the park will advise you where you can take this material)

**Ends**



Council Solid Waste Manager Gavin Sole at the intakes for the Hot Rot composting vats which cost around \$1.5million and produce good quality soil conditioner from the tonnes of organic waste deposited each year.



Meeco Managing Director Chris McKee recycles cardboard at the Pines Resource Recovery Park.