

Christchurch City Council

Draft Community Waste Disposal Policy 2026

letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/wasteplan2026



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Introduction

Community groups, and non-profit organisations contribute significantly to environmental protection, public wellbeing, and community development. Many operate with limited funding and rely on volunteers.

One barrier these groups face is the cost of disposing of waste generated through their activities, such as environmental clean-ups or responses to illegal dumping. To support these initiatives, Council will discount or waive transfer station fees for eligible applicants that meet defined criteria.

This policy aims to:

- Remove financial barriers to community action
- Encourage responsible and legal waste disposal
- Promote civic engagement and environmental stewardship

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to outline the Council's position on the waiving of transfer station fees (when certain criteria are met).

Policy scope

This policy applies to eligible applicants undertaking activities that:

- Are community-focused and not commercial in nature
- Generate waste as a by-product of a public good

Examples of eligible activities include environmental clean-ups (e.g. rivers, parks), and one-off community events.

Examples of ineligible activities include, commercial ventures, private waste disposal, events that are profit-driven or part of ongoing operational requirements.

Policy statement

Council will discount or waive transfer station fees for eligible applicants where the facility or activity is of community benefit and not for commercial gain.

Principles

This policy is guided by the following principles:



Kaitiakitanga

Care for and protection of our natural environment.



Oranga Taiao

Preservation of our environment for current and future generations.



Manaakitanga

Collective wellbeing, support and respect for others.

Policy detail

Criteria

1. Eligible applicants include community groups and not-for-profit organisations.
2. The activity must be of community benefit and not for commercial gain.
3. Full or partial reimbursement of fees can be considered subject to approval.

Application process

Applicants must complete the online form on Council's website, providing:

- Organisation or applicant details
- Description of the activity
- Nature and volume of waste

Applications are assessed case-by-case by staff and will be subject to health and safety considerations. The Manager, Resource Recovery, has final decision-making authority where eligibility is unclear.

Frequency of fee waivers

Generally, eligible applicants may receive one fee waiver per year.

Budget

An annual budget will be applied to the waiving of transfer station fees. This will be reviewed triennially in line with the Long Term Plan process.

Reporting

An annual report will be provided to Council containing the number of applications declined and approved, transfer station fees incurred, and a breakdown of waste material received.

Definitions

Eligible applicant – Includes community groups and non-profit organisations. Suitability is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Waste – The New Zealand Waste Strategy 2002 defines waste as any material – solid, liquid, or gas – that is unwanted and/or unvalued, and has been discarded or discharged by its owner (Ministry for the Environment, 2002).

Legislation

Councils are not legally required to provide free access to waste disposal services, including for charitable organisations. However, the Local Government Act 2002 permits councils to set fees and charges for services relating to waste disposal. This extends to fee waiving and/or reducing fees, provided this is reasonable, for public benefit, and takes into consideration how the costs of any fee waiver will be met.

References and related documents

Document	Link
Draft Community Waste Disposal Policy 2026	letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/wasteplan2026

Admin

Policy name	Draft Community Waste Disposal Policy 2026
Adoption date	-
Date of most recent review	-
Resolution number	-
Review date	-
Department responsible	Resource Recovery

