Christchurch City Council

Draft Litter and Illegal Dumping Policy 2026

letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/wasteplan2026

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Introduction

The Christchurch City Council (the Council) acknowledges that littering and illegal dumping are anti-social behaviours that can have a negative impact on the wider community's amenity. These actions can damage the environment, create public health risks and diminish community pride and wellbeing. Addressing these issues is a key part of the Council's responsibility to maintain clean and safe spaces within our district.

Purpose

This policy outlines the Council's approach to preventing littering and illegal dumping, and identifies out how it will respond to incidents when they occur. It also sets out several measures that will support the community to reduce the potential for littering and illegal dumping to occur.

Policy scope

This policy applies to all forms of littering and illegal dumping across the Christchurch City Council district, including streets, parks, reserves, beaches and other public places. This policy also applies to how the Council will manage the clean-up of litter on private property in certain circumstances.

Policy statement

The Council has zero tolerance for littering and illegal dumping, which can cause damage to the environment, harm public health, and reduce the amenity of our shared spaces.

The Council's primary focus is on education and community engagement to encourage responsible waste disposal and prevent these behaviours. We aim to support behaviour change by raising awareness, providing clear information, and maintaining accessible waste and recycling infrastructure.

However, where education and voluntary compliance are not effective, the Council will take enforcement action, which could include fines or prosecution under relevant legislation.

This policy reflects the Council's commitment to protecting the environment, upholding community standards, and promoting a shared responsibility for a clean and welcoming district.

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.

Policy detail

Education and engagement

The Council will provide suitable messaging and supporting collateral that provides information on services and infrastructure related to managing waste. The Council will support a range of options that empower the community to deal with littering and illegal dumping. For example, support for community clean-ups, reporting of littering, promotion of local reuse and repurposing options, reporting of illegal dumping, and promotion of themed amnesty days (e.g., e-waste collection and drop off).

Service

The Council will provide services to maintain public spaces, roads, and footpaths in a safe and accessible condition, aiming both to reduce littering and illegal dumping and to prevent these issues from occurring. These services are outlined in the Transport and Waste Unit activity plans.

Compliance monitoring and enforcement

The Council will respond to littering and illegal dumping activities in accordance with the Litter Act 1979 and the Health Act 1956. A graduated approach will be applied, balancing education and enforcement based on the severity and context of each incident. Minor offences may be addressed through education and warnings, while serious or repeat offences may lead to formal enforcement actions such as fines or prosecution. Enforcement action will be taken where sufficient evidence is available.

Cost recovery

Implementation of this policy will be funded through a general rate contribution. The cost associated with implementation will be set out in the relevant budgets and be subject to the Council's approval processes.

Definitions

Litter – includes any refuse, rubbish, animal remains, glass, metal, garbage, debris, dirt, filth, rubble, ballast, stones, earth, or waste matter, or any other thing of a like nature (sec 2 (1) b, Litter Act 1979)

Littering – is the act of dropping rubbish on the ground in a public place.

Illegal Dumping – (sometimes referred to as 'fly tipping') refers to any material dumped on public property and can include but not be limited to:

- unwanted household goods,
- bagged rubbish,
- recycling,
- abandoned vehicles,
- garden waste,
- and hazardous materials, for example, paints, oils, solvents.

Legislation

Councils have legal obligations to manage litter and illegal dumping under the Litter Act 1979, the Health Act 1956 and the Local Government Act 2002. These Acts require or empower councils to:

- provide public litter bins where appropriate
- remove litter and dumped waste on public property
- enforce clean-up of litter on private property
- issue infringements or prosecution when deemed necessary.

Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Managers and Team Leaders	Manage litter and illegal dumping in accordance with this policy
Policy owner	Monitors the compliance of this policy at least annually

References and related documents

Document	Link
Draft Litter and Illegal Dumping Policy 2026	letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/wasteplan2026

Admin

Policy name	Draft Litter and Illegal Dumping Policy 2026
Adoption date	-
Date of most recent review	-
Resolution number	-
Review date	-
Department responsible	Resource Recovery

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Christchurch City Council