



19 July 2023

Official information request 8140012184
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Jimmy King

By email: fyi-request-23326-4a4bf70d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Jimmy

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Re: Food scrap bins

Thank you for your email dated June 29, 2023, in which you requested information about Food scrap bins. The specific details of your request and our response are below.

How much did it cost to have the food scrap bins made and where were they made?

The cost of making the food scrap bins has been withheld under s7(2)(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. They are made in Australia.

What other designs were there that weren't chosen?

This information has been withheld under s7(2)(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

How much did it cost to have the new trucks for collecting the bins?

The collection services are contracted out to private providers. The council does not have any information on the cost of individual trucks.

How much will it cost per year to operate this food scrap bin scheme?

The cost for a full year of operation is dependent on the volume of food scraps collected. At this stage, we estimate that cost to be in the range of \$23 to \$28 million per annum.

How much does it cost to replace a food scrap bin if damaged or lost?

This information has been withheld under s7(2)(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

Where are the food scraps being taken to when collected?

The food scraps are taken to the EcoGas processing facility in Reporoa (<https://www.ecogas.co.nz/>) in backhaul trucks that were travelling empty to that area. The food scraps will be converted into Biogas and fertiliser through a process called anaerobic digestion.

Why was it decided that this wasn't optional and instead made compulsory? Specifically, why can't we decide not to have the bins if we don't want them and have the \$70 on our rates removed?

The introduction of a targeted rate was approved by the Governing Body through the Long-term Plan 2018-2028 decision-making process on 31 May 2018 (Resolution GB/2018/91). The Governing Body endorsed the provision of the service to all urban households (not to the rural households), with no provision for opt-outs. The service contributes to the public good, providing a benefit to the city by reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.

How much does it cost for each bin to be made?

This information has been withheld under s7(2)(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

Why is the actual food scrap bin a small white bin instead of having the black & green bin as the scrap bin?

The small white bin is a kitchen caddy for use in the kitchen. You can put food scraps in the caddy, and then transfer them to the larger green bin. The green bin is the bin that you put out on the kerbside for collection.

Why were the specific trucks chosen for food scrap bins?

Each collection contractor makes their own decision about which truck to use for the food scrap service.

You can find more information on the food scrap collection on the council's website [here](#).

Decisions relating to the information that is being released to you were made by **Parul Sood, General Manager – Waste Solutions**.

You have the right to complain to the Ombudsman if you believe we have not responded appropriately to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on 09 301 0101 quoting official information request number 8140012184.

Ngā mihi



Amanda Pillay
Privacy and Official Information Business Partner
Governance Services