

Central Greenwaste 2012  
Monitoring Programme  
Biennial Report  
2012-2014

Technical Report 2014-83

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## Executive summary

Central Greenwaste 2012 (formerly known as Greenwaste 2007 and Greenwaste 2008) operates a green waste collection and composting operation located at Victoria Road, Stratford, in the Patea catchment.

Central Greenwaste collects green waste from domestic sources in the Stratford urban area and then composts it at its Victoria Road site. The principal components of green waste collected are lawn clippings and material from garden pruning.

This report for the period July 2012-June 2014 describes the monitoring programme implemented by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Company) to assess the consent holder's environmental performance during the period under review, and the results and environmental effects of the activities undertaken on the site.

Central Greenwaste 2012 currently holds consent 6876-1, which includes a total of 11 conditions setting out the requirements that the consent holder must satisfy. This consent covers the discharge of green waste, stormwater and leachate to land. The consent was originally held by the Central Taranaki Employment Trust. It was subsequently transferred to Greenwaste 2007, then to Greenwaste 2008 and again to Central Greenwaste 2012.

**During the monitoring period, Central Greenwaste demonstrated an overall good level of environmental performance and compliance with consent conditions.**

The Council's monitoring programme for the period under review included four inspections that focussed on assessing the materials being accepted for composting, general site operation, stormwater/leachate control, and odour. The monitoring showed that the site was generally well managed and would pose no threat of adverse environmental effects.

During the period, the consent holder demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and a high level of administrative performance. There was one incident associated with this site during the 2012-2014 period in regards to an unauthorised fire.

For reference, in the 2012-2013 year, 35% of consent holders in Taranaki monitored through tailored compliance monitoring programmes achieved a high level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents, while another 59% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents. In the 2013-2014 year, 60% of consent holders achieved a high level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents, while another 29% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance.

This report includes recommendations for the 2014-2016 monitoring period.



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Compliance monitoring programme reports and the Resource Management Act 1991

### 1.1.1 Introduction

This report is the Biennial Report for the period July 2012- June 2014 by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) describing the monitoring programme associated with the resource consent held by Central Greenwaste 2012 (the Company). The Company operates a green waste collection and composting operation located on Victoria Road at Stratford, in the Patea catchment.

This report covers the results and findings of the monitoring programme implemented by the Council in respect of the consents held by the Company in the Patea catchment. This is the fourth Biennial Report to be prepared by the Council to cover the Company's discharges and their effects.

### 1.1.2 Structure of this report

Section 1 of this report is a background section. It sets out general information about compliance monitoring under the RMA and the Council's obligations and general approach to monitoring sites through annual programmes, the resource consents held by the Company in the Patea catchment, the nature of the monitoring programme in place for the period under review, and a description of the activities and operations conducted in the Company's site.

Section 2 presents the results of monitoring during the period under review, including scientific and technical data.

Section 3 discusses the results, their interpretations, and their significance for the environment.

Section 4 presents recommendations to be implemented in the 2014-2016 monitoring period.

A glossary of common abbreviations and scientific terms, and a bibliography, are presented at the end of the report.

### 1.1.3 The Resource Management Act 1991 and monitoring

The *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) primarily addresses environmental 'effects' which are defined as positive or adverse, temporary or permanent, past, present or future, or cumulative. Effects may arise in relation to:

- (a) the neighbourhood or the wider community around an activity, and may include cultural and social-economic effects;
- (b) physical effects on the locality, including landscape, amenity and visual effects;
- (c) ecosystems, including effects on plants, animals, or habitats, whether aquatic or terrestrial;
- (d) natural and physical resources having special significance (e.g., recreational, cultural, or aesthetic);
- (e) risks to the neighbourhood or environment.

In drafting and reviewing conditions on discharge permits, and in implementing monitoring programmes, the Council is recognising the comprehensive meaning of 'effects' inasmuch as is appropriate for each activity. Monitoring programmes are not only based on existing permit conditions, but also on the obligations of the RMA to assess the effects of the exercise of consents. In accordance with section 35 of the RMA, the Council undertakes compliance monitoring for consents and rules in regional plans, and maintains an overview of the performance of resource users and consent holders. Compliance monitoring, including both activity and impact monitoring, enables the Council to continually re-evaluate its approach and that of consent holders to resource management and, ultimately, through the refinement of methods and considered responsible resource utilisation, to move closer to achieving sustainable development of the region's resources.

#### 1.1.4 Evaluation of environmental and administrative performance

Besides discussing the various details of the performance and extent of compliance by the consent holder/s during the period under review, this report also assigns a rating as to each Company's environmental and administrative performance.

**Environmental performance** is concerned with actual or likely effects on the receiving environment from the activities during the monitoring year. **Administrative performance** is concerned with the Company's approach to demonstrating consent compliance in site operations and management including the timely provision of information to Council (such as contingency plans and water take data) in accordance with consent conditions.

Events that were beyond the control of the consent holder and unforeseeable (i.e. a defence under the provisions of the RMA can be established) may be excluded with regard to the performance rating applied. For example loss of data due to a flood destroying deployed field equipment.

The categories used by the Council for this monitoring period, and their interpretation, are as follows:

##### Environmental Performance

- **High** - No or inconsequential (short-term duration, less than minor in severity) breaches of consent or regional plan parameters resulting from the activity; no adverse effects of significance noted or likely in the receiving environment. The Council did not record any verified unauthorised incidents involving significant environmental impacts and was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to such impacts.
- **Good** - Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were negligible or minor at most. There were some such issues noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports, but these items were not critical, and follow-up inspections showed they have been dealt with. These minor issues were resolved positively, co-operatively, and quickly. The Council was not obliged to issue any abatement notices or infringement notices in relation to the minor non-compliant effects; however

abatement notices may have been issued to mitigate an identified potential for an environmental effect to occur. For example:

- High suspended solid values recorded in discharge samples, however the discharge was to land or to receiving waters that were in high flow at the time;
  - Strong odour beyond boundary but no residential properties or other recipient nearby.
- **Improvement required** - Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were more than minor, but not substantial. There were some issues noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent minor non-compliant activity could elevate a minor issue to this level. Abatement notices and infringement notices may have been issued in respect of effects.
  - **Poor** - Likely or actual adverse effects of activities on the receiving environment were significant. There were some items noted during monitoring, from self reports, or in response to unauthorised incident reports. Cumulative adverse effects of a persistent moderate non-compliant activity could elevate an 'improvement required' issue to this level. Typically there were grounds for either a prosecution or an infringement notice in respect of effects.

#### **Administrative performance**

- **High** - The administrative requirements of the resource consents were met, or any failure to do this had trivial consequences and were addressed promptly and co-operatively.
- **Good** - Perhaps some administrative requirements of the resource consents were not met at a particular time, however this was addressed without repeated interventions from the Council staff. Alternatively adequate reason was provided for matters such as the no or late provision of information, interpretation of 'best practical option' for avoiding potential effects, etc.
- **Improvement required** - Repeated interventions to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents were made by Council staff. These matters took some time to resolve, or remained unresolved at the end of the period under review. The Council may have issued an abatement notice to attain compliance.
- **Poor** - Material failings to meet the administrative requirements of the resource consents. Significant intervention by the Council was required. Typically there were grounds for an infringement notice.

For reference, in the 2012-2013 year, 35% of consent holders in Taranaki monitored through tailored compliance monitoring programmes achieved a high level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents, while another 59% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents. In the 2013-2014 year, 60% of consent holders achieved a high level of environmental performance and compliance with their consents, while another 29% demonstrated a good level of environmental performance and compliance.

## 1.2 Process description

The operation primarily consists of servicing green waste wheelie bins from domestic dwellings in Stratford. The green waste is collected, composted on site in two windrows, and then sold as soil conditioner.



**Figure 1** Central Greenwaste composting site (in yellow), Victoria Rd, Stratford



**Photo 1** Central Greenwaste's composting operation

## **1.3 Resource consents**

### **1.3.1 Discharges of wastes to land**

Sections 15(1)(b) and (d) of the RMA stipulate that no person may discharge any contaminant onto land if it may then enter water, or from any industrial or trade premises onto land under any circumstances, unless the activity is expressly allowed for by a resource consent, a rule in a regional plan, or by national regulations.

Central Greenwaste 2012 holds water discharge permit **6876-1** to discharge green waste onto land for the purpose of composting and to discharge leachate and contaminated stormwater from the composting. This permit was issued by the Council on 14 September 2006 under Section 87(e) of the RMA. It is due to expire on 1 June 2022. This consent was transferred from Greenwaste 2008 to Central Greenwaste on 1 February 2012.

Consent **6876-1** contains eleven special conditions

Special condition one requires the consent holder to adopt best practicable option.

Special condition two requires that the consent be exercised in accordance with information supplied in the application.

Special conditions three, four and five deal with contingency planning.

Special condition six limits the amount of vegetative waste to be stored on site at any given time.

Special condition seven lists the effects on the water quality of the Patea River which the exercise of the consent must not give rise to.

Special condition eight proscribes the composting of any material on the site other than green waste.

Special condition nine proscribes the composting of food waste on the site.

Special condition ten is a lapse condition, and special condition eleven is a review condition.

The permit is attached to this report in Appendix I.

## **1.4 Monitoring programme**

### **1.4.1 Introduction**

Section 35 of the RMA sets out obligations upon the Council to gather information, monitor, and conduct research on the exercise of resource consents, and the effects arising, within the Taranaki region and report upon these.

The Council may therefore make and record measurements of physical and chemical parameters, take samples for analysis, carry out surveys and inspections, conduct investigations, and seek information from consent holders.

The monitoring programme for the Central Greenwaste site consisted of two primary components.

### **1.4.2 Programme liaison and management**

There is generally a significant investment of time and resources by the Council in:

- ongoing liaison with resource consent holders over consent conditions and their interpretation and application;
- in discussion over monitoring requirements;
- preparation for any reviews;
- renewals;
- new consents;
- advice on the Council's environmental management strategies and content of regional plans and;
- consultation on associated matters.

### **1.4.3 Site inspections**

The Company's site was visited four times during the monitoring period. The inspections focussed on assessing the types of materials being accepted, stormwater and leachate management and odours.

## **2. Results**

### **2.1 Inspections**

#### **31 August 2012**

The gate was locked at the time of the inspection. No dust or ponding issues were observed and the site was in compliance with consent conditions.

#### **22 January 2013**

The gate was locked at the time of the inspection. The site appeared to be active with fresh stock pile present. No odour, dust or ponding issues were observed. Overall, the site was tidy and in compliance with consent conditions.

#### **13 November 2013**

The gate was locked at the time of the inspection. There was not much material onsite. No odour or dust issues were observed. Overall, the site was tidy and in compliance with consent conditions.

#### **16 May 2014**

The gate was locked at the time of the inspection. The site appeared to be quite active, and there were fresh piles of branches and other garden waste present. Overall the site was tidy and in compliance with consent conditions however, there was evidence of burning. The consent holder was advised in the inspection notice that burning was not permitted at the site.

No evidence of burning was noted at a subsequent inspection and after further review of Council records it was found that a complaint had been received by the Council on 18 November 2013 about a fire at the site and this was dealt with by enforcement officers. It was determined that the evidence of burning found during this inspection was the remains of the November fire (see incidents section 2.2).

## 2.2 Investigations, interventions, and incidents

The monitoring programme for the year was based on what was considered to be an appropriate level of monitoring, review of data, and liaison with the consent holder. During the year matters may arise which require additional activity by the Council, for example provision of advice and information, or investigation of potential or actual courses of non-compliance or failure to maintain good practices. A pro-active approach that in the first instance avoids issues occurring is favoured.

The Council operates and maintains a register of all complaints or reported and discovered excursions from acceptable limits and practices, including non-compliance with consents, which may damage the environment. The Unauthorised Incident Register (UIR) includes events where the company concerned has itself notified the Council. The register contains details of any investigation and corrective action taken.

Complaints may be alleged to be associated with a particular site. If there is potentially an issue of legal liability, the Council must be able to prove by investigation that the identified company is indeed the source of the incident (or that the allegation cannot be proven).

In the 2012-2014 period, the Council *was* required to undertake additional investigations and interventions, and record an incident, in association with the Company's conditions in resource consents or provisions in Regional Plans, as detailed below.

### 18 November 2013

A complaint was received concerning smoke discharging from the above location. An inspection of the site was undertaken by an Investigating Officer. He observed that a pile of greenwaste had been set alight and smoke was discharging into the air. A staff member of Central Greenwaste, stated that they lit the fire and he was advised that Rule 30 of the Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki prohibits such fires without resource consent. A 14 day letter requiring an explanation was sent. No reply was received and a warning was issued by the Council

### 3. Discussion

#### 3.1 Discussion of site performance

The only issue noted during the period under review was the unauthorised fire at the site. This was the first time such an event had been noted to occur at the site and the matter was dealt with promptly. At all other times during the period under review, the site was found to be well managed and in compliance with consent conditions.

#### 3.2 Environmental effects of exercise of consents

During the inspections, no evidence of adverse environmental effects was observed. There were no direct discharges to any waterways and there were no issues in regard to ponding, dust, or odour.

#### 3.3 Evaluation of performance

A tabular summary of the consent holder's compliance record for the period under review is set out in Table 1.

**Table 1** Summary of performance for Consent 6876-1: To discharge green waste onto land for the purpose of composting and to discharge leachate and contaminated stormwater from the composting

Condition requirement	Means of monitoring during period under review	Compliance achieved?
1. Adopt best practical option	Site inspections	Yes
2. Exercise consent in accordance with information supplied with application	Site inspections	Yes
3. Contingency plan required	Programme management	Yes
4. Notification of change to contingency plan	No changes made	N/A
5. Notification of significant changes to operation	No changes made	N/A
6. No more than 300 m <sup>3</sup> of green waste onsite at one time.	Site inspections	Yes
7. Effects on Patea River	Site inspections	Yes
8. Only vegetative material to be composted.	Site inspections	Yes
9. No food waste to be discharged or composted	Site inspections	Yes
10. Consent lapse period	Consent exercised	N/A
11. Optional review provision re environmental effects	No review option this period	N/A
Overall assessment of environmental performance in respect of this consent		Good
Overall assessment of administrative performance in respect of this consent		High

N/A = not applicable

During the 2012-2014 period, the Company demonstrated a good level of environmental performance. No environmental effects were noted from the composting operation, however there was an illegal fire at the site. During the period under review the Company demonstrated a high level of administrative performance.

### **3.4 Recommendations from the 2010-2012 Biennial Report**

In the 2012-2014 Annual Report, it was recommended:

THAT monitoring of discharges from Central Greenwaste 2012's composting operation in the 2012-2014 period continue at the same level as in the 2010-2012 period.

This recommendation was fully implemented.

### **3.5 Alterations to monitoring programmes for 2014-2016**

In designing and implementing the monitoring programmes for air/ water discharges in the region, the Council has taken into account the extent of information made available by previous authorities, its relevance under the RMA the obligations of the Act in terms of monitoring emissions/ discharges and effects, and subsequently reporting to the regional community. The Council also takes into account the scope of assessments required at the time of renewal of permits, and the need to maintain a sound understanding of industrial processes within Taranaki emitting to the atmosphere/ discharging to the environment.

It is proposed that for the 2014-2016 period, the programme for monitoring Central Greenwaste remain at the same as it was for the 2012-2014 period.

## **4. Recommendations**

THAT monitoring of consented activities by Central Greenwaste in the 2014-2016 period continue at the same level as in the 2010-2014 period.

## Glossary of common terms and abbreviations

The following abbreviations and terms may be used within this report:

Incident	An event that is alleged or is found to have occurred that may have actual or potential environmental consequences or may involve non-compliance with a consent or rule in a regional plan. Registration of an incident by the Council does not automatically mean such an outcome had actually occurred.
Intervention	Action/s taken by Council to instruct or direct actions be taken to avoid or reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.
Investigation	Action taken by Council to establish what were the circumstances/events surrounding an incident including any allegations of an incident.
Ponding	Accumulation of surface water due to poor drainage or over irrigation
Resource consent	Refer Section 87 of the RMA. Resource consents include land use consents (refer Sections 9 and 13 of the RMA), coastal permits (Sections 12, 14 and 15), water permits (Section 14) and discharge permits (Section 15).
RMA	<i>Resource Management Act 1991</i> and including all subsequent amendments.

## **Bibliography and references**

Taranaki Regional Council (2012): 'Greenwaste 2012, Monitoring Programme Biennial Report 2010-2012'. Technical Report 2012-11.

Taranaki Regional Council (2009): 'Greenwaste 2008, Monitoring Programme Biennial Report 2008-10'. Technical Report 2010-23.

Taranaki Regional Council (2009): 'Greenwaste 2008, Monitoring Programme Biennial Report 2006-08'. Technical Report 2008-68.

Taranaki Regional Council (2004): 'Regional Waste Strategy for Taranaki.'



## **Appendix I**

### **Resource consents held by Central Greenwaste**



**Discharge Permit**  
**Pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991**  
**a resource consent is hereby granted by the**  
**Taranaki Regional Council**

Name of  
Consent Holder: Central Greenwaste 2012  
(Ian Campbell & Joy Garner)  
5 Percy Avenue  
STRATFORD 4332

Decision Date: 14 September 2006

Commencement  
Date: 14 September 2006

**Conditions of Consent**

Consent Granted: To discharge green waste onto land for the purpose of  
composting and to discharge leachate and contaminated  
stormwater from the composting process from that site  
onto and into land at or about (NZTM)  
1712693E-5644276N

Expiry Date: 1 June 2022

Review Date(s): June 2008, June 2010, June 2016

Site Location: Victoria Street, Stratford

Legal Description: Pt Lots 9, 10 DP 1942 Blk II Ngaere SD

Catchment: Patea

*For General, Standard and Special conditions  
pertaining to this consent please see reverse side of this document*

### **General conditions**

- a) On receipt of a requirement from the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council the consent holder shall, within the time specified in the requirement, supply the information required relating to the exercise of this consent.
- b) Unless it is otherwise specified in the conditions of this consent, compliance with any monitoring requirement imposed by this consent must be at the consent holder's own expense.
- c) The consent holder shall pay to the Council all required administrative charges fixed by the Council pursuant to section 36 in relation to:
  - i) the administration, monitoring and supervision of this consent; and
  - ii) charges authorised by regulations.

### **Special conditions**

1. The consent holder shall at all times adopt the best practicable option, as defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, to prevent or minimise any adverse effects on the environment from the exercise of this consent.
2. The exercise of this consent shall be undertaken generally in accordance with the documentation submitted in support of application 4193. In the case of any contradiction between the documentation submitted in support of application 4193 and the conditions of this consent, the conditions of this consent shall prevail.
3. Within three months of granting this consent the consent holder shall prepare and maintain a site contingency plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council.
4. Within three months of granting this consent the consent holder shall prepare and maintain a site management plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive, Taranaki Regional Council, and shall adhere to such a plan in so far as it concerns the exercise of this consent at all times.
5. The consent holder shall advise the Taranaki Regional Council one month prior to any changes being made to the site contingency plan or the site management plan. Should the Taranaki Regional Council wish to review the site contingency plan and/or the site management plan, one month's notice shall be given to the consent holder.
6. The maximum quantity of vegetative waste composted and stored on the site at any time shall be 300 cubic metres, as determined by at least one enforcement officer of the Taranaki Regional Council.

Consent 6876-1

7. The discharge authorised by this consent, in conjunction with the exercise of any other consent associated with the composting activity on the property, shall not give rise to any of the following effects on the Patea River:
  - a) the production of conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials;
  - b) any conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity;
  - c) any emission of objectionable odour;
  - d) the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals;
  - e) any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.
8. Only vegetative material shall be composted at the site.
9. The consent holder shall not discharge or compost food waste, domestic or commercial waste at the site, other than that prescribed in special condition 8.
10. This consent shall lapse on the expiry of five years after the date of issue of this consent, unless the consent is given effect to before the end of that period or the Taranaki Regional Council fixes a longer period pursuant to section 125(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
11. In accordance with section 128 and section 129 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Taranaki Regional Council may serve notice of its intention to review, amend, delete or add to the conditions of this resource consent by giving notice of review during the month of June 2008 and/or June 2010 and/or June 2016, for the purpose of ensuring that the conditions are adequate to deal with any adverse effects on the environment arising from the exercise of this resource consent, which were either not foreseen at the time the application was considered or which it was not appropriate to deal with at the time.

Transferred at Stratford on 1 February 2012

For and on behalf of  
Taranaki Regional Council

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**Director-Resource Management**