



**Waitakere City Council**  
*Te Taiao o Waitakere*

## Analysis of Earthsong Refuse

Prepared for Cathy Angell

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### **Introduction**

In line with regular audits of the city's domestic waste stream, domestic refuse was collected from the Earthsong on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003 and audited to determine what changes, if any would be recommended through education of the residents.

### **Methodology**

For the audit, all the refuse bags, recycling bins and paper were collected on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003, and analysed at the Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station. Refuse bags were sorted into refuse, recyclable paper, organic waste and recyclable items that could have been placed in to the recycling bins. Recycling bin contents were sorted into glass, aluminium, steel cans, #1 plastics, #2 plastics and non-conforming items. Paper recycling was sorted in to paper recycling and non-conforming items.

### **Results**

#### Domestic Bags

Total number of bags collected was 12 bags that had a combined weight of 38.1Kg. When the bags were sorted the following results were:

Item	Weight	% of Bag
Refuse	34600g	91
Recyclable paper	2600g	7
Organic waste	400g	1
Recyclable bin items	500g	1
Total	38100g	100

Weight of refuse per household based on 17 households is 2.24Kg per household per week.

## Recycling Bins

Total number of recycling bins collected was 12 bins that had a combined weight of 55.7 Kg. When the contents were sorted out the results were:

Item		
Glass bottles, jars	46400g	83
Aluminium cans	100g	0.5
Steel cans	3400g	6
Plastic #1	1500g	3
Plastic #2	1400g	3
Non-Conforming Items	2500g	4.5
Total	55700	100

## Paper

Total amount of paper recycling collected was 22.2 Kg

Non-conforming paper items found weighed 200g representing 1% of the total weight.

Total recycling placed out for collection weighed 77.9 Kg. This equates to 4.6Kg per household per week.

## Analysis

The overall picture of the waste put out for collection indicates that the residents sorting their refuse into paper, recycling bin and bags method of collection. The amount of waste per household being 2.2 kg that is considerably less than the 9.6kg mean bag weight obtained in the WAP analysis completed by WasteNot in September 2002.

General refuse found in the bags comprised of a significant amount of disposable nappies, used plastic bags and sanitary paper. Recyclable paper found in refuse bags was 7% of the weight of the refuse bags and could have been placed out in the paper recycling.



Recyclable paper found in refuse bags

Recycling bin contents that could have been placed in the green recycling bins was 1% of the total refuse weight. Most of these items were #1 plastics.



Recycling Items found in refuse bags

Recycling Bin contents had a portion of non conforming items, of note items found in the recycling bin that are not recyclable were: cardboard milk cartons, #5 plastics, pot plant containers and coat hangers.



Non-conforming items found in recycling bins

Very little non recyclable paper was found in the paper recycling but did include cellophane wrapped paper, waxed milk cartons



Non-conforming paper found in paper recycling

## **Conclusion**

The overall results of the snapshot analysis are very good. They indicate that there is recycling of organic waste being done on site, as it is not placed out for the refuse collection. There is a good amount of recycling through both the recycling bins and paper collection s taking place.

Further education of the residents on what can be recycled through the kerbside collection program will help to reduce the amount of non conforming recycling found in the recycling bins and paper collection. Education may also help reduce the amount of recyclable paper found in the refuse.

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