



## NZ FOOD WASTE CHAMPIONS 12.3

*He Tūāpapa ki te ora | Infrastructure for a Better Future*

### **Submission from: NZ Food Waste Champions 12.3**

#### **About us**

[NZ Food Waste Champions 12.3](#) is driving food waste reduction from farm to fork in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Our Champions of 12.3 are championing progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3 – to halve food waste by 2030.

#### **Food waste in general**

It is encouraging to see how reducing waste has been highlighted in your report. Reducing food waste should be a priority due to the methane emissions that are produced when food decomposes in landfill – and the fact that 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to food waste.<sup>1</sup>

Combatting food waste across the supply chain is something that needs to be raised on the government's wider agenda, including through infrastructure development. Reducing food waste has been ranked as one of the top three actions to tackle climate change and meet obligations under the Paris Agreement by Project Drawdown.<sup>2</sup> The NZ Food Waste Champions 12.3 have long-advocated for the urgent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal [Target 12.3](#) as a starting point to reducing food waste.

#### **Responses to your discussion questions:**

##### ***How else can we use infrastructure to reduce waste to landfill? (p 126)***

On p 51 you mention several areas of infrastructure that offer opportunities to improve the way we deal with waste. We recommend you include:

- “Infrastructure needed to reduce food waste at a national scale”.

This includes infrastructure for food rescue (see Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance's submission). At a larger/ bulk scale, we recommend you consider supporting efficient transport across the country to get food quickly to the areas where it is needed most, especially local areas. In this respect, the Infrastructure Commission should have in mind the bulk distribution model of the [New Zealand Food Network](#) and the infrastructure needed to support that.

We also recommend the Infrastructure Commission works alongside local councils to ensure organic collections occur in every house around the country and infrastructure for

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<sup>1</sup> FAO “[Food wastage footprint & Climate Change](#)”.

<sup>2</sup> Project Drawdown “[Table of Solutions](#)”

composting – both at a localised urban farming scale and at a bigger composting infrastructure scale. Where food waste cannot be prevented or redistributed to people, composting is a viable option to ensure the value of that resource is retained.

Other Champion of 12.3 organisations that may require government support for their infrastructure include [EcoStock](#) (which turns food waste into animal feed) and [Ecogas](#) (anaerobic digestion to create energy).

## **Responses to F1 “Prepare infrastructure for climate change”**

### ***F1.7 Drive a culture of waste minimization***

We recommend considering the following wording change here:

- “Require the design of public-sector projects to **consider the prevention of waste where possible** and then to evaluate the use of recycled products where feasible”

**Adding a requirement around prevention** reflects the waste hierarchy where prevention is the **first** important step to take.

### ***F1.8 Efficient pricing of waste***

We endorse your aim to have “waste-disposal charges that reflect the true cost of disposal to landfill”. We note the recent proposed increase to the landfill levy through the Ministry for the Environment was nowhere near international rates, for example New South Wales in Australia (up to \$147.10 a tonne).<sup>3</sup> **We recommend the rate is higher.**

Raising the levy is important due to the revenue being reinvested in projects that minimise waste. A number of projects that New Zealand Food Waste Champions 12.3 could run would require investment, including a business Kai Commitment with a Target-Measure-Act approach. The Love Food Hate Waste programme also needs to be re-invested in through the Waste Minimisation Fund due to the significant amount of food waste occurring at the consumer level. This has become more important in the wake of Covid-19, but the Waste Minimisation Fund is not meeting the current need and is an unwieldy process to follow.

In a Kaibosh (another Champion of 12.3 organisation) submission on the landfill levy expansion and increase, that food rescue organisation recommended considering a higher rate for the disposal of organics, due to its contribution to climate change over other waste streams. **The recommendation of a separate (and higher rate) for organic waste should be revisited.**

In line with the Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance submission, **we would also encourage you to explore putting a “value” on food redistribution as a carbon-offsetting option.**

Thank you for considering our submission. You can get in touch with our Founding Coordinator through: [REDACTED]

*We were unable to consult on this submission with all of our Champions of 12.3 due to time constraints. We are however a representative body.*

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<sup>3</sup> EPA New South Wales “[Levy regulated area and levy rates](#)”.