

Transitional Plan Update #5 – Organics Processing Plant

26 July 2021 – 8 August 2021

Actions in this plan cover a transitional period until proposed upgrades can be completed at the Christchurch City Council composting facility located in Metro Place, Bromley. Please find below an update on each of the key objectives outlined in the Transitional Plan.

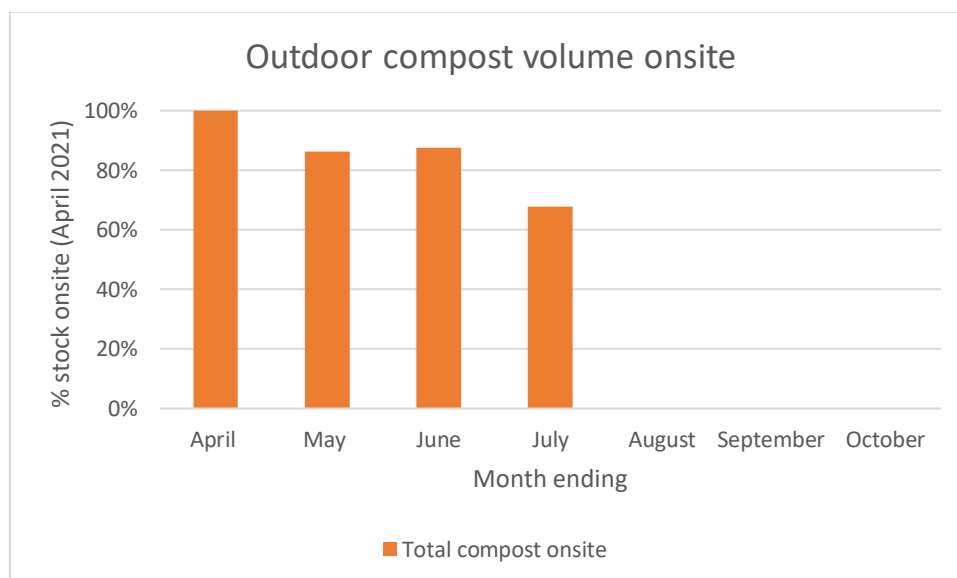
1. Stop receiving pre-consumer food organics.

Pre-consumer food organics have not been accepted at the Organics Processing Plant since 23 December 2020.

Date	Tonnes of pre-consumer food waste received
31/05/21 – 13/06/21	0
14/06/21 – 27/06/21	0
28/06/21 – 11/07/21	0
12/07/21 – 25/07/21	0
26/07/21 – 08/08/21	0

2. Minimise the onsite storage of finished compost by prioritising the screening and removal of finished product from the site.

Living Earth is currently removing the majority of stockpiled material from the site. Under the preferred scenario the only material onsite will be maturing compost, which represented about 50 per cent of the material onsite as of April 2021. As of end of July the total material onsite had reduced by 35% per cent, shown in the graph below. We are on track to be below 50% in coming months.



The initial order of 8,500 tonnes of compost by the Waste Water Treatment Plan for use around the oxidation ponds has now been fulfilled. The compost is being used for soil improvement ahead of native tree planting.

Install a time-lapse camera so that residents can see the reduction in outdoor storage.

This camera has been installed and we will upload the next time-lapse on our webpage along with this update. See below image from 18 May 2021 compared to 10 August 2021.

Before:



Now:



The windrow in the front of this image has been temporarily moved into this location for operational reasons.

3. Maintain effective treatment of processing air, including maintenance of bio filter.

As reported previously, the bio filter upgrade was completed in May 2021. Replacing the bio filter material reduces backpressure and helps improve airflow in the composting tunnels. Since these works were completed, the improved backpressure and airflow rates have been sustained.

4. Investigate additional buffering, including boundary plantings, along the Southern site boundary.

We're looking at additional plantings in the reserve to the South of the composting facility, with the goal to provide an additional natural buffer around the site. Assessments have been completed by our Parks Team and appropriate plant and tree species selected. This land is currently leased so we'll need to obtain agreement from the lease-holder prior to starting any planting. We hope to have this agreement soon.

5. Maximise stability of compost onsite.

Living Earth has initiated a trial of a probiotic additive to the compost. The trial is testing whether this amendment to the feedstock will accelerate the composting process. The trial started on 14 July 2021 and the outcome will likely be known in the coming months.

6. Address community concerns and keep the community informed via regular community meetings and an information newsletter.

We are continuing to communicate with the community regularly via newsletters. A public meeting was held on 18 May 2021 with the next meeting scheduled for 17 August 2021.

7. Organics plant upgrade project update

Work is continuing on analysing tender submissions for the redevelopment of the organics processing plant. As part of this process, the elected Council is expected to consider another report, looking at all potential options for the organics processing plant in September.

These options include refining the scope of the redevelopment and investigating other potential sites for a new organics processing facility. Other sites are being considered due to the higher than expected redevelopment costs.

The report will be considered by Council in private, given commercial sensitivities around contractor tenders and pricing. However we will release the decision made by Councillors at the earliest possible opportunity after the meeting.