

Transitional Plan Update #9 – Organics Processing Plant

20 September 2021 – 3 October 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.

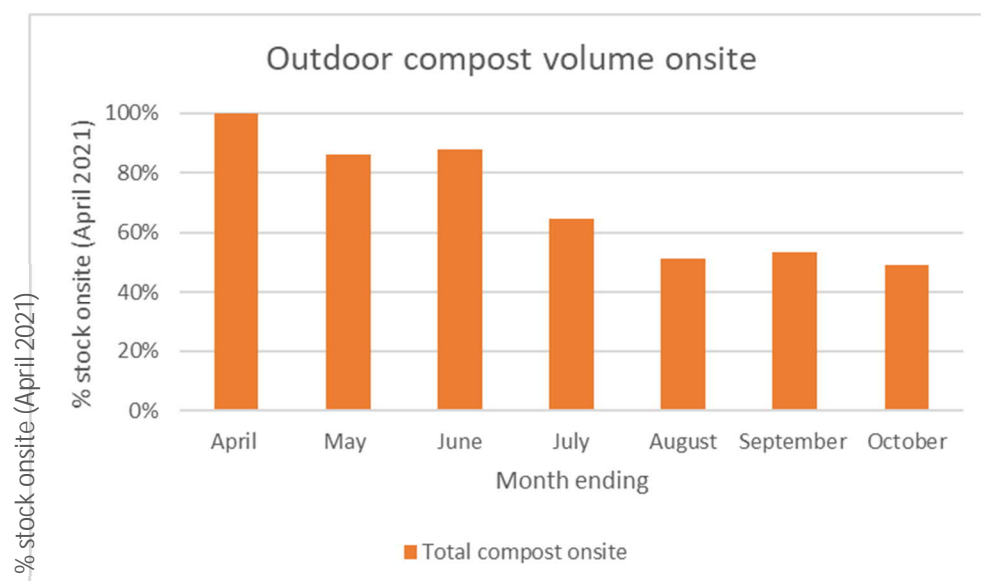
1. Stop receiving pre-consumer food organics.

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
09/08/21 – 22/08/21	0
23/08/21 – 05/09/21	0
06/09/21 – 19/09/21	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. As of 3 October 2021, the total material onsite had reduced by 51 per cent, shown in the graph below. The next phase of the process will entail removing all outside processing of material.



Outdoor compost volume onsite

*Figures up to 1 October.

Please note there has been a slight increase in material outside since August. This is due to a significant increase of incoming material from the kerbside green bins during the level 4 lockdown and limitations in moving material offsite during the restrictions. Work is underway to continue to remove this material.

[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 07 October 2021.

Before:



Now:



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 around the boundary of the composting facility, with the goal to provide an additional natural buffer around the site. This includes plantings on land to the South of the facility that is currently leased so we'll need to obtain agreement from the lease-holder prior to starting any planting.

The Parks Team has provided a list of appropriate species for the area and we are now developing a broad plan for planting at the organics plant and neighbouring transfer station.

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 was successful and we are looking at using the probiotic as a permanent part of the process going forward.

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 17 August 2021 with the next meeting scheduled for 16 November 2021. We also held an additional meeting on 7 September 2021 ahead of the report considered by the elected Council on 9 September.

7. Organics plant upgrade project update

The redevelopment of the organics processing plant has been put on hold after the elected Council voted on 9 September 2021 to investigate building a new facility at another location.

Council staff will now spend the next six months looking at options for potential new sites and technologies before reporting back to Council in March next year. The option of redeveloping the existing plant is still on the table as it is possible the investigations may not identify a viable alternative.

The decision to look at alternatives comes after the tender prices for a \$21.5 million redevelopment of the Bromley site came in significantly over budget.