



Results of Litter Bin Audits 2025

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1 INTRODUCTION

In 2025, The Packaging Forum contracted Be A Tidy Kiwi (BATK) to complete a series of litter bin audits in different geographic areas.

Be A Tidy Kiwi and The Packaging Forum launched a joint initiative in 2016, called Litter Less Recycle More. The project introduced nationally consistent recycling and rubbish bins to a range of locations, to encourage people to use the bins responsibly, and to reduce litter.¹ This project was completed in 2019.

In 2018/19 a series of litter bin audits were commissioned to determine the success of these bins, in terms of correct use by the public, and to investigate the amount of packaging disposed of to litter bins. These audits were again repeated in 2023 and in 2025.

The 2025 audits results are outlined in this report.

The litter audits outlined in this report aim to:

- Measure how efficiently the public are using the different bins, including:
 - Levels of contamination in recycling and glass bottle bins
 - Quantity of recyclable materials in rubbish bins
- Measure the types of packaging materials disposed of to litter bins
- Measure the amount and types of plastic packaging materials disposed of to litter bins, to inform the development of the Plastic Packaging Product Stewardship Scheme (PPPS)

These litter audits were undertaken in four council areas, and include both Litter Less Recycle More bins, and other litter bins provided by local authorities.

BATK engaged Sunshine Yates Consulting Limited (SYCL) to undertake these audits. SYCL has more than 20 years' experience undertaking audits of litter, rubbish and recycling.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Audit areas

The Packaging Forum requested that the litter bin audits be undertaken in four locations around the country, including:

- Tauranga,
- Rotorua,
- Wellington, and
- Dunedin.

¹ The Packaging Forum, 2020, [Let's Put Litter in its Place](#)



Councils were asked to assist by requesting that their litter bin collection contractor collect the contents of a selection of litter bins, bag the contents and label the bags with the name of the type of bin the bag was removed from (rubbish, recycling or glass), and transport the bags to a site where they could be audited. Some of the councils were also asked to provide a site for the audit to be undertaken.

Each of the four councils agreed to participate and assisted with the collection of the materials as requested. The size of the sample of litter bins provided varied from council to council.

These litter bin systems in each area and the sample of bins provided for the audit are outlined in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 – Litter bin set ups in each location

Location	Types of bins available	Number of bins from which contents were provided	Locations of bins included in audit sample
Tauranga	Litter rubbish bins, litter recycling bins, litter glass bottle bins	11 rubbish bins, 11 recycling bins	CBD and reserves
Rotorua	Litter rubbish bins only	60 rubbish bins	Central city
Wellington	Litter rubbish bins only	20 rubbish bins	Courtney Place
Dunedin	Litter rubbish bins, litter recycling bins, litter glass bottle bins	8 rubbish bins, 8 recycling bins, 8 glass bottle bins	Bond St, BNZ (George St), Bus Hub #1 Bus Hub #2, Camp Store, City Market, China Palace, One way

Tauranga City Council also collect glass bottles but stated that the glass is being accepted for recycling with minimal contamination, and that there were health and safety risks in collecting it and delivering it for the audit. Therefore, it was excluded from the audit.

As each council selected the litter bins they provided materials from, they are from a wide variety of locations, e.g. inner city streets, suburban streets, reserves, sports fields etc.

The types of litter disposed of to litter bins in different settings can vary considerably. For example, non-alcoholic beverage containers are likely to be more prevalent in sports field bins than inner city bins, while alcoholic beverage containers may be more prevalent in some inner city streets.

Additionally, litter composition can change from day to day, depending on the major uses of the site within which it is located, and according to the weather and the time of the year.

The audits outlined in this report should not be considered representative of all litter in any of the council areas from which they were collected, but instead as a snapshot of the composition of a particular set of bins at a particular moment in time.



The amount of litter supplied by each Council varied significantly. Table 2.2 provides an overview of the amount of litter that was audited, by weight.

Table 2.2 – Weight of materials audited from Litter rubbish bins

Quantity of material audited	Tauranga	Rotorua	Wgtn	Dunedin
Litter rubbish bins	126.1 kg	83.3 kg	265.1 kg	26.2 kg
Litter recycling bins	39.8 kg	-	-	7.4 kg
Litter glass bottle bins	-	-	-	33.5 kg

2.2 Audit teams

For the sake of efficiency, SYCL subcontracted the audits to local audit teams in each area.

SYCL provided a detailed methodology and an online training session to each audit team, to ensure that the audits were undertaken in the same manner in each location. On completion of the audits, the audit datasheets were provided to SYCL for analysis and reporting.

The following auditors were used in each area:

- Waste Watchers in Tauranga and Rotorua,
- Non-Stop Solutions in Wellington,
- Whirika Consulting in Dunedin.

All audit teams were already experienced in waste auditing.

The timings of the audits were determined between the auditors and the councils and are shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 – Audit dates

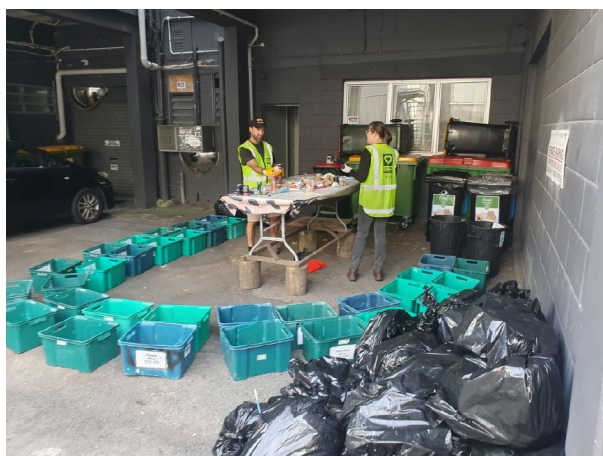
Audit site	Audit date
Tauranga	7 April 2025
Rotorua	11 April 2025
Wellington	11 March 2025
Dunedin	5 May 2025

2.3 Audit execution

At each location, an audit team including a supervisor, undertook the audits. All bags delivered to each audit site by the council bin collection contractor were sorted into piles of rubbish, recycling and glass, as appropriate. Each bin type was sorted separately. All

bags in the pile of bags of that bin type were weighed in, and the type of bin was recorded (rubbish, recycling or glass). The bags were then placed onto the sorting table, opened, and sorted.

Once all of the bags of a particular bin type had been sorted, all categories were weighed, and the materials were disposed of. The bags from the next bin type were then weighed in and sorted.



Audit set up

The contents of the bins were sorted into 34 separate categories. The bin audits undertaken in 2018/19 used 36 categories, that were originally created by Waste Not Consulting. As the Packaging Forum is specifically interested in plastic packaging to inform the PPPS, these categories were amended in 2023 (and have been used again in 2025) to ensure that all plastic packaging was sorted separately. Some categories were amalgamated to slightly reduce the number of categories.

The same primary categories were kept:

1. Food packaging
2. Drinks packaging
3. Other packaging
4. Non-packaging

Sorting recycling and glass into these 34 categories provides a comprehensive overview of the types of non-recyclable items the public are placing into litter bins.

The secondary and tertiary categories are outlined in Table 2.4 on the following page. A full list of definitions for the 34 categories is provided in Appendix A.

Photos of materials sorted into a selection of these categories is provided in Appendix C.

Table 2.4 – Audit categories

Primary category	Secondary category	Tertiary category
Food Packaging	Plastic food packaging (fast & snack food)	
	Paper food packaging (fast & snack food)	
	Home food plastic packaging	
	Home food other packaging	
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup (hot and cold)	
	Disposable cup lid (hot and cold)	
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET
		HDPE
		Aluminium
		Glass
		Liquid paper board
		Multimaterial /other
	Drink container (alcoholic)	PET
		Aluminium
		Glass - wine
		Glass - other
		Multimaterial /other
	Other drink packaging	
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags	
	Paper shopping bags	
	Plastic lids	
	Metal lids	
	Other plastic packaging	
	Tobacco product packaging	
	Vaping product packaging	
	Cardboard / paperboard boxes	
	Uncategorised packaging	
Non-Packaging	Paper	Junk mail
		Newspaper
		Sanitary items
		Other
	Timber utensils	
	Bagged refuse	
	All other non-packaging materials	



3 AUDIT RESULTS

3.1 Composition of litter rubbish bins

The composition of the contents of litter rubbish bins in the four locations are provided in Table 3.1.

As outlined in Section 2.1, the results from each council area cannot be directly compared, as the location of a litter bin influences the types of materials disposed of, and the litter bins provided in each council area are from a range of locations (e.g. city streets, sports fields, reserves, etc.).

The results by individual city are presented in tables and figures in Appendix B.

Table 3.1 – Composition of materials in litter rubbish bins, proportion by weight, 2025

Composition of materials in litter rubbish bins - 2025			Tauranga	Rotorua	Wgtn	Dunedin
Food Packaging	Plastic food pack. (fast & snack)		0.4%	1.4%	2.6%	1.7%
	Paper food pack. (fast & snack)		2.5%	9.1%	9.5%	3.8%
	Home food plastic packaging		2.3%	0.8%	0.8%	0.4%
	Home food other packaging		1.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.2%
	Subtotal		6.1%	11.8%	13.5%	6.0%
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup (hot and cold)		1.3%	5.4%	4.1%	2.4%
	Disposable cup lid (hot and		0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	0.7%	2.0%	3.2%	0.4%
		HDPE	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%
		Aluminium	0.3%	2.3%	2.2%	0.6%
		Glass	0.0%	5.3%	2.2%	0.0%
		Liquid paper	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%
		Multimaterial	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
	Drink container (alcoholic)	PET	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
		Aluminium	0.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.1%
		Glass - wine	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%
		Glass - other	1.1%	5.3%	3.2%	2.4%
		Multimaterial	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
	Other drink packaging		0.7%	0.8%	0.0%	0.6%
	Subtotal		4.8%	23.1%	20.6%	7.1%
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags		0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	Paper shopping bags		0.2%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%
	Plastic lids		0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
	Metal lids		0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
	Other plastic packaging		0.4%	1.2%	0.2%	0.5%
	Tobacco product packaging		0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
	Vaping product packaging		0.1%	1.0%	0.5%	0.2%
	Cardboard / paperboard boxes		1.5%	1.2%	1.3%	0.0%
	Uncategorised packaging		0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%
	Subtotal		2.6%	4.3%	3.1%	1.1%
Non-Packaging	Paper	Junk mail	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
		Newspaper	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%
		Sanitary	5.3%	2.9%	0.0%	1.4%
		Other	0.0%	0.6%	0.9%	0.5%
	Timber utensils		0.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%
	Bagged refuse		32.6%	20.5%	29.5%	68.3%
	All other non-packaging		48.2%	35.9%	31.6%	15.6%
	Subtotal		86.5%	60.8%	62.8%	85.9%
	TOTAL			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



In each council area the largest category, by weight, was either 'Bagged refuse' or 'All other non-packaging materials'. The 'Bagged refuse' classification included all bags of rubbish disposed of to a litter bin, likely by a household or a business.

3.2 Composition of litter recycling bins

The composition of the contents of litter recycling bins in the two council areas that provide litter recycling bins, are provided in Table 3.2.

As outlined in Section 2.1, the results from each council area cannot be directly compared, as the location of a litter bin influences the types of materials disposed of, and the litter bins provided in each council area are from a range of locations (e.g. city streets, sports fields, reserves, etc.)

The results by individual city are also presented in tables and figures in Appendix B.

Table 3.2 – Composition of materials in litter recycling bins, proportion by weight, 2025

Composition of materials in litter recycling bins - 2025			Tauranga	Dunedin
Food Packaging	Plastic food packaging (fast &		0.2%	2.7%
	Paper food packaging (fast &		9.2%	4.1%
	Home food plastic packaging		2.4%	4.9%
	Home food other packaging		2.9%	5.4%
	Subtotal		14.8%	17.0%
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup (hot and cold)		3.2%	1.6%
	Disposable cup lid (hot and cold)		0.4%	0.0%
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	5.3%	13.0%
		HDPE	0.1%	6.8%
		Aluminium	2.3%	14.6%
		Glass	0.0%	0.5%
		Liquid paper	1.2%	1.1%
		Multimaterial	0.0%	0.0%
		Drink container (alcoholic)	PET	0.0%
	Aluminium		6.0%	7.8%
	Glass - wine		0.0%	0.0%
	Glass - other		3.3%	5.4%
	Multimaterial		0.0%	0.0%
	Other drink packaging		11.7%	6.5%
	Subtotal		33.6%	57.3%
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags		0.0%	0.0%
	Paper shopping bags		0.8%	0.8%
	Plastic lids		0.1%	0.8%
	Metal lids		0.1%	0.0%
	Other plastic packaging		0.2%	2.4%
	Tobacco product packaging		0.1%	0.0%
	Vaping product packaging		0.0%	0.3%
	Cardboard / paperboard boxes		11.5%	6.8%
	Uncategorised packaging		0.6%	0.0%
	Subtotal		13.4%	11.1%
Non-Packaging	Paper	Junk mail	0.6%	0.0%
		Newspaper	0.4%	1.1%
		Sanitary items	4.0%	0.0%
		Other	0.0%	4.9%
	Timber utensils		0.1%	0.0%
	Bagged refuse		6.1%	0.0%
	All other non-packaging materials		27.1%	8.6%
	Subtotal		38.2%	14.6%
	TOTAL			100.0%



3.3 Composition of litter glass bottle bins

Of the four councils included in the study, only Dunedin and Tauranga offer glass bottle litter bins. However, Tauranga litter glass bottle bins are not included in this audit, as they do not have contamination issues with this material. The composition of the contents of litter glass bottle bins in Dunedin is provided in Table 3.3.

**Table 3.3 – Composition of materials in litter glass bottle bins, proportion by weight, 2025**

Composition of materials in litter glass bottle bins - 2025			Dunedin
Food Packaging	Plastic food packaging (fast & snack)		0.0%
	Paper food packaging (fast & snack)		0.1%
	Home food plastic packaging		0.0%
	Home food other packaging		4.4%
	Subtotal		4.5%
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup (hot and cold)		0.0%
	Disposable cup lid (hot and cold)		0.0%
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	0.0%
		HDPE	0.0%
		Aluminium	0.2%
		Glass	11.7%
		Liquid paper board	0.0%
		Multimaterial /other	0.0%
		Drink container (alcoholic)	PET
	Aluminium		0.1%
	Glass - wine		36.3%
	Glass - other		41.7%
	Multimaterial /other		0.0%
	Other drink packaging		0.0%
Subtotal		90.0%	
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags		0.0%
	Paper shopping bags		0.0%
	Plastic lids		0.0%
	Metal lids		0.0%
	Other plastic packaging		0.0%
	Tobacco product packaging		0.0%
	Vaping product packaging		0.0%
	Cardboard / paperboard boxes		0.0%
	Uncategorised packaging		0.6%
	Subtotal		0.6%
Non-Packaging	Paper	Junk mail	0.0%
		Newspaper	0.0%
		Sanitary items	0.0%
		Other	0.0%
	Timber utensils		0.0%
	Bagged refuse		4.9%
	All other non-packaging materials		0.0%
	Subtotal		4.9%
	TOTAL		

3.4 Packaging materials in litter

3.4.1. Litter rubbish bins

Table 3.4 provides an overview of the packaging materials found in the litter rubbish bins.

Table 3.4 – Packaging materials in litter rubbish bins, proportions by weight, 2025

Packaging materials in litter rubbish bins, 2025	Tauranga	Rotorua	Wgtn	Dunedin
Food packaging	6.1%	11.8%	13.5%	6.0%
Drinks packaging	4.8%	23.1%	20.6%	7.1%
Other packaging	2.6%	4.3%	3.1%	1.1%
TOTAL PACKAGING	13.5%	39.2%	37.2%	14.1%
TOTAL NON-PACKAGING	86.5%	60.8%	62.8%	85.9%

Packaging material comprised between 13.5% and 39.2% of the litter rubbish bin materials, by weight. Rotorua and Wellington litter rubbish bins contained substantially more Food Packaging and Drinks packaging than Tauranga or Dunedin bins.

Figures 3.1 to 3.4 present the same results by council area.

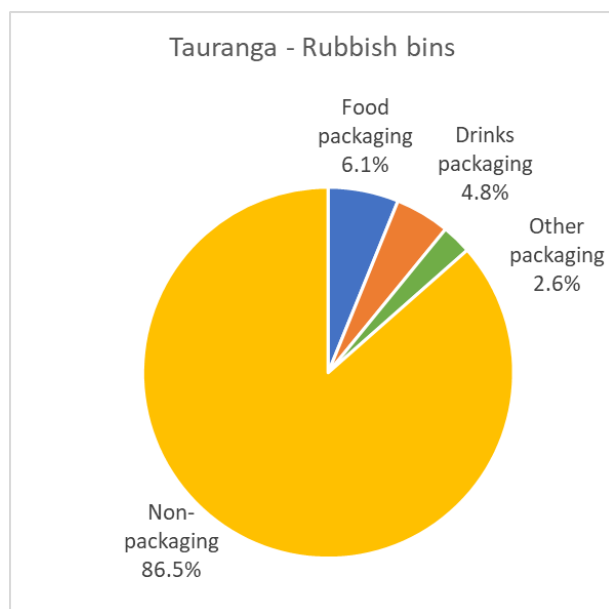


Figure 3.1 – Packaging in Tauranga litter rubbish bins

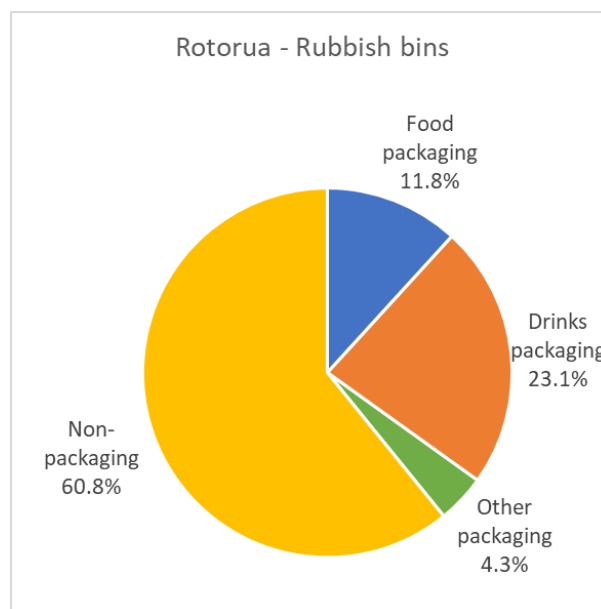


Figure 3.2 – Packaging in Rotorua litter rubbish bins

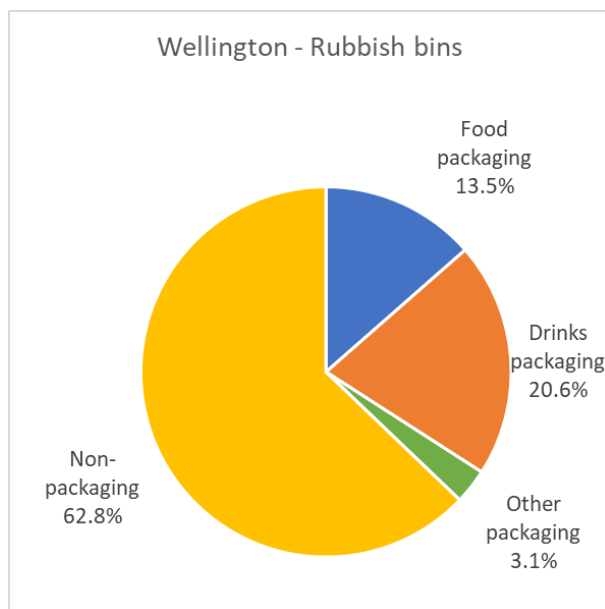


Figure 3.3 – Packaging in Wellington litter rubbish bins

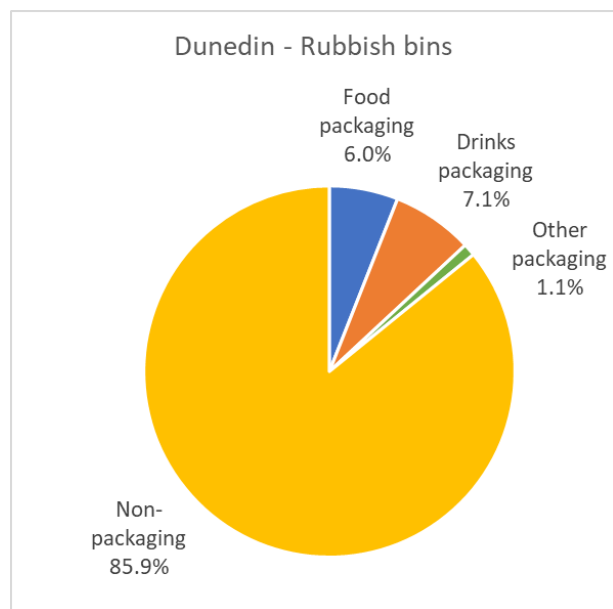


Figure 3.4 – Packaging in Dunedin litter rubbish bins

3.4.2. Litter recycling bins

Table 3.5 provides an overview of the packaging materials found in the litter recycling bins.

Table 3.5 – Packaging materials in litter recycling bins, proportions by weight, 2025

Packaging materials in litter recycling bins, 2025	Tauranga	Dunedin
Food packaging	14.8%	17.0%
Drinks packaging	33.6%	57.3%
Other packaging	13.4%	11.1%
TOTAL PACKAGING	61.8%	85.4%
TOTAL NON-PACKAGING	38.2%	14.6%

Packaging materials comprised a much higher proportion of the materials in the litter recycling bins than the litter rubbish bins. Tauranga litter recycling bins contained 61.8% and Dunedin litter recycling bins 85.4% Packaging materials.

Figures 3.5 and 3.6 present the same results by council area.

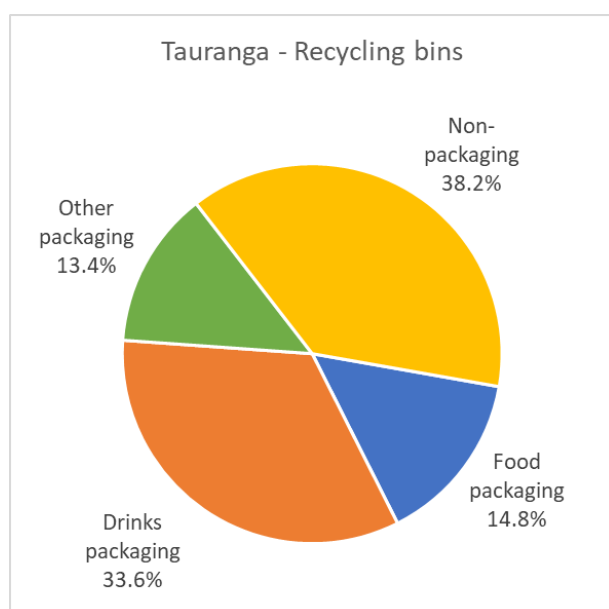


Figure 3.5 – Packaging in Tauranga litter recycling bins

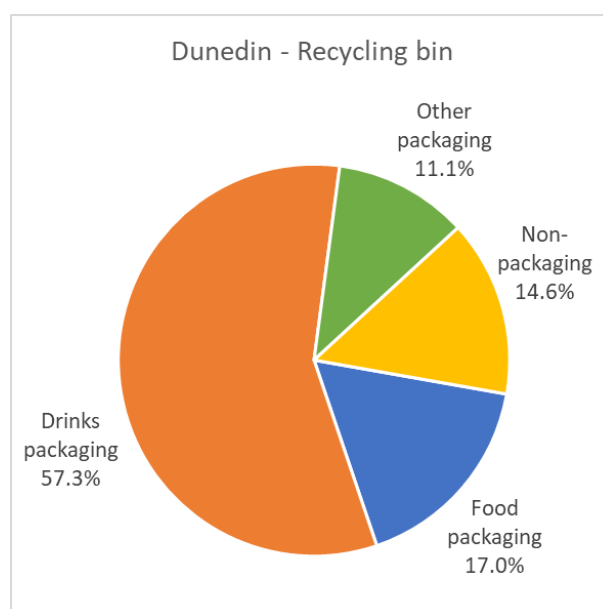


Figure 3.6 – Packaging in Dunedin litter recycling bins

3.4.3. Litter glass bottle bins

Table 3.6 provides an overview of the packaging materials found in the litter glass bottle bins.

Table 3.6 – Packaging materials in litter glass bottle bins, proportions by weight, 2025

Packaging materials in litter glass bottle bins, 2025	Dunedin
Food packaging	4.5%
Drinks packaging	90.0%
Other packaging	0.6%
TOTAL PACKAGING	95.1%
TOTAL NON-PACKAGING	4.9%

Only glass drinks packaging is supposed to be disposed of to litter glass bottle bins. Drinks packaging made up 90.0% of the materials in the Dunedin litter glass bottle bins. There was also a small quantity of food packaging and Other packaging.

These results are also shown in Figure 3.7.

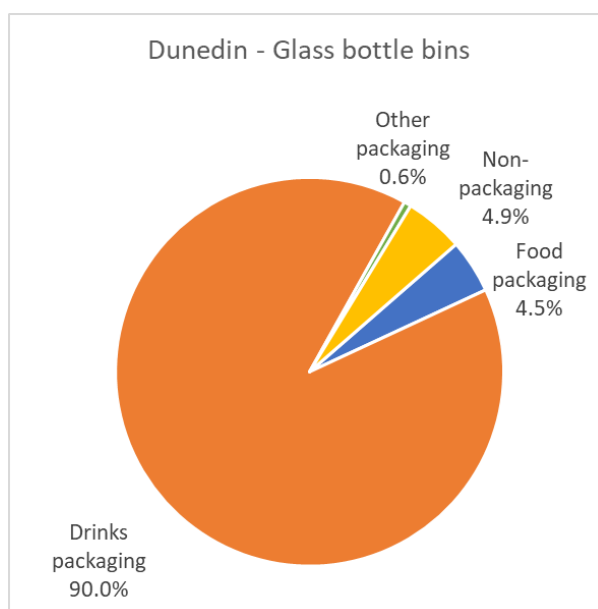


Figure 3.7 – Packaging in Dunedin litter glass bottle bins

3.5 Plastic packaging in litter

3.5.1. Litter rubbish bins

Plastic packaging in litter rubbish bins is presented in Table 3.7. These results do not include plastic lining on disposable cups, but do include liquid paper board.

Table 3.7 – Plastic packaging in litter rubbish bins, proportion by weight, 2025

Plastic packaging in litter rubbish bins - 2025			Tauranga	Rotorua	Wgtn	Dunedin
Food Packaging	Plastic food packag. (fast & snack)		0.4%	1.4%	2.6%	1.7%
	Home food plastic packaging		2.3%	0.8%	0.8%	0.4%
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup lid (hot and cold)		0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	0.7%	2.0%	3.2%	0.4%
		HDPE	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%
		Liquid paper board	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%
	Drink container	PET	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags		0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	Plastic lids		0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
	Other plastic packaging		0.4%	1.2%	0.2%	0.5%
TOTAL PLASTIC PACKAGING			4.4%	6.7%	7.9%	3.8%

The amount of plastic packaging varied across the four council areas from a low of 3.8% in Dunedin to a high of 7.9% in Wellington.

3.5.2. Litter recycling bins

Plastic packaging in litter recycling bins is presented in Table 3.8.

Table 3.8 – Plastic packaging in litter recycling bins, proportion by weight, 2025

Plastic packaging in litter recycling bins - 2025			Tauranga	Dunedin
Food Packaging	Plastic food packag. (fast & snack)		0.2%	2.7%
	Home food plastic packaging		2.4%	4.9%
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup lid (hot and cold)		0.4%	0.0%
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	5.3%	13.0%
		HDPE	0.1%	6.8%
		Liquid paper board	1.2%	1.1%
	Drink container	PET	0.0%	0.0%
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags		0.0%	0.0%
	Plastic lids		0.1%	0.8%
	Other plastic packaging		0.2%	2.4%
TOTAL PLASTIC PACKAGING			9.9%	31.6%



The amount of plastic packaging in litter recycling bins varied from a low of 9.9% in Tauranga to a high of 31.6% in Dunedin.

3.6 Recyclable materials in litter

3.6.1. Recyclable materials in litter rubbish bins

Table 3.9 provides an overview of the proportion of recyclable materials disposed of to litter rubbish bins in the materials supplied from each council area.

Table 3.9 – Recyclable materials in litter rubbish bins, proportion by weight, 2025

Recyclable materials in litter rubbish bins - 2025		Tauranga	Rotorua	Wgtn	Dunedin
Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	0.7%	2.0%	3.2%	0.4%
	HDPE	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%
	Aluminium	0.3%	2.3%	2.2%	0.6%
Drink container (alcoholic)	PET	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
	Aluminium	0.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.1%
Cardboard / paperboard boxes		1.5%	1.2%	1.3%	0.0%
Paper	Junk mail	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
	Newspaper	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%
TOTAL RECYCLABLE (excl. glass bottles)		3.0%	7.3%	8.1%	1.1%
Drink container (non-alcoholic)	Glass	0.0%	5.3%	2.2%	0.0%
Drink container (alcoholic)	Glass - wine	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%
	Glass - other	1.1%	5.3%	3.2%	2.4%
TOTAL GLASS BOTTLES		1.1%	10.6%	9.0%	2.4%
TOTAL RECYCLABLE (incl. glass bottles)		4.0%	17.9%	17.1%	3.4%
TOTAL NON-RECYCLABLE		96.0%	82.1%	82.9%	96.6%

The results of the audit showed that between 3.4% and 17.9% of the contents of litter rubbish bins were recyclable materials, by weight.



3.6.2. Recyclable materials in litter recycling bins

Table 3.10 provides an overview of the proportion of recyclable materials disposed of to litter recycling bins in the bins supplied from each council area.

Table 3.10 – Recyclable materials in litter recycling bins, proportion by weight, 2025

Recyclable materials in litter recycling bins - 2025		Tauranga	Dunedin
Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	5.3%	13.0%
	HDPE	0.1%	6.8%
	Aluminium	2.3%	14.6%
Drink container (alcoholic)	PET	0.0%	0.0%
	Aluminium	6.0%	7.8%
Cardboard / paperboard boxes		11.5%	6.8%
Paper	Junk mail	0.6%	0.0%
	Newspaper	0.4%	1.1%
TOTAL RECYCLABLE (excl. glass bottles)		26.2%	50.0%
Drink container (non-alcoholic)	Glass	0.0%	0.5%
Drink container (alcoholic)	Glass - wine	0.0%	0.0%
	Glass - other	3.3%	5.4%
TOTAL GLASS BOTTLES (contamination)		3.3%	5.9%
TOTAL CONTAMINATION		73.8%	50.0%

The results of the audit showed that 26.2% of the contents of litter recycling bins in Tauranga, and 50.0% in Dunedin, were recyclable materials, by weight.

The materials from litter recycling bins in Tauranga included 3.3% glass bottles, and in Dunedin 5.9% glass bottles, which are considered contamination when in litter recycling bins.

Including the glass bottles, there was 73.8% contamination, by weight, in the Tauranga litter recycling bins, and 50.0% contamination in the Dunedin litter recycling bins.

Some of the materials in other categories were likely also recyclable, such as some of the materials in 'Paper food packaging (fast food and snack food)', 'Home food other packaging', and 'Paper shopping bags'.

3.6.3. Recyclable materials in litter glass bottle bins

Table 3.11 provides an overview of the proportion of recyclable materials disposed of to litter glass bottle bins in the bins supplied from each council area.

**Table 3.11 – Recyclable materials in litter glass bottle bins, proportion by weight, 2025**

Recyclable materials in litter glass bottle bins - 2025		Dunedin
Drink container (non-	Glass	11.7%
Drink container (alcoholic)	Glass - wine	36.3%
	Glass - other	41.7%
TOTAL RECYCLABLE		89.7%
TOTAL NON-RECYCLABLE		10.3%

The results of the audit showed that 89.7% of the contents of litter glass bottle bins were recyclable glass bottles, by weight.

APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS OF AUDIT CLASSIFICATIONS

Litter bin audit categories		Definitions
FOOD PACKAGING	Plastic food packaging (fast & snack food)	<p>Plastic and multimaterial items that include plastic, used to serve fast-food that requires some preparation before sale, such as heating or cooking. Originate from take-away shops, lunch bars, dairies, restaurants, pubs, food stalls, the fast food section of supermarkets, and other such establishments. Examples include straws, cutlery, plates, bowls, wrappings, individual serving condiment packages and plastic bags known to be from such establishments. Both food contact and non-contact items are included. Cups are not included.</p> <p>Plastic and multimaterial items that include plastic used for packaging snack foods and confectionery, which require no preparation before sale and are associated with eating on the go. Typically from dairies, supermarkets, service stations. E,g packaging from chocolate bars, gum, chips, biscuits, cling film from sandwiches with a label.</p>
	Paper food packaging (fast & snack food)	<p>Paper items used to serve fast food that requires some preparation before sale, such as heating or cooking. Originate from take-away shops, lunch bars, dairies, restaurants, pubs, food stalls, the fast food section of supermarkets, and other such establishments. Examples include paper plates, bowls, wrappings, individual serving condiment packages, napkins, pizza boxes, fish and chip wrappings, pie bags, and paper bags known to be from such establishments. Both food contact and non-contact items are included. Cups are not included.</p> <p>Also includes paper items used for packaging snack foods and confectionery, which require no preparation before sale and are associated with eating 'on the go'. Typically originate from dairies, supermarkets, service stations.</p>
	Home food plastic packaging	Plastic food packaging items that are usually associated with the preparation and consumption of food at home rather than 'on the go'. Includes items like cling film (with no label), bread and vegetable bags, lock bags.
	Home food other packaging	Other food packaging items that are usually associated with the preparation and consumption of food at home rather than 'on the go'. Includes items like cereal boxes, butter wrapping...
DRINKS	Disposable cup (hot & cold)	Disposable cups made of any material, including paper, expanded polystyrene, and plastic, such as coffee cups,

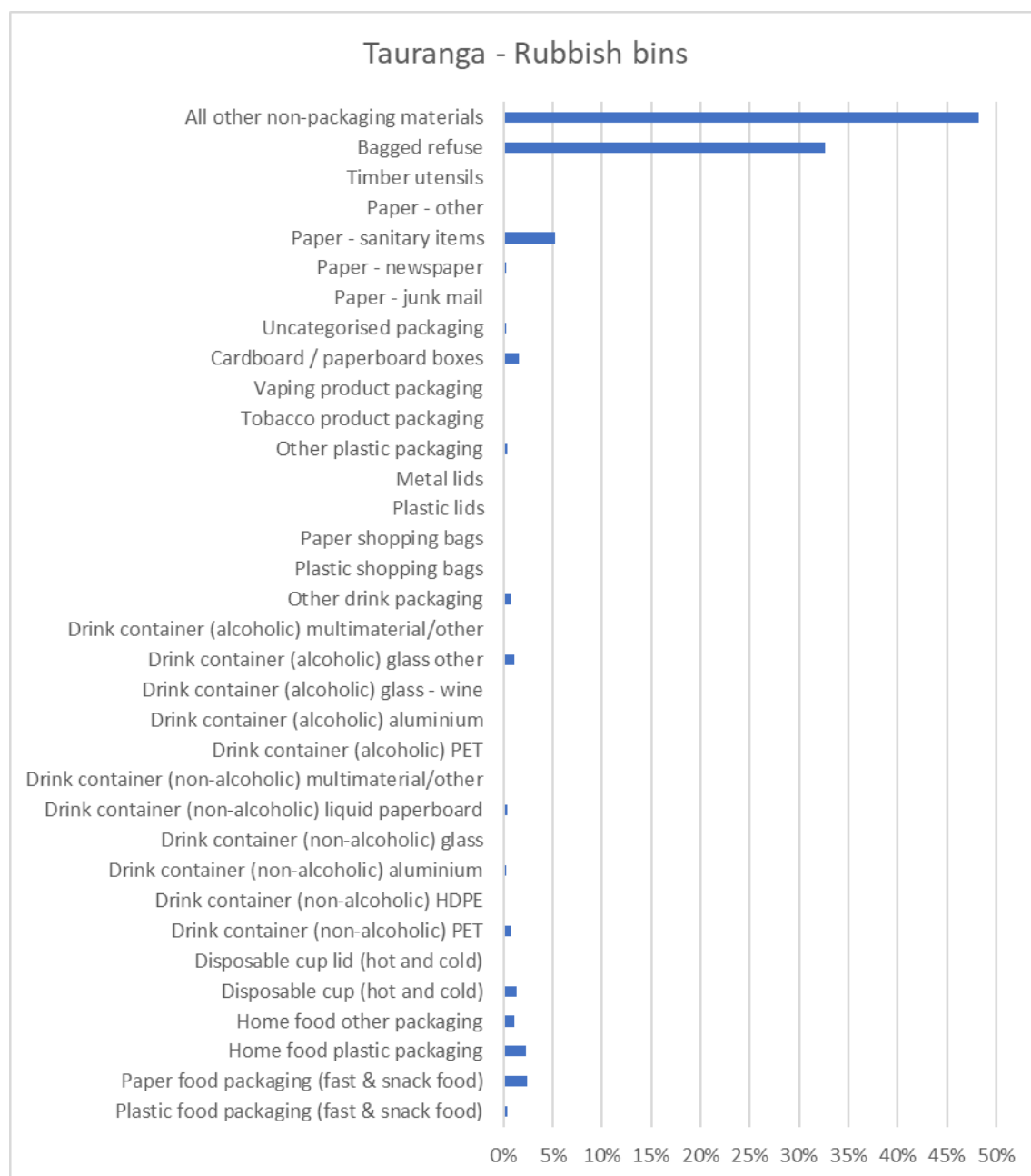


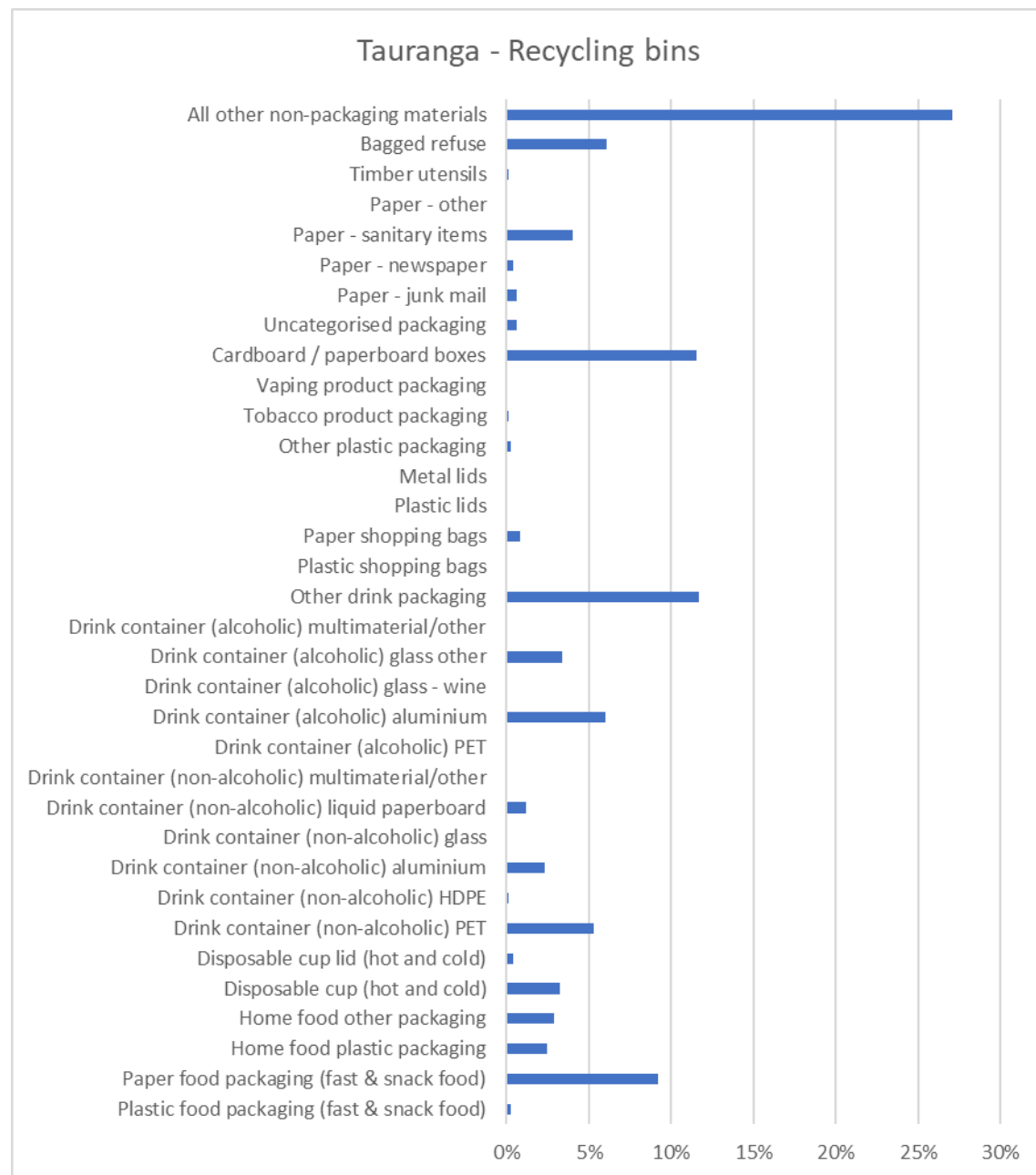
OTHER PACKAGING			milkshake cups, and soft drinks. Lids not counted separately if attached to the cup.
	Disposable cup lid (hot & cold)		Lids separated from disposable cups
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET (#1)	Clear # one plastic drink bottles , such as those used for soft drinks and bottled water
		HDPE (#2)	# two plastic drink containers , such as those used for milk products
		Aluminium	Soft drink and juice cans
		Glass	Glass bottles such as used for soft drinks and juices
		Liquid paper board	Tetra Pak-type packaging boxes for drinks that do not require refrigeration, such as juices, and coated cardboard cartons for drinks that do not require refrigeration, such as milk.
		Multimaterial /other	Containers made from both plastic and aluminium
	Drink container (alcoholic)	PET (#1)	# one plastic alcohol bottles , including some beer, wine, spirits, and cider bottles
		Aluminium	Primarily beer or RTD cans
		Glass - wine	Glass wine bottles only
		Glass - other	Beer, cider, spirits etc. glass bottles
		Multimaterial /other	Any alcohol container made of another material (such as ceramics) or more than one material
	Other drink packaging		Includes beer boxes, six pack rings, cup and beverage holders, foil bottle seals, and other items that do not contain the drink itself , excluding bottle tops
	Plastic shopping bags		All plastic shopping bags not used for food or drink packaging. Includes woven supermarket carry bags, shopping bags, retail bags, etc. that are not in direct contact with food
	Paper shopping bags		All paper shopping bags not used for food or drink packaging. Includes supermarket produce bags, shopping bags, retail bags, etc. that are not in direct contact with food
	Plastic lids		All plastic lids and bottle tops (excluding paper cup drink lids), that are not attached to original container
	Metal lids		All metal lids and bottle tops that are not attached to original container

	Other plastic packaging		Plastic bags and wrapping not used for shopping or food and drink packaging
	Tobacco product packaging		Cigarette packs , cigarette paper packs, tobacco pouches
	Vaping product packaging		Vapes (electronic nicotine delivery systems), cartridges, tanks and pods, and packaging materials
	Cardboard / paperboard boxes		Any box made from kraft not used for food or drink direct packaging
	Uncategorised packaging		Any packaging not covered by the other categories , such as paper bags not used for food or drink packaging, foam packaging, packaging tape. Excludes any plastic bag or plastic wrapping
NON-PACKAGING	Paper	Junk mail	All unaddressed mail , including advertising material, community newspapers, circulars, leaflets, brochures, or flyers
		Newspaper	Newspapers that are not delivered for free to households
		Sanitary items	Includes tissues, paper towels, nappies, female sanitary items
		Other	Any item made of paper that is not covered by one of the other, more specific, categories such as ATM receipts, shop receipts, office paper, addressed mail, photographs, building paper
	Timber utensils		Timber utensils, including single use forks, spoons, knives, chop sticks and stirrers
	Bagged refuse		Bags of rubbish disposed of to litter bins
	All other non-packaging materials		Any other items , including vehicle debris, food and organic items, home personal items, commercial items, construction items etc.

APPENDIX B – LITTER BY COUNCIL AREA

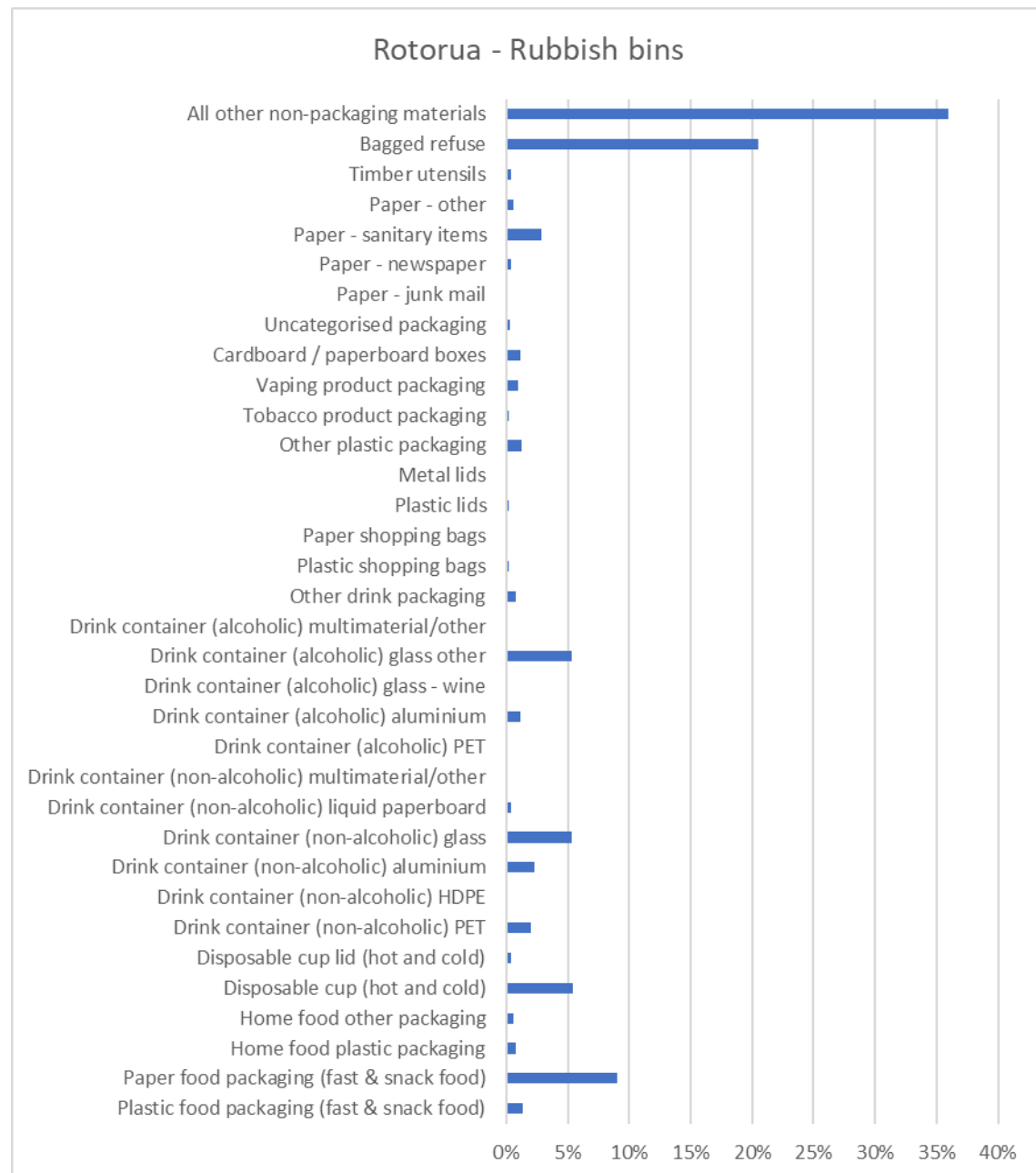
Tauranga





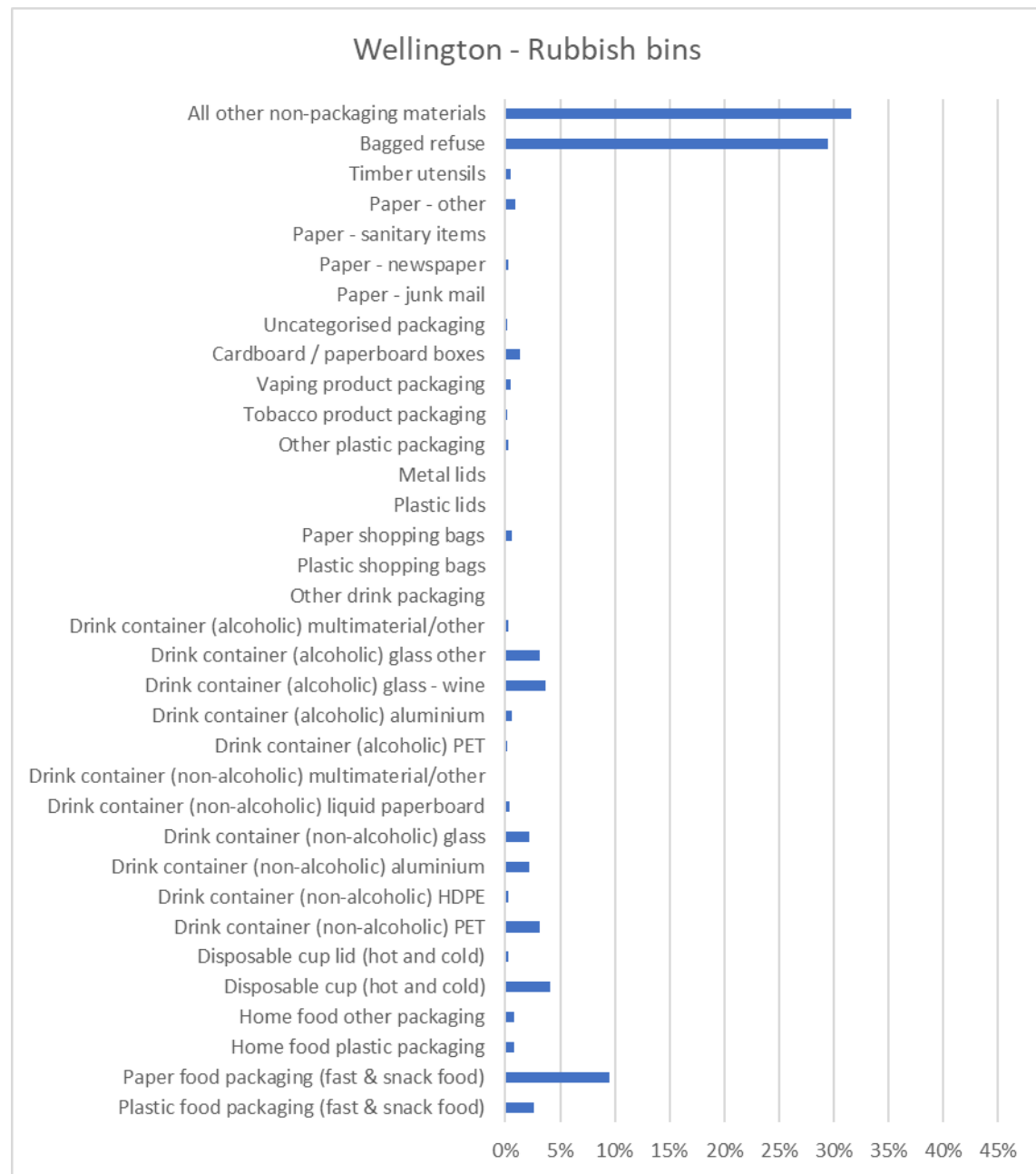
Tauranga litter bins 2025			Rubbish bins	Recycling bins
Food Packaging	Plastic food packaging (fast &		0.4%	0.2%
	Paper food packaging (fast &		2.5%	9.2%
	Home food plastic packaging		2.3%	2.4%
	Home food other packaging		1.0%	2.9%
	Subtotal		6.1%	14.8%
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup (hot and cold)		1.3%	3.2%
	Disposable cup lid (hot and cold)		0.2%	0.4%
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	0.7%	5.3%
		HDPE	0.1%	0.1%
		Aluminium	0.3%	2.3%
		Glass	0.0%	0.0%
		Liquid paper	0.4%	1.2%
		Multimaterial	0.0%	0.0%
	Drink container (alcoholic)	PET	0.0%	0.0%
		Aluminium	0.1%	6.0%
		Glass - wine	0.0%	0.0%
		Glass - other	1.1%	3.3%
		Multimaterial	0.0%	0.0%
	Other drink packaging		0.7%	11.7%
	Subtotal		4.8%	33.6%
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags		0.0%	0.0%
	Paper shopping bags		0.2%	0.8%
	Plastic lids		0.0%	0.1%
	Metal lids		0.0%	0.1%
	Other plastic packaging		0.4%	0.2%
	Tobacco product packaging		0.0%	0.1%
	Vaping product packaging		0.1%	0.0%
	Cardboard / paperboard boxes		1.5%	11.5%
	Uncategorised packaging		0.3%	0.6%
	Subtotal		2.6%	13.4%
Non-Packaging	Paper	Junk mail	0.0%	0.6%
		Newspaper	0.3%	0.4%
		Sanitary items	5.3%	4.0%
		Other	0.0%	0.0%
	Timber utensils		0.0%	0.1%
	Bagged refuse		32.6%	6.1%
	All other non-packaging materials		48.2%	27.1%
	Subtotal		86.5%	38.2%
TOTAL			100.0%	100.0%

Rotorua



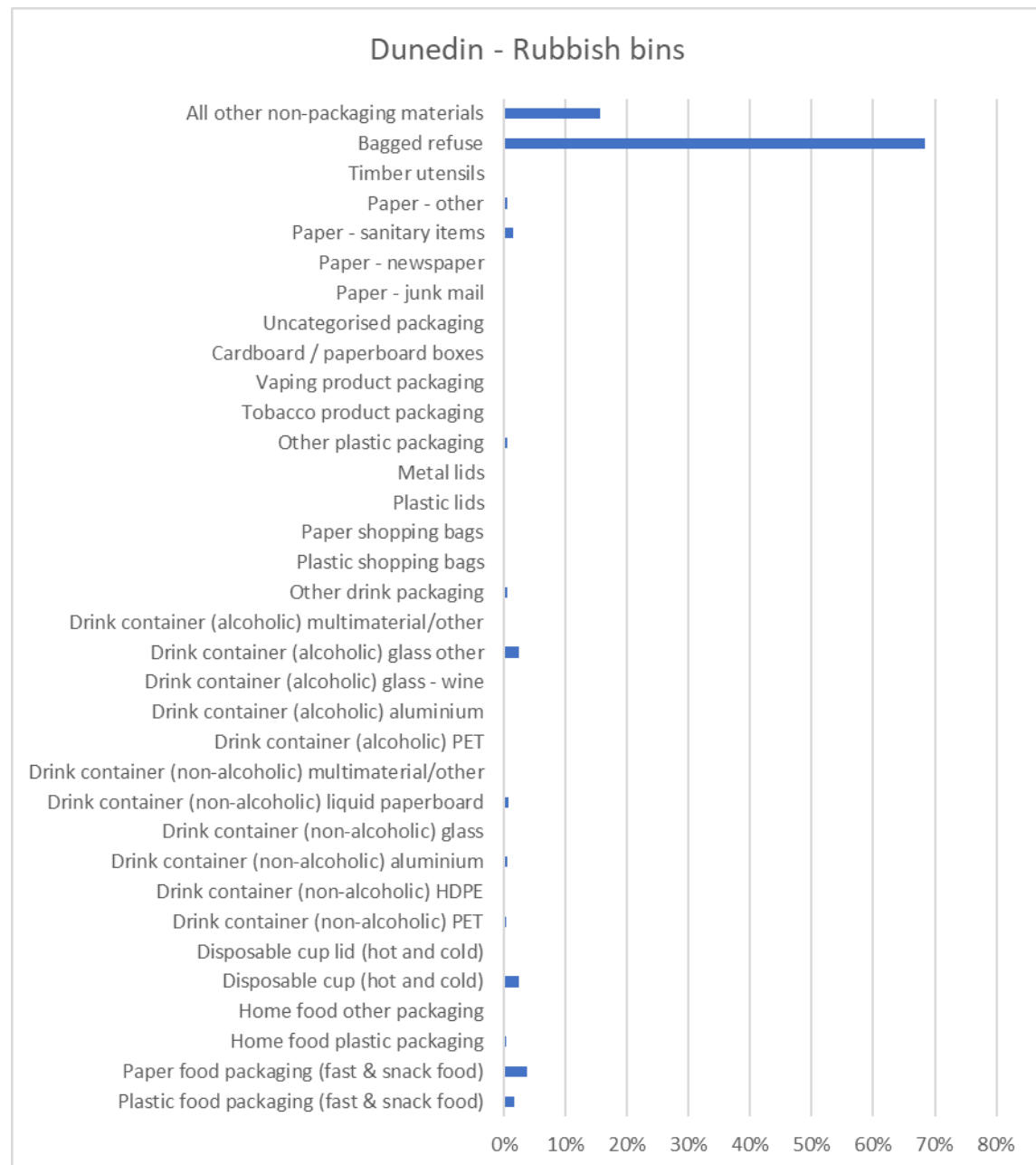
Rotorua litter bins 2025			Rubbish bins
Food Packaging	Plastic food packaging (fast &		1.4%
	Paper food packaging (fast &		9.1%
	Home food plastic packaging		0.8%
	Home food other packaging		0.6%
	Subtotal		11.8%
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup (hot and cold)		5.4%
	Disposable cup lid (hot and cold)		0.4%
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	2.0%
		HDPE	0.1%
		Aluminium	2.3%
		Glass	5.3%
		Liquid paper	0.4%
		Multimaterial	0.0%
		Drink container (alcoholic)	PET
	Aluminium		1.1%
	Glass - wine		0.0%
	Glass - other		5.3%
	Multimaterial		0.0%
	Other drink packaging		0.8%
	Subtotal		23.1%
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags		0.2%
	Paper shopping bags		0.0%
	Plastic lids		0.2%
	Metal lids		0.1%
	Other plastic packaging		1.2%
	Tobacco product packaging		0.2%
	Vaping product packaging		1.0%
	Cardboard / paperboard boxes		1.2%
	Uncategorised packaging		0.3%
	Subtotal		4.3%
Non-Packaging	Paper	Junk mail	0.1%
		Newspaper	0.4%
		Sanitary items	2.9%
		Other	0.6%
	Timber utensils		0.4%
	Bagged refuse		20.5%
	All other non-packaging materials		35.9%
	Subtotal		60.8%
	TOTAL		

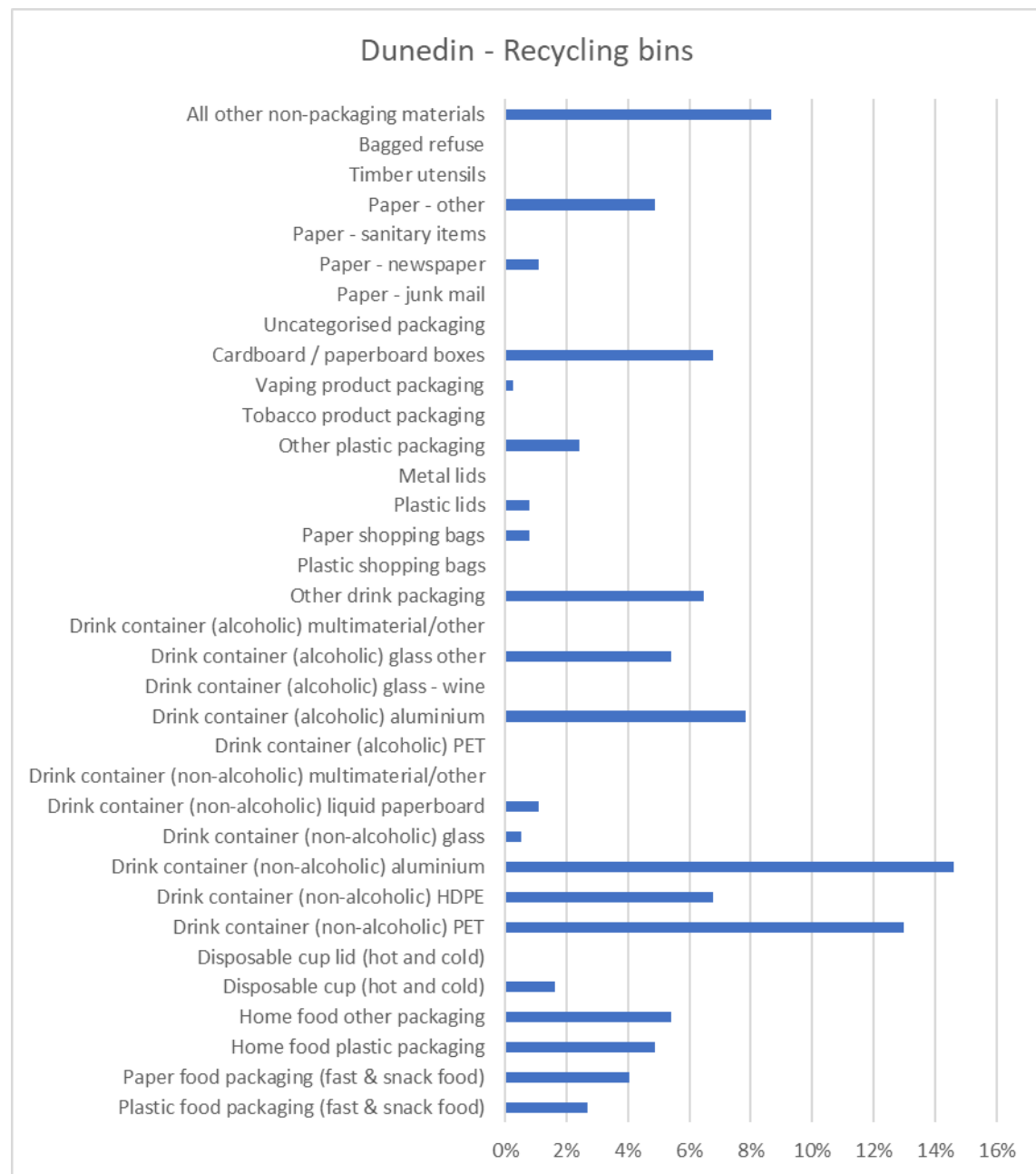
Wellington

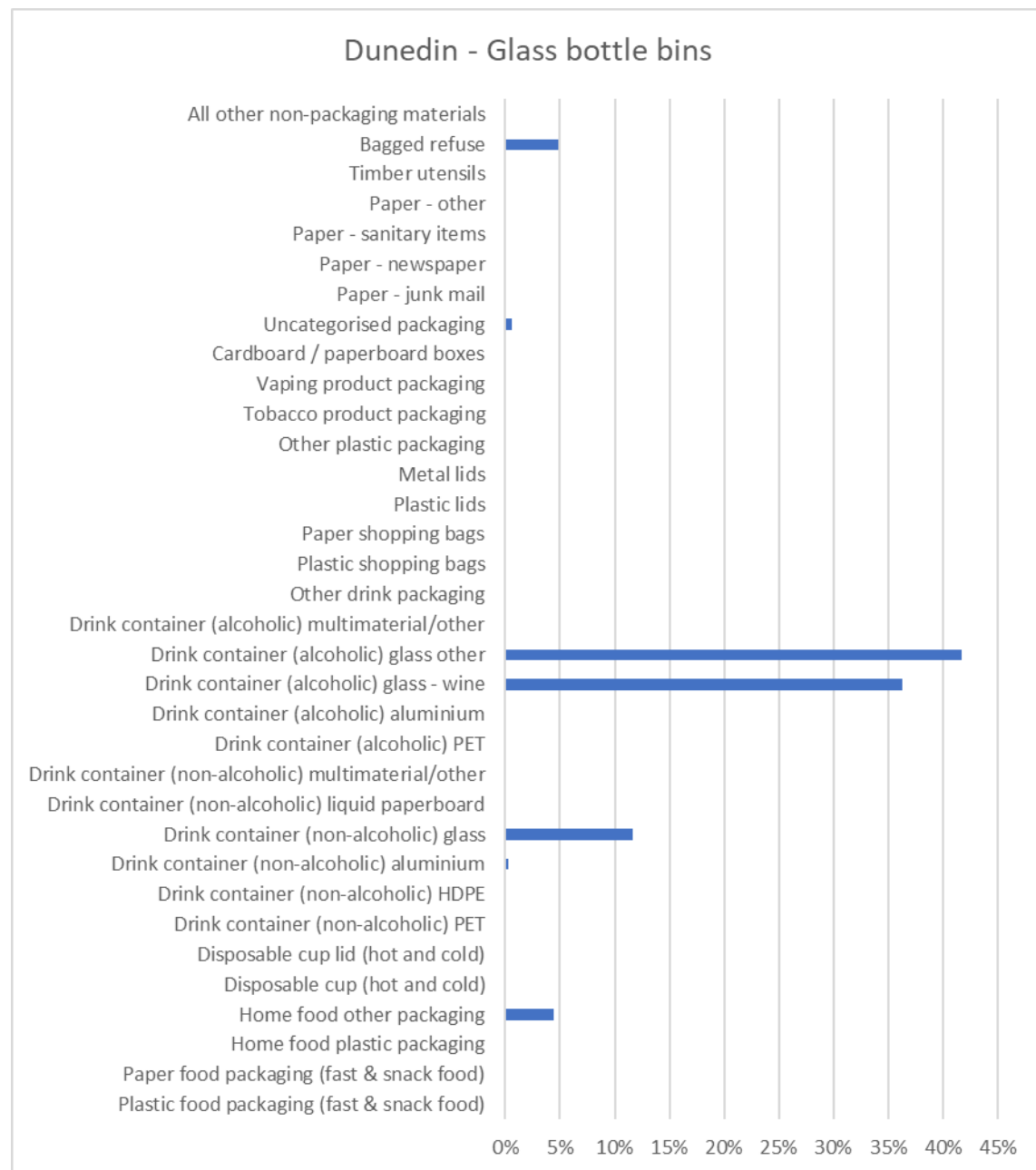


Wellington litter bins 2025			Rubbish bins
Food Packaging	Plastic food packaging (fast &		2.6%
	Paper food packaging (fast &		9.5%
	Home food plastic packaging		0.8%
	Home food other packaging		0.8%
	Subtotal		13.5%
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup (hot and cold)		4.1%
	Disposable cup lid (hot and cold)		0.3%
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	3.2%
		HDPE	0.3%
		Aluminium	2.2%
		Glass	2.2%
		Liquid paper	0.4%
		Multimaterial	0.1%
		Drink container (alcoholic)	PET
	Aluminium		0.6%
	Glass - wine		3.6%
	Glass - other		3.2%
	Multimaterial		0.3%
	Other drink packaging		0.0%
	Subtotal		20.6%
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags		0.0%
	Paper shopping bags		0.6%
	Plastic lids		0.1%
	Metal lids		0.0%
	Other plastic packaging		0.2%
	Tobacco product packaging		0.2%
	Vaping product packaging		0.5%
	Cardboard / paperboard boxes		1.3%
	Uncategorised packaging		0.2%
	Subtotal		3.1%
Non-Packaging	Paper	Junk mail	0.1%
		Newspaper	0.3%
		Sanitary items	0.0%
		Other	0.9%
	Timber utensils		0.5%
	Bagged refuse		29.5%
	All other non-packaging materials		31.6%
	Subtotal		62.8%
	TOTAL		

Dunedin









Dunedin litter bins 2025			Rubbish bins	Recycling bins	Glass bottle bins
Food Packaging	Plastic food packaging (fast &		1.7%	2.7%	0.0%
	Paper food packaging (fast &		3.8%	4.1%	0.1%
	Home food plastic packaging		0.4%	4.9%	0.0%
	Home food other packaging		0.2%	5.4%	4.4%
	Subtotal		6.0%	17.0%	4.5%
Drinks Packaging	Disposable cup (hot and cold)		2.4%	1.6%	0.0%
	Disposable cup lid (hot and cold)		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Drink container (non-alcoholic)	PET	0.4%	13.0%	0.0%
		HDPE	0.0%	6.8%	0.0%
		Aluminium	0.6%	14.6%	0.2%
		Glass	0.0%	0.5%	11.7%
		Liquid paper	0.7%	1.1%	0.0%
		Multimaterial	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
		Drink container (alcoholic)	PET	0.0%	0.0%
	Aluminium		0.1%	7.8%	0.1%
	Glass - wine		0.0%	0.0%	36.3%
	Glass - other		2.4%	5.4%	41.7%
	Multimaterial		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other drink packaging		0.6%	6.5%	0.0%
	Subtotal		7.1%	57.3%	90.0%
Other Packaging	Plastic shopping bags		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Paper shopping bags		0.0%	0.8%	0.0%
	Plastic lids		0.2%	0.8%	0.0%
	Metal lids		0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other plastic packaging		0.5%	2.4%	0.0%
	Tobacco product packaging		0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
	Vaping product packaging		0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
	Cardboard / paperboard boxes		0.0%	6.8%	0.0%
	Uncategorised packaging		0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
	Subtotal		1.1%	11.1%	0.6%
Non-Packaging	Paper	Junk mail	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
		Newspaper	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%
		Sanitary items	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%
		Other	0.5%	4.9%	0.0%
	Timber utensils		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Bagged refuse		68.3%	0.0%	4.9%
	All other non-packaging materials		15.6%	8.6%	0.0%
	Subtotal		85.9%	14.6%	4.9%
TOTAL			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

APPENDIX C – PHOTOS OF MATERIALS

The following are examples of materials sorted into a selection of the audit categories.



Plastic food packaging (fast & snack food)



Paper food packaging (fast & snack food)



Home food plastic packaging



Home food other packaging



Disposable cups lids (hot and cold) / Disposable cups (hot and cold)



Drink containers (non-alcoholic) PET



**Drink containers (non-alcoholic)
aluminium**



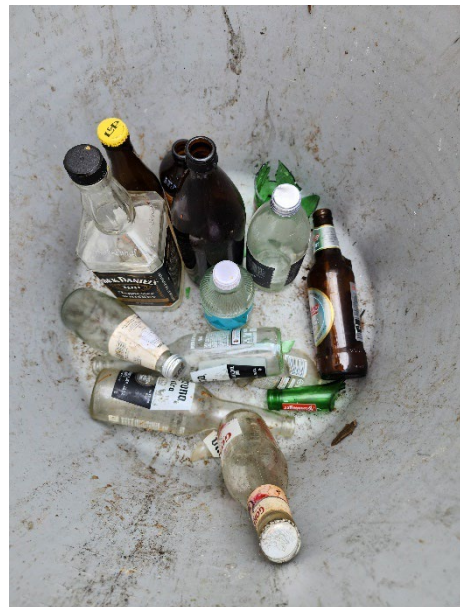
**Drink containers (non-alcoholic)
glass**



**Drink containers (alcoholic)
aluminium**



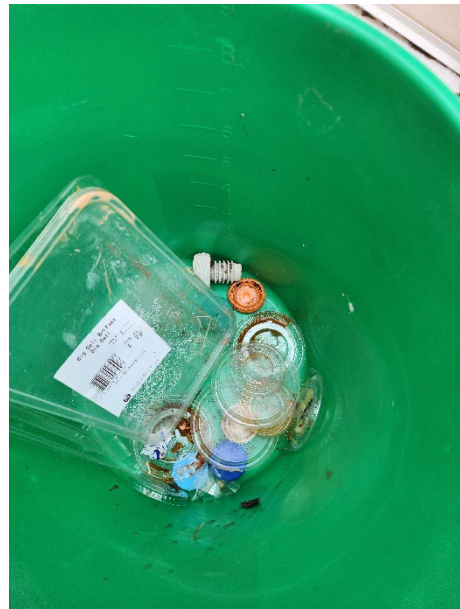
**Drink containers (alcoholic)
glass - wine**



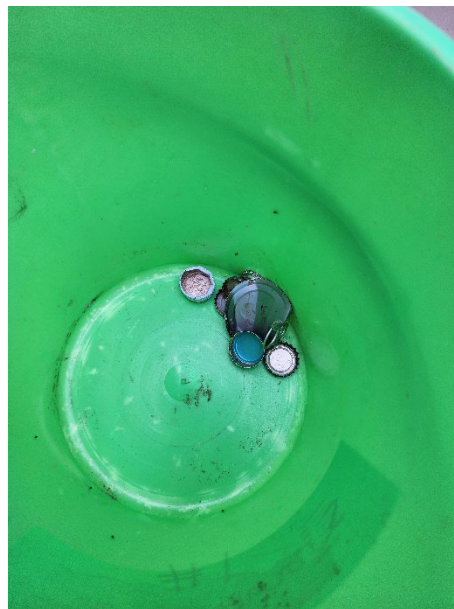
**Drink containers (alcoholic)
glass - other**



Other drink packaging



Plastic lids



Metal lids



Other plastic packaging



Vaping product packaging



Uncategorised packaging



Paper – Sanitary items



Paper - other



Timber utensils



Bagged refuse



All other non-packaging materials