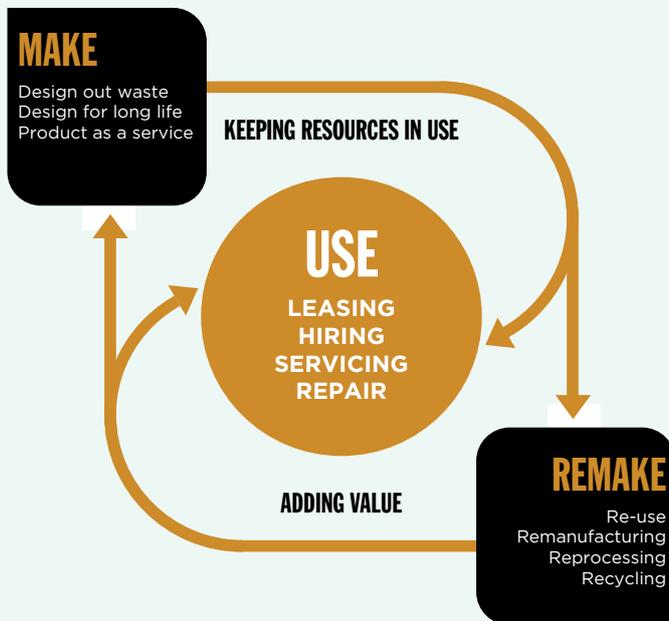


MINIMISING AND MANAGING WASTE IN NZ'S LARGEST CITY



Reducing the environmental impact of cities by improving waste management practices and decreasing the amount of solid waste produced are a key part of making cities more sustainable. Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, has been taking an active approach to ensure that it both better minimises and manages the waste that is produced in the city.

Auckland's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 has a vision for the city to have zero waste by 2040. Importantly the zero waste strategy embraces Māori perspectives and aligns with the tradition of kaitiakitanga to sustain and restore our collective resources. Three goals sit under the plan: to minimise waste generation, maximise opportunities for resource recovery, and reduce harm from residual waste.

WASTE MINIMISATION EFFORTS IN THE CITY HAVE ALREADY SEEN IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF WASTE BEING GENERATED.

Across the city, standardised domestic waste and recycling services are being rolled out to create an efficient collection service, and help Aucklanders minimise their waste and reduce their waste disposal costs. This has been in conjunction with new region-wide services, such as onsite inorganic collections and Community Recycling Centres, which have begun diverting useful materials away from landfills. So far these efforts have reduced household kerbside waste by 10 percent between 2010 and 2016. Given household waste makes up a small fraction of total waste disposed to landfill (around 15 percent), Auckland is also focused on diverting commercial waste streams from landfill – such as waste from construction and demolition.

The benefits of having a zero waste city include increased resource efficiency, innovation and productivity gains for businesses, changes in household purchasing, and reducing expenses as well as waste.

For Auckland to be a zero waste city, the Plan outlines that it will need to ensure waste minimisation is integrated into design, manufacturing, retailing, and consumer choices. Materials should be used in ways that preserve value, minimise environmental impacts and conserve natural resources, and products should be designed and used according to the waste hierarchy, staying as high on the hierarchy as possible. Some waste can be eliminated before it is even made, by being designed out of products and processes, and resources can be used and reused, through better systems for repurposing and remanufacturing materials into other goods. On-shore processing capacity for recyclables needs to be developed given the impacts of recent global restrictions in recycling markets.