

## Waste Management



**AUDREY  
WILLIAMS  
ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL MANAGER**

Over the last (2018-2019) financial year, BID-operating [Wiri Business Association](#) visited 162 businesses, conducted 52 waste audits and found that a devilish 666 tonnes of landfill-bound materials could be saved from going to waste.

The environmental initiative is backed by a waste management grant from Auckland Council and expertise from local firm Wilkinson Environmental.

It's a work-in-progress, reports BID manager Audrey Williams.

## 666 tonnes – a devilish amount to stop going to waste

**Wiri's waste audits highlighted the encouraging fact that more than 1300 tonnes are currently recycled across the industrial precinct, while of the 1682 tonnes going to landfill, 666 tonnes could potentially be saved from this fate.**

"Our businesses diverted almost nine tonnes of food waste, timber, paper and cardboard, fabrics and tyres from landfill last year," Audrey says, confidently predicting that this would continue.

"Using each company's waste records and our own inspection of their skip bins, we can estimate the recycling possibilities.

"We connect the business with, preferably local, companies that can take their recycling. If there's not a recycling stream, we'll work with our partners to try and create one."

### **The 666 tonnes of recoverable material are not without their challenges.**

"There's about 100 tonnes of sugar, wrapped in plastic and containing gelatine," Audrey says.

"EcoStock has developed a system that can remove the plastic wrapping; however, they can't take the gelatine. By next year, they'll have found a solution."

Wiri's two carpet manufacturers currently send around 300 tonnes to landfill, a figure set to be floored.

"The plastic cores from the manufacturing lines cannot be recycled as they have small amounts of polypropylene wound on them. Wiri introduced them to a local company that might be able to remove the polypropylene. The three companies are working together to develop a machine that will cut and remove the polypropylene, then the non-damaged cores can be re-used, and the others recycled."

Polystyrene currently accounts for another 200 tonnes of waste.

“While there’s no recycling stream right now, we’re speaking with a start-up called Divert NZ and hope to find a solution this year.”

An estimated 200 tonnes of food containing animal by-products could also avoid the dump next year.

“This includes breadcrumbs from coating chicken and has chicken juices in it. Again, we are working with EcoStock and should have a solution by 2021,” Audrey says.

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### Material diversion potential (tonnes)

