

## Let's not waste this opportunity

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**IT IS GOOD to see Environment Associate Minister Eugenie Sage [providing a lead from the top with regard to addressing our waste.](#)**

The legislation allows minimisation, recycling and utilisation but our current practice is focused on the first of this hierarchy. We need to take a more holistic approach to handling waste.

Requiring district waste plans to have a zero-waste-to-landfill approach would go a long way to changing the mindset about waste.

Separation of waste at source is critical to successful plan implementation, and those councils already with curbside separation are showing how easy it is to change mindsets.

The Bioenergy Association has a waste-to-energy work stream and records information on projects that have been completed throughout the country over recent years, showing how cost-effective it is to use the residual organic waste after minimisation and recycling.

Financial payback can be as low as three to four years, so we should be looking at why we are not using our waste as a valuable resource.

Waste-to-energy also contributes to reducing methane discharge to the atmosphere and can open up new business opportunities.

Let's all support the minister and turn waste from being a problem to being an opportunity.

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