

Ten alternatives to burning

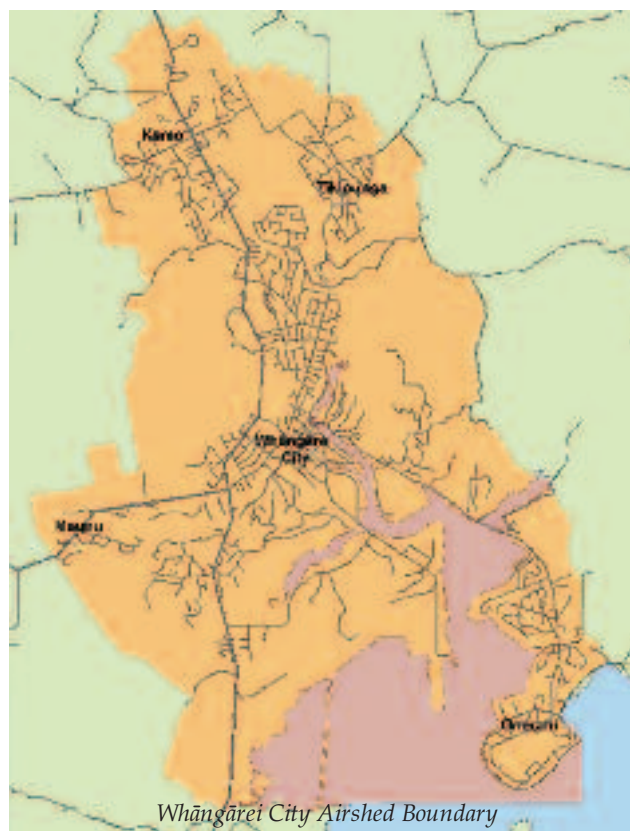
1. Recycle plastics, paper, glass and tins by placing them in your recycle bin for your weekly refuse collector or take to your local recycling centre.
2. Compost garden waste including clippings, trimmings, small branches and leaves.
3. Mulch larger branches (up to 30cm in diameter) using a chipper or shredder and add to your garden as a soil conditioner.
4. Use a worm farm to dispose of vegetable peelings and food scraps.
5. Dispose of household refuse in rubbish bags as part of your weekly kerbside collection service.
6. Take larger quantities of refuse to a transfer station for disposal.
7. Larger branches and logs can be cut to size and used as firewood during the winter in an internal domestic fireplace.
8. Computer waste can be disposed of during eDay events.
9. Hire a mini-skip and place your waste material in the skip for removal.
10. Waste that may be of use to someone else can be registered on the waste exchange website: www.nothrow.co.nz

Further information

You are welcome to contact members of the Regional Council's Air Quality Team, toll-free, on 0800 002 004.

Find out more about waste disposal alternatives: www.nrc.govt.nz/forhomes

Think of your neighbours



36 Water Street, Private Bag 9021,
Whāngārei Mail Centre, Whāngārei 0148.
Telephone: 09 438 4639 Facsimile: 09 438 0012
Email: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz
Freephone: 0800 002 004
24/7 Environmental Hotline: 0800 504 639
Website: www.nrc.govt.nz

Putting Northland first

Backyard burning

OUTSIDE urban Whāngārei



Calder Design and Print Co. October 2010

Putting Northland first



Backyard burning OUTSIDE urban Whāngārei



The issue

Residents outside of Whāngārei City need to ensure that any outside fires do not cause offensive smoke or odour to neighbouring residents or obscure vision along public roads. Smoke from outdoor burning pollutes the air, causing serious health problems. Much like cigarette smoke, the smoke from burning leaves, grass, brush and tree needles can cause asthma, emphysema, bronchitis and lung cancer. Children, the elderly and those with breathing problems are most harmed by poor air quality.

Smoked out – what should you do?

If the fire is not dangerous but is causing a smoke nuisance, you should first discuss this with the person who is burning. In most cases, neighbours are unaware that they are causing problems and will cease burning immediately.

If the burning continues, then call the Northland Regional Council on 0800 504 639 to report the fire. If the Regional Council confirms that smoke from an outdoor fire is resulting in offensive smoke or odour, it may take formal enforcement action.

If the fire is endangering people or property, then call 111 immediately and ask for the fire service.

Penalties

If the Regional Council confirms that smoke from outdoor fires is resulting in offensive smoke or odour, it could result in formal enforcement action. This can range from a verbal warning or abatement notice for first time offenders, to an instant fine of up to \$1000 for repeat offenders or serious offences.

Fire Permits

As well as limiting the smoke from outdoor fires, it may also be necessary to obtain a fire permit from a Rural Fire Authority.

This photo shows the smoke from a rural rubbish fire that affected residents over 1 kilometre downwind.



Contact **Forest Protection Services** - telephone 09 430 7707 between 9.00am and 4.00pm weekdays for more information.

If you are within one kilometre of a Department of Conservation reserve or plantation forest, you may also require a permit. Contact your local DoC office for more information.

Illegal substances

It is also illegal to burn the following items at any time:

- Rubber tyres
- Coated metal wires
- Treated timber (using CCA)
- Plastic containers
- Hazardous substances or containers of hazardous substances
- Motor vehicle parts
- Oil.

Within urban Whāngārei

Residents of Whāngārei City can not burn waste within the city airshed area (see map reverse) unless they hold a resource consent, or their property is larger than one hectare. However, burning for food cooking purposes using barbecues, hangi, umu and using wood-fired kilns is allowed.

For more information visit www.nrc.govt.nz/backyardburning or contact the Northland Regional Council on 0800 002 004.