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## **Kate Valley a key destination for waste managers**

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A visit by staff from Porirua City Council to study the operation of the Kate Valley Landfill and Energy Park in Waipara is the latest by New Zealand council waste managers keen to learn about the NZ-leading landfill.

The Kate Valley Landfill and Energy Park which opened to receive waste in June 2005, is owned by Transwaste Canterbury Ltd (Transwaste) an innovative joint venture between the councils of Canterbury and Waste Management NZ Limited. The landfill was designed to the highest engineering and operating standards of the time and has continued to be recognised as innovative and an exemplar for the industry.

Rangi Lord, Regional Manager of Canterbury Waste Services who operate the Kate Valley Landfill and Energy Park for Transwaste, says ever since the landfill opened council and private sector waste managers have wanted to find out how Canterbury successfully manages its waste.

“Waste managers are interested in all the normal landfill activities such as waste compaction, daily cover and leachate management’, says Lord. “Everyone managing a landfill wants to ensure they compact waste efficiently, prevent waste blowing away and leachate escaping, so we’ve plenty to show them.”

In addition to these essential core activities, Kate Valley Landfill and Energy Park extracts the methane gas produced by decomposing organic waste in the landfill and burns it in gas-to-electricity generators. Preventing methane, a greenhouse gas, from entering the atmosphere and turning it into clean energy is of interest to many visitors to the site. Lord says the fundamental difference between Kate Valley and most other landfills is the use of containerised transport and the use of a separate fleet of 8x8 tipper trucks to empty the bins in the landfill.

“The use of containerised transport, where waste is sealed inside the containers, provides a safe, clean and efficient operation”, says Lord. “Road trucks never enter the landfill. Instead they simply drop off a full container and collect an empty container without leaving the sealed road surface. This keeps vehicles clean and ensures a fast turnaround. The full containers are unloaded at the waste face by a dedicated set of specialised off-road tipper trucks which is safer and allows much greater versatility of operations. It’s this aspect of our operations, which is unique in New Zealand, that regularly surprises and inspires visitors.”

Since it opened the Kate Valley Landfill and Energy Park has operated to the highest industry standards. Its successful operation throughout the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquakes and during the pandemic when the landfill remained open and operational has secured its place as a NZ-leading landfill. Gill Cox Transwaste Chairman says it’s gratifying to receive positive feedback from visitors about Kate Valley.

“While we’re focused on the smooth operation of the landfill, it takes a visitor to remind you that many of the aspects of Kate Valley, such as the public-private partnership and containerised transport, are truly innovative”, says Mr. Cox. “The way we’re meeting our emissions obligations by capturing and destroying methane gas is yet another aspect of our operation that interests visitors. If sharing our experience and the lessons we’ve learnt inspires others, then we can be proud of how Canterbury manages its waste.”