

Future-proof factory...

SAVEBOARD PACKAGING WASTE TO CONSTRUCTION BOARD PLANT OFFICIALLY OPENS IN TE RAPA

The Te Rapa factory of Kiwi company SaveBoard, which converts packaging waste into environmentally sustainable construction boards, has been officially opened by Hamilton Mayor Paula Southgate and Hamilton West MP Dr Gaurav Sharma.

Mayor Southgate says she was delighted Hamilton had been chosen as the base for an innovative technology that addressed both an environmental issue by reducing waste to landfill and a building supply issue by turning that waste into a certified, safe and low carbon construction board.

Sharma says by producing building materials in New Zealand the SaveBoard plant would improve supply chain resilience while providing local employment and helping to reduce carbon emissions. Company co-founder and chief executive officer Paul Charteris says the factory started producing saleable product on November 21, 2021 and since January 10 it has been operating 24 hours a day, three days per week producing 400 boards a day and diverting up to 4,000 tonnes of waste from landfill annually. The company plans to ramp the factory up to six days per week as demand increases. The factory has created new jobs with more expected as the project grows.

Charteris says New Zealand builders can now replace plywood, particle board and plaster board, with SaveBoard's low carbon, environmentally sustainable construction boards made from packaging waste such as used beverage cartons, soft plastics and coffee cups. The company has funding and support from industry leaders Freightways, Tetra

Pak and Closed Loop Solutions which will provide recycled material as well as transport and logistics solutions.

Andrew Pooch, managing director of Tetra Pak Oceania says, "This local recycling solution is more than just an investment to us. It is the right thing to do. "The SaveBoard facility delivers on the New Zealand Government's objective to transform recycling by delivering a local circular economy solution. The facility has the capacity to process all the beverage cartons in New Zealand and increase if demand grows. It will require a steady supply of used beverage cartons through kerbside recycling to deliver a much-needed supply of sustainable building materials in the market.

"Cartons are one of the most environmentally friendly packaging options for food and beverage in New Zealand. With a local whole-of-carton recycling solution, we are excited to contribute to a robust circular economy in New Zealand."

Freightways chief executive officer, Mark Troghear, is thrilled to see the plant up and running and says its investment in SaveBoard was an important step in the NZX listed company's continuing mission to find circular waste solutions.

"One of Freightways' core principles is to take ownership and solve problems through action, investing in SaveBoard was an opportunity to do just that by supporting a smart and market-ready. "Paul's vision for the company provided

an exciting proposition in that it offered both a reliable and clean method of disposal for hard to recycle waste – things we already collect and shred through our business units – and delivered a viable finished product that is much needed in the New Zealand building industry," says Troghear.

Charteris says there is a growing demand for the product because of the building materials shortage. "For example, we have taken used Tetra Pak packaging from Fonterra and recycled Suntory coffee cups along with Contact Energy's redundant marketing material to produce an exposed interior lining on a feature wall at Contact's Auckland offices.

"If people buy and use our products, we can scale up and have a bigger impact. The more people buy our product, the more we can produce. Every board sold means 10kg less of carbon emissions, and less packaging that ends up in landfill."

The production process uses heat and compression to bond materials, eliminating the need for glues or other chemical additives. SaveBoard is made with zero water, zero glues, zero chemicals and has zero VOC emissions or formaldehydes. The product provides up to a 90% reduction in carbon emissions compared with other construction boards. The company has put in systems in place to recover offcuts and end of life boards to be remanufactured into new board products, providing a zero waste to landfill solution.



From left, Hamilton West MP Dr Gaurav Sharma, saveBoard CEO Paul Charteris and Hamilton Mayor Paula Southgate at the SaveBoard plant opening.