

NZ FOOD WASTE CHAMPIONS 12.3

International Food Waste Awareness Day – Political Panel

New Food Waste Champions 12.3 hosted a political panel for International Food Waste Awareness Day. We shared with politicians our [petition](#) to halve food waste by 2030 and asked them what their waste and food policies are in the lead-up to Election 2020.

Eugenie Sage (Green Party)

“With this Government ... we’ve really focused on putting in place a big work programme to expand and increase the landfill levy [that] provides a disincentive for companies and households to put waste into landfill but really importantly, it also raises revenue to be reinvested in to waste minimisation”

“We’re investing \$32M over two years to help support food rescue and community organisations distributing food”.



- [Green Party Policy](#) is really committed to zero food waste to landfill. The Greens also want a National Waste Strategy, which includes a target for food waste. The Greens have a [Farming for the Future Policy](#) too.
- Eugenie refers to the [Environment Select Committee report](#) on food waste, and its key recommendations to set a target, measure and act approach on food waste.
- She is supportive of local community group work, including Para Kore and educational programmes e.g. EnviroSchools and Garden to Table.

Angie Warren-Clark (Labour Party)

“When I came to Parliament I had a small idea that I would change something in regards to the legislation around food rescue”

“It has been a real pleasure to work across government on this issue ... it’s the triple win”



- Angie previously worked at Tauranga Women’s Refuge who was supported by Good Neighbour Food Rescue. This enabled them to work with women and children, and sparked Angie’s interest in food waste.
- Angie instigated the [Environment Select Committee investigation](#) into food waste. Miranda Miroso (NZ Champions’ Co-Chair) was the independent advisor.
- If re-elected Labour will look at targets, measuring and placing food directly into a cross-government strategy. You can see [Labour’s Waste Policy](#) and [Primary Production Industries Policy](#).

Barbara Kuriger (National Party)

"I have been a long-term hater of food waste ... we've got to find solutions all through the value chain"

"We're a food producing nation and we're in a prime position to do this really well and make sure that everything is redistributed and dealt with effectively and efficiently"



- Dairy farmers are always trying to find ways to manage methane and food waste is adding to the methane problem. You can review [National's Primary Industries Policy](#) and follow its [Environmental Policies](#).
- Barbara is surprised at the amount of food waste that was prevented during lockdown, and then it coming back afterwards. National is committed to reducing food waste.
- Barbara says we've got to be wiser than just taxing people. We've got to go right back to educating children and the public about food and preventing waste. Barbara also supports food rescue and redistribution.

Shai Navot (The Opportunities Party – T.O.P)

"As a country we have made huge commitments regarding our emissions and we need to be doing so much more across the board"

"We need to make sure that we're pricing pollution and waste properly so that we're incentivising producers to move to less harmful packaging options and so that we're ensuring food is preserved"



- T.O.P supports the petition – it is already a commitment that NZ has made by signing up to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- There is a difficult tension between food waste and packaging. These two strategies cannot move forward in isolation.
- T.O.P wants every neighbourhood to have access to compost facilities. [T.O.P's Health Policy](#) includes a 20% junk food tax to reduce the demand on those types of food. Shai mentions T.O.P's policy to redirect funds to Councils for infrastructure, which will include dealing with food waste.