

FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW, INTERWASTE HAS ACHIEVED TOITŪ ENVIROMARK DIAMOND CERTIFICATION, THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN TOITŪ'S ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK. IN A TIME WHERE "SUSTAINABILITY" IS OFTEN USED LOOSELY, MAINTAINING THIS CERTIFICATION YEAR AFTER YEAR IS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT. IT REFLECTS DEMONSTRATES A HIGH LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT MATURITY AND A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.

This is not a one-off milestone or a marketing label. It represents nearly a decade of consistent effort, independently audited environmental management system and a culture that takes environmental responsibility seriously at every level.

What is Toitū enviro mark diamond?

Toitū enviro mark is a science-based environmental management certification programme developed in Aotearoa New Zealand and recognised internationally. It supports organisations to build, implement, and continuously improve an environmental management system (EMS) that can stand up to scrutiny.

Diamond is the highest level within the Toitū/ Enviro mark framework and broadly aligns with ISO 14001. To achieve it, organisations must demonstrate a fully embedded EMS, clear environmental objectives and targets, integration into day-to-day decision-making, ongoing internal review, and independent annual audits.

In essence, diamond certification is not about isolated initiatives, it's about running the entire organisation through a structured, measurable environmental lens.

Five consecutive years: why this matters

Achieving diamond status once is challenging. Maintaining it for five consecutive years is rare. It shows that Interwaste has not only met the standard but continued to strengthen it as expectations and best practices evolve.

First, it demonstrates consistency. Sustainability performance cannot be sustained through short-term effort. Five years of certification requires stable systems, regular audits, and continuous improvement. Each year builds on the last, raising expectations and reinforcing accountability. For Interwaste, operating in complex waste and resource recovery environments, this consistency is critical. Our clients rely on us to manage environmental risk and deliver practical, sustainable solutions, and our track record shows we can do so reliably.

Second, it builds confidence. Waste management operates under significant regulatory oversight and public scrutiny. Long-term certification provides assurance to regulators that we have robust systems in place, and to customers that our operations

are independently verified. It also strengthens our internal performance by providing clear processes, responsibilities, and accountability across teams. For customers with their own sustainability commitments, working with a certified partner is increasingly essential.

Third, it drives measurable environmental outcomes. A diamond-level EMS is not just documentation, it is a framework for action. Over the past five years, Interwaste has used this framework to identify key environmental impacts, set measurable targets, and implement programmes to improve performance. This includes reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, minimising waste, and increasing resource recovery. These gains compound over time, which is why sustained certification matters.

Finally, it reflects culture. Maintaining diamond certification requires more than a dedicated sustainability team, it requires organisation-wide engagement. Leadership must set direction and allocate resources. Operational teams must take ownership in their day-to-day work. Cross-functional collaboration is essential to ensure environmental considerations are integrated into all aspects of the business. Our continued certification shows that sustainability is not an add-on, but part of how we operate.

What it takes to stay at diamond level

Maintaining diamond certification requires ongoing effort. Each year, Toitū's independent auditors review our systems and operations to ensure they remain effective and aligned with our impacts and strategic direction.

This includes demonstrating that environmental risks and opportunities are identified and managed, compliance obligations are understood and met, and performance is actively monitored and improved. It also requires training and supporting our people so they can contribute meaningfully, and ensuring senior leadership is engaged in reviewing and strengthening the system.

The audit process is comprehensive, involving site visits, document reviews, and interviews. Consistently achieving diamond level confirms that our EMS is not only in place, but functioning effectively across the organisation.

Why this matters to our stakeholders

For our stakeholders, five consecutive years of Toitū enviro mark diamond certification sends a clear message.

For customers, it provides confidence that their waste and resource recovery partner operates with a proven, independently verified environmental management system, supporting their own ESG and compliance goals.

For regulators and communities, it demonstrates transparency and a willingness to be held accountable to high standards.

For our team, it recognises the role they play in delivering strong environmental performance every day.

For partners and suppliers, it signals our commitment to working with organisations that share similar values.

Five years at diamond level is a milestone worth recognising, but it is not a finish line. Environmental expectations, technologies, and regulations continue to evolve, and so must we.

Our focus is not only on maintaining certification, but on using the enviro mark framework to drive further improvement, enhancing our own operations, supporting our customers' sustainability and circular economy goals, and finding new ways to recover value from materials.

The discipline of a robust, independently audited EMS provides a strong foundation for this work.

As we mark this achievement, we acknowledge the collective effort behind it, from frontline teams to leadership. Most importantly, it reinforces what we stand for: managing waste as a resource, protecting the environment, and delivering sustainable outcomes for the long term.

DIAMOND CERTIFICATION IS ABOUT RUNNING THE ENTIRE ORGANISATION THROUGH A STRUCTURED, MEASURABLE ENVIRONMENTAL LENS.