

## COMVITA LTD

**“At our Paengaroa site, we’re reusing, recycling, reselling, returning or composting 85% of our waste.”**

*Alan Bougen - Comvita co-founder and Deputy Chairman.*

### WHAT IS COMVITA?

Comvita is a NZX-listed natural health products company, with headquarters in the Bay of Plenty. The company, founded in 1975 as a two-person operation, now employs more than 500 people around the world. Annual global sales exceed \$150 million and sustainability is deeply ingrained in the company psyche.

Comvita’s Paengaroa operation employs more than 160 full time staff in manufacturing, warehousing and administration facilities, as well as a visitor and retail centre that attracts about 50,000 visitors and tourists a year.

### TELL CUSTOMERS & SHAREHOLDERS

*“Forty years ago, we didn’t set out to create a sustainable business,” says Comvita co-founder Alan Bougen. “However, because we worked so closely with nature and her ingredients, we intuitively knew we had to build Comvita into an enterprise that could only prosper by working in harmony with nature.”*

Consequently, Comvita has consistently implemented a raft of environmental

initiatives, including waste minimisation.

A recent independent audit showed 85% of Comvita’s Paengaroa waste stream is reused, recycled, resold, returned to suppliers or composted.

*“The audit also gave us some firm data for our annual report, so we could tell customers and shareholders how well we’re looking after the planet.*

*“Knowing exactly how much waste we’re diverting inspires us to identify new opportunities for greater efficiency and further resource preservation.”*

### WHAT’S NEXT?

- Continue to track and increase recycling rates at all Comvita sites
- Increase rainwater collection systems to meet all water needs for the Paengaroa site
- Introduce sustainable transport options
- Increase recycling features on all future product packaging
- Include more sustainability features in new buildings
- Expand composting systems for organic waste and packaging.



### KEY BENEFITS & ACHIEVEMENTS

**Comvita’s waste reduction initiatives cross every area of the business and include:**

- **Recycling of everything from milk bottles and toner cartridges to 1000 litre containers and plastic pallets that are returned to the supplier**
- **LED lighting in carpark and inside Experience Comvita visitor centre**
- **Solar heated water for café, kitchen and bathrooms**
- **Food scraps feed local pigs and chooks, plant waste from the garden is composted**
- **Larger items such as steel and plastic drums are stored on-site in sufficient quantities, making their collection economically viable**
- **More than 190 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill each year through reuse and recycling**
- **During recent renovations, builders were expected to reuse or recycle at least 75% of demolition materials**
- **Returning more than 17,000 plastic layer boards (used on pallets) to the supplier keeps 59.5 tonnes of plastic out of landfill each year.**

### COMVITA IS JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF ITS ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

- Copes with up to 60,000 litres of water a day
- Wetland grasses float on material made from recycled soft drink bottles and the water is filtered through five tonnes of waste scallop shells diverted from landfill
- These grasses float in a pond with their roots suspended and waste water is naturally treated by the resulting biological activity
- Treated wastewater provides irrigation to some of the 40,000 trees and shrubs that have been planted around the site.

