

# A Short Guide to WasteWise Schools

## Introduction

The Far North District Council is committed to waste minimisation in the region and has set targets for the area to reach in its Waste Minimisation Strategy.

To help reach those goals the Council has initiated the WasteWise schools initiative, to promote and recognise achievements in this area. WasteWise provides a structured process for the development, implementation and maintenance of school wide waste minimisation. Becoming a WasteWise school can be gained by successfully passing an on-site audit from the Council's approved, third-party verifiers, CBEC EcoSolutions.

## Criteria

The Council's criteria for the award are that a school has:

1. Put in place systems to reduce waste to landfill, documented in a waste minimisation plan.
2. Less than 10% (Rakau/tree), 20% (Tipu/seedling), or 30% (Kakano/seed) of its waste is composed of materials that can be reused, recycled or composted.
3. Has imbedded within the school charter a commitment to waste minimisation.

An audit will be carried out by CBEC EcoSolutions to assess the schools waste minimisation practise. Following the award, records of the schools' waste stream will need to be kept to verify that they continue to meet the criteria and these records will be submitted with the renewal application for the Waste Wise School certification each year.

## What the programme offers your school

There are a number of benefits to becoming a WasteWise School. These include:

- Public recognition of your school's ethos of sustainability.
- Increased student responsibility and respect for the environment.
- Opportunity for student driven solutions to reduce waste
- Student acquisition of life skills to reduce re-use and recycle, including nature's systems such as gardens/compost and worm farming.
- Increase efficiency and cost saving for the school.
- Educational and technical support from EcoSolutions.
- Certificates of achievement.

Resources have been developed to help schools meet the criteria for WasteWise Schools. EcoSolutions can:

- work with staff to assess where they currently are, and to come up with goals that are tailored to each school
- provide school support to meet those goals
- support to schools through the process of preparing for the award for no cost
- deliver free sustainability themed classes which put in context the need to reduce, re-use, and recycle for the children; in many engaging and informative formats
- provide

- recycle systems, and other sustainability resources at subsidised rates
- school support to help establish, and maintain your recycling systems
- self-assessment check list
- waste audit guide
- sample Waste Minimisation Plan – a waste minimisation plan is a way of embedding in your school culture ways to reduce waste, and can lead to improved environmental outcomes for your community.
- workshops for the wider school community around sustainability projects such as home compost/garden or worm farm.

EcoSolutions can always be contacted by email or phone to answer any queries that staff have.

## Process Diagram



## Contact us

For more information call us on 09 438 8710 or email [ecosolutions@cbec.co.nz](mailto:ecosolutions@cbec.co.nz) or check out our website at [www.ecosolutions.org.nz](http://www.ecosolutions.org.nz)