

Zero organic waste reaching landfill

Wānaka Primary School is a place where environmental consciousness is front and centre, with over 600 students, teachers, parents, and community members getting involved in setting up a school composting system.

The goal? Zero organic waste reaching landfill.

Wānaka Primary Schools, Jo Roberts said when students and teachers realised just how much waste could be diverted from landfill they worked together to come up with a plan and applied for funding through the waste minimisation community fund.

“Our goal is to divert food waste from lunchboxes, the staffroom, as well as paper/card waste to use in our composting systems. This will also allow us to improve our soil to grow food for the school and wider community,” Jo Roberts said.

The school has adopted new processes to make sure the system runs smoothly, with collection buckets based around the school, leadership roles for students, and rostered shifts to help maintain and upkeep the composting systems.

Students setting up a school composting system

Students learning about how composting works



Students and volunteers were taught how to manage these composting systems, such as recording temperatures and moisture content.

So far, the new system has prevented 10kg of food waste a week from ending up in landfill, thanks to everyone involved and support from the Waste Minimisation Community Fund.

Future goals include educating the wider community and tamariki on food supply chains and finding new composting processes, such as worm farms.

“The skills and knowledge being spread has the power to create a generation of children who will intrinsically act and think sustainably, becoming a catalyst for community wide awareness and change.”

– Jo Roberts

For more information regarding the Waste Minimisation Community Fund please [click here](#).