

Environmental Leaders Fund 2023

Project information

Project name:

Mini Recycling Centre - Sustainability

Estimated start / finish:

September 2023 - October 2023

Where project is taking place:

At the centre

Project summary

Project summary:

As a centre with under 2s we would like to use this funding to create a system where our tamariki can be involved in the recycling process. The biggest challenges we identified were space, accessibility (having the correct ratios to leave the centre with our children) and being age appropriate (how can we make it simple enough for our youngest members to participate?).

We want to create a mini a 'Recycling Centre' where we can do our recycling with our tamariki from inside the centre. We want to cut a hole our fence and post the recycling out into our backyard into recycling bins. The new 'Recycling Centre' will allow our tamariki be able to have a hands-on part in sorting and recycling. It opens pathways for conversations around waste and our tamariki will start to gain an understanding of what happens to our waste. This process will help embed the concept of recycling as a normal part of life.

We would also like to add a worm farm into our perishable waste cycle. This would mean we would be able to produce a natural fertilising for our garden and use some of the excess perishable waste.

Project funding

Provide a detailed breakdown of what this funding will cover - *please note that quotes are no longer required.*

Funding breakdown:

Hinges and wood to cover the holes and locks for safety.

Wood to re-enforce the fence and create a ramp to ensure recycling goes into the bins

Two recycle bins to complete the project.

New compost bins

Worm Farm

Total amount applied for:

\$1600

General

How does this project consider te ao Māori:

E kore au e ngaro, he kākano i ruia mai i Rangīātea. I will never be lost, for I am a seed sown in Rangīātea. Te Ao Maori is interconnected to nature and the natural environment. Taking care and being the kaitiaki of our planet sits very much in te ao maori. This project ensures we can, in a hands-on and practical way, start our tamariki in the understanding about sustainable living, and process of recycling, so that when they grow up it is a natural part of their understanding. This project endeavours to help our tamariki see what happens to our waste both perishable and non-

perishable. Having this knowledge and understanding will in turn help them make better choices in the future and help reduce the waste and stress on Papatūānuku. The worm farm would be a part of the children's understanding around waste and our choices as kaitiaki.

How does this project involve the community:

We notice that there is plastic packaging in our children's lunchboxes as we would like to be able to positively and proactively recycle this with our children. We feel through this project we will be able to enhance awareness about plastic waste. We have a close connection to many different families in the Kerikeri area. We will communicate our sustainable practices enthusiastically to our families and encourage them to engage with recycling and sustainability at our centre and at home.

As the entry criteria states "onsite waste processing can help to reduce the amount of waste that is transported to landfills or incinerators. This can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve natural resources, and protect air and water quality". This project would have a positive outcome of less waste going to our local landfill.

This connection to sustainable living, Papatūānuku and working in the mara kai are key parts of our curriculum and this proposal would enrich these experiences for the children and embed the ideals that sit behind it. Through our tamariki we will reach our whole community.

Future thinking (Max 400 words)

Future thinking (replication and future plans):

We think that making onsite recycling centre can most certainly be reproduced in other Early Childhood Centres, provided the set up was proven to be safe within the centre. We would endeavour to fully document the process along the way so that other centres could implement it as easily as possible in their environment.

Our future plans include a pataka kai to complement our growing gardens. This is part of a bigger picture for us in understanding where our kai comes from, growing it, using our perishable waste to fertilise it. Then thinking about our non-perishable waste and what happens to this. This project is very much about sustainability and caring for Papatūānuku. We want this knowledge and these processes to become a part of everyday life for our tamariki. Our hope is that by sharing these experiences with our tamariki and our community and this will inspire others to get on board this kaupapa.

Fund Criteria (Max 400 words)

- Improving Biodiversity
- Processing waste onsite
- Growing Kai
- Exploring alternative energy and reducing emissions
- Protecting and preserving water

How project meets fund criteria:

Our project is very much about processing waste onsite. Some of the challenges we face as an under two centre is getting our tamariki out to where we process rubbish currently and this would mean that we are able to do it within the centre boundaries. We can't just have bins out because our children, especially our younger tamariki, explore with all their senses and would be attracted to a bin, which brings up health and safety concerns. Our project means we can have our children involved in processing our waste while keeping everyone safe.