



About WITT (Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki)

WITT is Taranaki's major tertiary institute, with 2800 students enrolled and 157 staff based at its Bell St campus in New Plymouth.

What used to happen

Waste disposal was part of a bundle of property services, with minimal emphasis on waste minimisation and no reporting on volume or tonnage of waste.

What changes were made

WITT formed a partnership with Transpacific Waste Management and in February 2012 they introduced on-campus recycling, including the composting of organic waste. WITT also made a commitment to educate staff and students about waste minimisation. An important part of this is Orientation Week for students, which now includes demonstrations on the appropriate use of the recycling, organic and general waste bins.

Waste minimisation is part of a wider sustainability focus that also includes promotion of sustainable transport options and the establishment of an organic community garden.

The outcome

In the first year of the new system, WITT's waste to landfill reduced from an estimated 88 tonnes a year to 40 tonnes, with 48 tonnes diverted for recycling or composting. This success continued in the second year, with 51 tonnes being recycled or composted and 43 tonnes going to landfill.