

Waste Minimisation CASE STUDY

New Plymouth Civic Centre





About New Plymouth Civic Centre

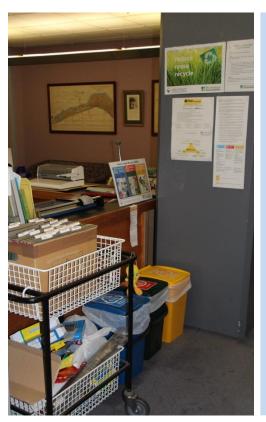
New Plymouth Civic Centre is the headquarters of the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC), which leases parts of the building to three other organisations. A total of 375 people work there.

What used to happen

A waste audit in 2009 found that of the 14.9 tonnes of material sent to landfill annually from the Civic Centre, 87% or 12.9 tonnes could have been composted or recycled.

What changes were made

NPDC developed a Workplace Sustainability Waste Minimisation initiative, under which setting up good facilities and educating staff at New Plymouth Civic Centre was a key project. Recycling 'mini-stations', for mixed recycling, organics and waste to landfill, were set up throughout the building, recycling facilities in the cafeteria were upgraded, and toilet and kitchen hand-towels were diverted to composting. The number of individual under-desk rubbish bins was reduced, most of them replaced by small desk-top cubes.





The outcome

Within two years, the total amount of waste sent to landfill was reduced by 69%, from 14.9 to 4.6 tonnes a year. Staff numbers increased during this time, so the reduction per head is even more impressive – down 73% from 45.1kg to 12.2kg for each member of staff.

Over this time the percentage of the material being sent to landfill that was compostable or recyclable reduced from 87% to 64% – so there is still potential for further improvement.

