



TAKE ACTION: WASTE ACTION PROJECTS

ENCOURAGING REDUCING AND REUSING

Much of the waste we produce in schools every day is unnecessary. The shopping decisions that we make every day affect how much waste we are responsible for creating. Students can explore these concepts with the following activities:

A peek in the bin

Take your class bin outside and empty it out onto the ground. Use gloves to pick up individual items and discuss. Could this waste have been avoided/ used again? What are alternatives to this disposable item? Brainstorm or invent reusable solutions to 'use once and throw away' items.

Lunch box survey

Take photos of each child's lunch box. Celebrate the lunches which produce less waste. Encourage discussion around waste minimisation and choices when buying products from the supermarket. The following week take an 'after' picture of each lunchbox. Compare before and after pictures. Have an award for the least waste in a lunchbox.

Wrapper- free days



A school wrapper-free day will help to significantly reduce your school's waste going to landfill. Start with one day and build up to a weekly wrapper free day.

On a wrapper free day students are asked to not use plastic wrap, packets or packaging to wrap their food. Instead they are encouraged to bring food in containers, paper wrap or lunch boxes. Packaging like plastic wrap creates a lot of waste every day in schools.

There will need to be information provided for parents and students about alternatives to glad wrap and individually packaged items. Include thought provoking items in your newsletter or noticeboard about wrapper alternatives.

Landfill and Earthlink, Trash palace and Second treasure tours

When students see first hand where the things they throw away end up, it may encourage them to rethink their old habits. Visiting a landfill has a huge impact on people when they see what is thrown away and the effect the waste has on the environment. Second shops at landfills like Earthlink, Trash Palace and the Second Treasure shop accept goods in reasonable condition which they sometimes repair for resale. They are great places to get a bargain. As they say, one person's trash is another's treasure!.

Contact your district council representative for details of visits available in your district. ([see www.gw.govt.nz/takeaction/districtcouncilcontacts](http://www.gw.govt.nz/takeaction/districtcouncilcontacts))



Above: Student visiting Earthlink in Hutt city looks at a restored set of golf clubs

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

www.gw.govt.nz/takeaction/waste

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