

## 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.