

Enviroschools - South Waikato District

Six Monthly Report on the Delivery of the Enviroschools Programme in South Waikato District for last six months of the 2021/2022 Financial Year



This report provides the South Waikato District Council with an update on the delivery of the Enviroschools Programme for the period from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022.

The Enviroschools Programme supports and empowers children and young people to plan, design and implement sustainability actions that are important to them and their communities. It provides relevant life contexts for learners to be connected with their environment and their communities, and how to be actively involved in social, cultural, economic and environmental change. The programme is guided by Māori perspectives and respect for the diversity of people and cultures is actively celebrated.

Where the programme is embedded, it is resilient in the face of challenges. An Enviroschools journey for schools is not based on linear growth as it can include highs and lows, and sometimes appears to regress followed then by reengagement. Evidence has shown that when the programme is developed as 'Whole School Approach' then these periods of hiatus can bring stronger engagement across the school and community over the long term.

Enviroschools Programme in South Waikato District

Facilitator: **Camilla Carty-Melis**

Students reached: **1955**

10 Number of Enviroschools

1 Friends of Enviroschools

Percentage of schools that are Enviroschools: **47%**

Year levels reached through Enviroschools: **1-13**



Stories from South Waikato Enviroschools



"Our ideas are going to go to Council and then help save the world!"

South Waikato District Council have been consulting community and groups on the Climate Action Plan they are currently developing. Youth perspectives were identified as extremely important for this process, and so students from local Enviroschools were invited to share their thoughts and ideas. Tirau Primary School enviroleaders and other interested students were asked to share their perspectives on climate change and ideas for how District Council could take climate action.

Thoughts and feelings about climate change included:

- I feel anxious
- I feel angry
- I don't know what is going to happen
- Maybe we will have to leave Earth
- We might die
- Businesses are going to be affected, and the economy could collapse
- Our river might dry up and our water supply will be affected

Student ideas for climate change mitigation and adaptation by District Council:

- Support solar panels to be installed on most buildings, especially large buildings like schools and offices
- Support transition to electric vehicles
- Install more EV superchargers, which should be run on solar energy and free to use
- Build more but smaller hydroelectric dams - these will ensure power needs are met but not have such a great risk to humans and ecosystems as the big dams

Students recorded their ideas as an audio file, which was sent to SWDC staff.

Value of Enviroschools for South Waikato District Council

The annual contribution of \$12,000 provided by the South Waikato District Council supports the facilitation of the Programme to achieve a number of outcomes for the District, schools and young people to directly align with the community outcomes for the District, including:

- **Cultural, Social and Economic Sustainability**
- **Waste Reduction & Zero Waste**
- **Biodiversity & Biosecurity Action**
- **Water health & conservation**
- **Kai/Food production & distribution**
- **Energy conservation & action**
- **Ecological Building action**

Regional Update

- Despite various lock down and Covid-19 challenges in 2021-2022, Waikato Enviroschools has strengthened across the region with the introduction of hybrid delivery. We ran a series of online professional development workshops for teachers and look forward to continuing this journey with our network.
- 8 new Enviroschools were onboarded with growth in Taupō, Rotorua Lakes, South Waikato and Waikato districts.
- More schools were supported with grant funding to enable school based sustainability projects to get off the ground.
- Our first Waikato Māra Kai challenge launched successfully in May with 16 schools taking part across the region.
- Waikato Enviroschools supported the March Waikato Climathon and we look forward to hosting our first Waikato Climate Action Camp for secondary students in September.