



EcoMatters

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021

POIPOIA TE KĀKANO, KIA PUĀWAI.

Nurture the seed and it will blossom.

VISION

A society where aroha,
wairua and mauri is restored.

MISSION

To nurture kaitiakitanga
and help restore the whenua.

PURPOSE

A tohu to connect
people and place.



FROM THE CHAIR

It has been an honour to have continued, alongside my fellow trustees, to help steer the EcoMatters waka this year.

Our recent experiences have left us all craving more connection, both with our local environment and each other. Every story in this report illustrates how companionship and connection to te taiao enable us to grow. This is reflected in the whakataukī chosen this year - poipoia te kākano, kia puāwai, translated as 'nurture the seed and it will blossom'.

Wherever a person is on their environmental journey, the experiences we offer can be life-changing.

From someone helping clean up a local stream, after learning how that action contributes to something bigger, to others gaining skills for employment in the environmental sector, these stories embody our purpose as a tohu connecting people and place.

I would like to extend a very special thanks to Damon Birchfield, our outgoing CEO, for his outstanding contribution to our organisation's growth.

I'm also delighted that Carla Gee will be stepping into this role, demonstrating a commitment to developing leaders in our own organisation. With five years of service to EcoMatters, Carla knows and lives our values.

Thank you to our funders, for their support and faith in us. Ngā mihi also to my fellow trustees, the EcoMatters team, volunteers and all who have contributed to what we have achieved this year.

However we have connected with you, your companionship as we work together to nurture kaitiakitanga and restore the whenua is valued.



A handwritten signature in dark ink.

Dr Charlotte Moore
EcoMatters Chair

FROM THE CEO

Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to our Annual Report for 2020-2021, an opportunity for us to celebrate and share the stories of what we achieve together.

Companionship is vital to realising our vision, mission and purpose, which is why we're exploring what this looks like to us in this year's report.

Navigating the reality of living in a pandemic, we found new ways to connect with people but also relished the opportunity we had to be together in person whenever we could.

At a time when perhaps more than ever, people are actively seeking ways to rebalance, top up the resilience tank, connect and take pride in contributing to our hapori, we are honoured that so many of you choose to do just that alongside us.

The achievements and stories in this report are evidence of the mahi that resulted from this, so thank you to everyone who contributed - our dedicated team, our amazing volunteers and all our supporters who are truly a part of the EcoMatters whānau.

Ngā mihi to our funders, who put their confidence in us to help deliver on outcomes. Thank you also to our board, who helped us navigate through both the challenges and joys of this year.

This also marks my final year as CEO of EcoMatters. I leave knowing we are another step closer to realising our vision of a society where aroha, wairua and mauri is restored. We're also in good heart and good hands to continue that journey, especially with Carla Gee poised to take on the role of CEO.



A handwritten signature in dark ink.

Damon Birchfield
EcoMatters CEO

WORKING TOWARDS COMMON GOALS

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)



Connecting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to our own initiatives helps us better understand how what we do every day contributes to global efforts to create a more resilient world. There's a real sense of companionship in knowing we're working towards a common purpose and that collectively our actions can and do add up.

The goals are part of an international commitment to end global poverty, reduce inequality, improve health and education, tackle climate change and work to preserve te taiao.

We're on a journey to find more ways to make these goals a natural part of how we measure and share our impact. We're also sharing what we're learning about this across Aotearoa and right around the world as well as learning from others who are doing this.

In this report, you'll see our teams have identified which of the 17 goals resonate most with the work they do.



EcoMatters

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

35,500

PEOPLE WE
WORKED WITH



LAND CARED FOR

240^{HA}



WASTE DIVERTED

75,200^{KG}



WATER SAVED

11.5M^{LT}



FOOD SCRAPS
TURNED TO SOIL

210,000^{KG}



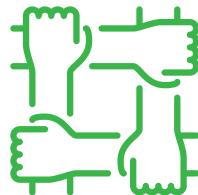
BIKE REPAIRS
SUPPORTED

3,300



SUSTAINABLE LIVING
ITEMS SOLD OR GIFTED

16,000



ORGANISATIONS WE
COLLABORATED WITH

1,100



COMMUNITY
GROUPS FUNDED

100

The numbers in this report have been rounded to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000 as appropriate.





EcoMatters

The opportunities to connect, learn and share together in person were that much sweeter this year. We saw the biggest ever number of events at EcoFest West and hosted heartwarming celebrations of local heroes.

Our EcoHub in New Lynn provided welcoming spaces for people to meet, share knowledge and experiences and get advice on how to live more sustainably. We also found new ways to connect and share knowledge in the digital space.



HIGHLIGHTS

Enabling environmental action

Visitors to our EcoHub Market Day enjoyed a taste of EcoMatters, with many saying they were surprised to discover just how many different initiatives they could get involved with.

In March, we held our biggest ever EcoFest West, with a record 146 events from 47 event hosts right across west Auckland, all celebrating how to care for our local environment.

We also hosted our own series of workshops and webinars throughout the year, focused on building community resilience, covering everything from urban agriculture to household sustainability, foraging to housing fit for the future.



11,600
VOLUNTEER HOURS

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



FUNDING RECEIVED

\$2M



Love Your Neighbourhood grants helped 58 local environmental groups improve their neighbourhoods.

Celebrating local heroes

Volunteers, businesses and schools making a difference for the environment in the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area were recognised for their contribution to the community during December at the Love Your Place Awards.

Auckland's zero waste heroes had their night in the spotlight in July, with awards given across five categories for individuals, groups and businesses doing great things to help Tāmaki Makaurau achieve its vision of zero waste by 2040.



EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

1,600



STORE VISITORS

8,200

Connecting for carbon reduction

Through the Whau Low Carbon Network, we supported nine community events to equip people to take action locally for a lower carbon future. These ranged from a webinar on getting to grips with solar energy to a treasure hunt helping whānau learn more about their local environment and the community groups in their neighbourhood.

Sustainable solutions

We were thrilled to see more people walking through the door of our EcoMatters Store and telling their friends to visit too.

We now stock 191 different products, from bamboo toothbrushes to stainless steel lunch boxes, composting systems

to rainwater harvesting equipment, as well as run a refillery for household cleaning and personal care products.

But the store is more than a place to purchase sustainable products and generate income for our trust, it is also a place for people to connect with us and each other, and to get answers to their questions.

Sharing stories and success

Central to who we are as an organisation is how we uncover, better understand and share the experiences and stories of the people we love to work with every day.

Our regular newsletter, social media channels and website provide us with opportunities to connect with people virtually. Feedback shows

people value, share and celebrate the content they receive.

Valued volunteers and supporters

While some people volunteer with us for companionship and the chance to contribute, others use volunteering as a stepping stone to helping them achieve personal goals, such as entering employment. Whatever the motivation, we love welcoming back our regulars and meeting new people. Thank you for your contribution.

Ngā mihi to the Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards and the Ministry for the Environment for supporting our EcoHub, and other initiatives. Thanks also to Auckland Council Waste Solutions for supporting the Zero Waste Awards.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ECOMATTERS STORIES

Gardening for health and wellbeing

Our volunteers come from many walks of life and join us for many different reasons. Emily (pictured) is a regular volunteer who attends our organic teaching garden sessions. She is motivated to learn to grow food to help her family become more self-sufficient and resilient, as well as improving their health.

Others attend to build personal resilience, overcome challenges or simply for the pleasure of companionship and a sense of giving back to their community. We enjoy their company, appreciate their help and love to see them develop new skills and build confidence.



Practical and inspiring

Our workshop attendees tell us they appreciate practical ideas to help make sustainable changes and subjects that inspire connection with te taiao. Here's a taste of what they had to say about this year's programme:

'I loved the diversity of what was covered. It was a great introduction to such a valuable and fascinating topic.'

'Really inspirational examples of sustainable gardens across different communities.'

'Some good, useful and practical solutions to help us make decisions.'







EcoMatters Food

Food is our newest focus area. It brings together well-established initiatives to help us better respond to the growing need to improve local food security and soil health. There's an especially strong connection with our Compost Collective work, as food scraps that are composted contribute to improving soil health.

Our food team is working to improve equity, resilience, and opportunities for locally accessible healthy kai, and provide communities with a greater sense of health and wellbeing.



HIGHLIGHTS

Growing gardens and sharing skills

Thanks to many years of mahi from our team and volunteers, we have a flourishing organic garden at our New Lynn EcoHub. Every week volunteers help nurture the food forest, pollinator garden and organic vegetable beds.

Now also under EcoMatters' kaitiakitanga is the Hope Garden, on the banks of the Whau River, being transformed into another flourishing green space to support biodiversity and soil regeneration.

Both gardens provide valuable learning opportunities from composting to cooking. A regular series of healthy eating workshops called Forage and Feast used ingredients from



210,000^{KG}
FOOD SCRAPS
TURNED TO
SOIL

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



**COMMUNITY COMPOSTING
FACILITIES SUPPORTED**

420



the New Lynn garden, while a food forest design charrette explored what urban agriculture could bring to Olympic Park.

At Hope Garden, we installed an outdoor kitchen thanks to Auckland Council's Love Food Hate Waste funding, and developed learning modules covering everything from soil regeneration to growing, harvesting and cooking nutrient dense food. More than 150 people attended workshop pilots for a taste of what this series will offer.

Our keen volunteers share in the harvest from the gardens, while fresh vegetables also supplement soups for garden and Bike Hub volunteers, highlighting how the simple act of sharing a meal provides social connection and companionship.



EVENTS AND
WORKSHOPS

400



HOMES COMPOSTING AND
GARDENS SUPPORTED

1,300

Cultivating conscious consumers

In the last year, more than 500 Aucklanders have improved how they plan and shop for meals, use their food more wisely and deal with scraps differently.

Through a range of hands-on workshops, and thanks to support from Auckland Council, nine Love Food Hate Waste tutors helped people reduce food waste in their own households.

What attendees learn becomes a habit, with four out of five of those surveyed six months after attending a workshop saying they are now more conscious of the food they buy, eat and throw away.

Food Future for West Auckland

As part of Kai West, an advisory group dedicated to improving local food security, we attended a major hui, alongside 70 others, exploring opportunities for west Auckland's food future. The result was a clear set of themes with suggested actions that the group will now work towards activating, so our community can enjoy a plentiful food future.

A growing space

Working together as the Food team provides new learning and sharing opportunities for us, our volunteers and workshop participants to benefit

from. It also reminded us how many of our ongoing initiatives are rooted in the cycle of soil health and food security, and fundamentally how our relationship to food reflects our diverse community.

A big thanks to the Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards, as well as Auckland Council, particularly Waste Solutions, and our partner organisations at Kai West for their support. Thanks also to Te Tari Matawaka (Office of Ethnic Communities), the Ministry of Social Development and Lottery COVID-19 Community Wellbeing Fund for funding Hope Garden initiatives.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



FOOD STORIES

Alternative option for scraps

Naidu was one of our early contributors to our community composting hub at our New Lynn garden.

“We started keeping peels and scraps of vegetables in a different container instead of throwing it in the main rubbish bin. I have been to the New Lynn composting hub twice to deposit our contribution. I love that we have a communal composting hub. I found [it] to be very beneficial for me as my home does not have the space for composting,” says Naidu.



Shifting our thinking

Katrina joined us as an intern for several months, working closely with our Hope Garden team.

“As someone studying environmental science, learning about the many environmental problems facing us has shown me the importance of changing how we live and think about nature. I think community gardens like Hope provide a key pathway for people to become more in tune with our environment,” says Katrina.







EcoMatters Waste

We provide useful alternatives so people don't have to throw stuff away. This means everything from helping organisers reduce event waste to being a drop-off point for lots of things that can't go in kerbside recycling bins.

Our work with the Compost Collective helps people find better ways to deal with their food scraps, keeping more out of landfill. The end result - more compost - is a major contributor to improving soil health, a key focus for our food-related projects too.



HIGHLIGHTS

Events made easy

We streamlined our zero waste event advice to provide a great starting point for event organisers and continued to lend equipment, such as cutlery, plates, washing up gear and bins for separating waste, to help people manage and reduce event waste.

In partnership with Auckland Council, we maintain zerowasteevents.org.nz, the ultimate reference for how to run a zero waste event. Visitors can connect with zero waste experts, create an effective waste management plan and borrow zero waste event gear.

New this year was a quick response Zero Waste Events grant, to help organisers of free community events cover



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



WASTE DIVERTED
FROM LANDFILL

75,200KG



NUMBER OF ITEMS
REUSED/REPURPOSED

77,000



ZERO WASTE
GROUPS SUPPORTED

134

costs such as equipment rental, recycling or food waste collections, or compostable packaging. With 33 successful applications, that meant dozens more events where sorting and separating waste to recycle was made easier for everyone.

Sustainable solutions showcased

There's a lot more that can be recycled than just what goes into a council recycling bin. And people's desire for these sustainable solutions was clear when we shared a graphic on social media with pictures of everything from curtains to inflatable pool toys, e-waste to empty toothpaste tubes, all things we take to help recycle. The post was shared 112 times, reaching more than 22,000 people.

With help from our amazing volunteer crew all the items we receive are processed then passed onto our partner organisations to recycle, repurpose or upcycle. It all adds up to thousands of kilograms of stuff that goes onto have another life, in keeping with our philosophy of creating a circular economy.

Creating composting champions

Another 6,081 Aucklanders learned home composting skills thanks to the Compost Collective, an initiative delivered in partnership with Kaipātiki Project, thanks to Auckland Council.

Collectively, the efforts of these new composters kept an estimated 419

tonnes of food scraps out of landfill, and put them to better use nourishing our soil to grow more food.

ShareWaste NZ connects people with food scraps to those who want them for their own compost. In the last year, we reached a total of 4,086 people registered to use this free app across Tāmaki Makaurau.

We're also fostering more community composting hubs, so people without the space or need for compost can bring their food scraps to a hub. This year we got two pilot sites up and running so they can share best practice to help more hubs get started in the future.

Challenges bring us closer

We feel our team has grown even stronger this year, due to the unusual circumstances we've experienced. We're proud that at least two of our volunteers have moved on to paid employment in similar fields, thanks to the skills and experience they gained working alongside us.

A big thank you to our team, valued volunteers and to Auckland Council's Waste Solutions, as well as Abilities, TerraCycle, Metalman, Habitat for Humanity, VisionWest and other partner organisations for supporting our waste kaupapa.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ZERO WASTE STORIES

Connecting for a career

We loved having Johnny and Morris with us as volunteers helping process items for recycling. And we're thrilled that thanks to the skills and experience they gained with us, they've moved into paid employment with other like-minded organisations, helping champion zero waste.

"It was an opportunity to get to know the waste management system in New Zealand, keep in touch with diverse communities, make new friends, promote social connections and explore a career related to this area," says Johnny of his time with us.



Brokers for better solutions

Creating connections and strengthening relationships is a big part of our role in the zero waste community. Another organisation was seeking an alternative to sending 20,000 face masks to landfill, so we offered to help redistribute these instead.

Now masks are considered an everyday essential, we're pleased we could help put these items to better use. The last 7,680 masks were donated to TROW Group, which specialises in sustainable construction by salvaging and repurposing material during demolition, to protect their team.







EcoMatters Bikes

We're all about getting more people cycling, first and foremost by working alongside them to share bike maintenance skills and inspire the confidence to ride safely. Our Bike Hubs in New Lynn, Henderson and Glen Innes are also great places to chat to us about cycling options, local routes and what other cycling services are nearby.

We aim to make this active form of transport accessible to as many people as possible. We restore donated bikes to sell affordably, so more people can experience the joy of cycling, and fewer bikes head to landfill.



HIGHLIGHTS

Award winners

In late 2020, we were thrilled to receive Sport Waitākere's Community Connection award, as well as the Superior Grassroots Action award in Auckland Transport's Travelwise Choice Awards.

Then in March 2021, we were recognised nationally, winning the Shifting the Dial category in the Waka Kotahi On The Go Awards, which acknowledge projects supporting a healthier, cleaner and safer transport system.

These awards are a ringing endorsement of the mahi our team, volunteers, funders and supporters invest in our Bike Hubs and it means a lot to us to be celebrated this way.



9,400
VISITORS

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



BIKE REPAIRS SUPPORTED

3,300



The Power Box Bike Challenge

In October 2020, we created a fun challenge for cyclists of any age and ability, suitable at any Covid alert level. Participants were challenged to use their bikes to find painted power boxes and share photos to win prizes.

There were more than 350 entries, and engagement in our Bike Hubs Facebook group also skyrocketed, all encouraging companionship among our community.

We heard stories of people discovering new bike paths, cyclists cycling more often and for longer, and connecting with each other more in our Facebook group. It helped normalise cycling and rewarded people for choosing to travel by bike.



BIKES DONATED

1,200



VOLUNTEER HOURS

2,270

The results demonstrated the potential for a challenge of this type to be run annually. Thanks to our major prize sponsor 99 Bikes and the Auckland Transport Community Bike Fund for their support.

Together on the journey

Despite the challenges of Covid, we are proud we've continued to support people of all ages and cycling ability to get around their city in a sustainable way. And we've shared our knowledge and lessons learned with other community organisations who are getting bike initiatives underway in their own neighbourhoods.

A huge thanks to our team, our volunteers and to the Henderson-Massey, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki and Whau local boards, Eke Panuku Development Auckland, Auckland Transport, Tāmaki Regeneration, New Zealand Lottery Grants Board and Mike Greer Commercial for supporting our Bike Hubs.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



BIKE HUB STORIES

Back on a bike, then back to help others

Dhammika first visited our Bike Hub in its early days, back in 2017. It had been 20 years since she'd ridden but she was keen to give it another go. We helped find her a bike and give her the confidence to start riding again. What a delight to see Dhammika again in early 2021, who was looking for another bike because she was enjoying riding so much. In fact, Dhammika even started volunteering with us, to help even more people get the confidence to start cycling.



Crowd-sourced cycling advice

Susie used the Power Box Bike Challenge to ask advice from other participants on how to get her toddler to wear a helmet. The top tip? A teddy bear buddy to ride with him worked a treat.

“Mister Worthington showed him how to wear a helmet and rode with him on the bike trailer... By the end of the ride, he didn't want to take off his new helmet. Mr Worthington had to take his off first. No tantrums, no tears, just protecting our noggins,” said Susie when she shared the success story in the EcoMatters Bike Hubs Facebook group.







Flourishing forests and waterways that are enjoyed and cared for by the people around them - this lies at the heart of our vision for nature. We provide support and opportunities to get to know and take action for te taiao, so communities are equipped to help native plants and wildlife to thrive in backyards and shared green spaces alike.

Our team works in two key areas of interest - keeping pest plants and predators at bay, and restoring suburban streams. From organising weed bins and sharing expert advice, to growing plants at our nursery and hosting stream care sessions, we're all about making it easy to dig in.



HIGHLIGHTS

Supporting weedy warriors

Pest plants can overwhelm native ecosystems, and stopping them in their tracks involves the whole community. This year, we organised community weed bins so those who live close to the Waitākere Ranges could dispose of them freely. We continued eliminating invasive weeds in backyards adjacent to the regional park and took the conversation deeper with more locals at our Pest Plant Roadshows. In this series of four events, we shared tips for weed identification and removal, and gave out weed composting bags and native plants to encourage weeders in their efforts.

In the Whau area, we've been working alongside volunteers



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



PLANTS NURTURED

11,400



to address infestations of moth plants. Many become increasingly passionate about protecting our native ecosystems from invasive weeds, and we're pleased to ignite that spark, and provide ongoing advice and tools.

West Auckland streams

Our suburban streams can be thriving bush havens for abundant bird life, and this year we partnered with people of all ages to work towards fulfilling this dream. Continuing our mahi for over a decade, we've teamed up with Glen Eden residents to care for 15.6km of the Waikumete Stream catchment as part of Project Twin Streams. Locals are invited to become involved in every element of restoration through our weekly stream care days.

We also worked to transform other waterways in Glen Eden,



WEEDS COLLECTED

165,000^{KG}



**PEOPLE WE
WORKED WITH**

6,300

Henderson, Sunnyvale, Massey and New Lynn by hosting stream clean ups, weeding bees, predator trapline maintenance, plantings and water quality monitoring. Together with Emma Haslam (Ngai Te Rangi and Ngati Hauā), we hosted six highly popular Rongoā Māori wānanga by the awa, which celebrated mātauranga Māori as well as the accessibility of rongoā plants for community use. Local school children also worked with us on eDNA testing across our streams, through which we identified exciting inhabitants including banded kōkopu, īnanga and tuna (eels).

Collaboration builds connections

Thanks to the Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges, and Whau local boards for funding these

initiatives, as well as Auckland Council for their support.

Strength comes from working together, so we were also thrilled to partner with the University of Auckland, ESR, Cawthron Institute and Te Kawerau ā Maki to increase awareness of how our everyday actions can affect the health of our waterways.

We're also grateful to our long-term collaborators, the Auckland City Mission Street Guardians for their mahi. The power of these partnerships to better connect people with place was clearly demonstrated by one participant helping auditing rubbish collected from a Whau River Clean Up. He admitted he'd littered in the past but planned to change his ways after seeing what was found in the stream.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



NATURE STORIES

Inspiring care

Lucy Mary is a Glen Eden local who joined us on a guided stream walk. After this, she was inspired to join a volunteer session and together with her flatmate Olga (pictured) personally remove sacks of rubbish that had been dumped there. She says of the experience, “Having that face to face connection with passionate people telling stories about a place they love, is really powerful. I would consider myself pretty environmentally minded, but it wasn’t until this human connection that I really started to develop a sense of care for my neighbourhood.”



Making strong connections

A Karekare resident with a significant climbing asparagus infestation was hesitant about joining a weed control programme due to their reluctance to use herbicide. After taking the time to listen to their concerns, we were finally able to arrange a day to work alongside them on manual control, train them on new techniques and talk about their long-term plan. They now have a newfound passion for protecting the bush from invasive weeds, and said, “The team were so enthusiastic and lovely and worked through a lot of the bank where the worst areas are... We really appreciated their positive approach and willingness to help.”







LOVE YOUR WATER

Using water wisely is awesome for your wallet and our environment

Watercare

LOWER YOUR FLOW

Install a water-efficient showerhead or a restrictor!



15L/min to 10L/min

CHECK FOR LEAKS

Test. Find. Fix.



TEST YOUR TIME

Keep showers short. Take the 5-minute shower challenge!



YOUR SAVINGS

Reduce your water use and save money!

- ✓ Fix leaks
- ✓ Reduce water usage
- ✓ Use water-saving devices
- ✓ Take shorter showers
- ✓ Use water-saving products and technologies
- ✓ Encourage water saving advice and report

WIN A WATERPRIZE

What's your chance of winning?



YOUR WATER



Save \$55
Save water

Want to CONSERVE water?
Water PRESSURE too?
WATER bills too MUCH?

FREE WATER CHECK with us

ter@ecomatters.org.nz or ph 826 0563

Watercare

TEST YOUR TIME


How much time do you spend in the shower?

7 min	\$110 water \$214 per year	Average Take the 5 min shower challenge
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Based on flow rate of 12 litres per minute.


HOW TO TEST FOR LEAKS

NO WATER BILLY?



DO THE LEAK TEST

WANT A HEALTHIER HOME?



WATER SAVING TIPS

SAVING WATER AND POWER



Watercare

Take the 5-minute shower challenge

WATER SAVING TIPS

Be waterwise





We help people take simple steps to live more healthily and sustainably in their homes. In turn, this helps them to save money, and benefits the environment by conserving more of our precious natural resources.

We offer free, personalised advice on how to reduce water use in the home, with both in-person visits and online checks. We've also got a wealth of knowledge to share on how to make homes healthier, warmer and drier.



HIGHLIGHTS

More water wise households

We visited 229 homes this year right across Auckland from Waiwera to Waiuku to conduct on-site water checks.

Another 14 households received personalised advice after completing our DIY Interactive Water Check, an online tool ideal for when in-home visits aren't possible.

As a result, we provided 1,094 personalised recommendations and 579 water saving devices. Our estimates show this has helped these people collectively save \$43,500 on their water bills, an average of \$179 per household.

With rainfall lower than average during the year, Auckland also



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



SUSTAINABLE ITEMS PROVIDED

650



faced water shortages and our team was able to confirm 36 leaks among the households visited, with another 31 suspected leaks identified.

Record referrals

We had the highest number of new referrals for our water checks in four years, as a result of finding new ways to let people know about this service.

Together with Watercare, we've improved how customers find out about the water check through their Customer Care Centre. High water users now receive a notification from Watercare with information about how to access free water checks.

We're also using other EcoMatters initiatives and



WATER SAVED

11.5M^{LT}



RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

1,800

services, and external partnerships to let people know about these free water checks, so as many people as possible can access the water saving benefits.

Efficient showerhead installations

A pilot programme saw us installing efficient showerheads for free in more than 70 households, thanks to support from Auckland Council's Live Lightly initiative, Mitre 10 and Watercare. These showerheads use about a quarter less water than most regular showerheads, helping reduce both water consumption and household bills.

Warmer, drier and healthier homes

We continue to equip people with the skills and knowledge to control how their home is heated and cooled. Warmer, drier homes are healthier homes, with proven benefits for reducing health problems. They are also cheaper to heat and more comfortable to live in.

We worked closely with seven different community groups across west Auckland to deliver Healthy Homes on a Budget workshops to their members, and conducted another 17 Healthy Homes in-person visits. As a result, more than 140 households now have a better understanding of the simple ways they can make their homes healthier for their whānau at little or no extra cost.

Authentic connections

A person's home is their private space. So we experience a real sense of connection when we are invited into someone's home to share our expertise and find new ways for them to enjoy this space, whether that's a warmer, drier living space or reduced water bills.

A big thanks to Watercare, and Henderson-Massey, Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards for supporting these initiatives, as well as our partners we are proud to work alongside, including Habitat for Humanity and Refill NZ.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



HOMES STORIES

Leak leads to learning

Surprised at how high her water bills had come, Laura requested a visit from one of our Sustainability Advisors to do a water check. We discovered a leak in an external underground pipe. Laura was able to get this repaired and apply for a leak rebate on her bill. But she also learned new ways to save even more water and money, with the installation of an efficient showerhead, asking her plumber to reduce the water flow, and only using eco cycles on her dishwasher and washing machine.








Simple steps to a healthier home

Rosalind came along to a Healthy Homes workshop and says she's now putting many of the tips into practice in her own home, helping her save money and create a healthier environment. She opens her windows wide every day to circulate air and collects water in a bucket as her shower warms up. She was also thrilled to win the Healthy Homes prize pack, as the extra LED light bulbs will help her continue to change out existing light bulbs for a more efficient alternative.



OUR STAFF AND TRUSTEES

EcoMatters Administration	Damon Birchfield Chief Executive Officer	Carla Gee Head of Operations	Tina Ivory Finance Manager EcoMatters Store Team Leader	Jessie Jellick Administration and Accounts Assistant	Dr. Dan Ducker Research and Development Lead	Kirill Karpushev IT Assistant	Lorna Painter Retail Assistant
EcoMatters Communications and Marketing Team	Emily Harris Team Leader (ML)	Anna Kary Team Leader (Acting)	Deborah Teh Marketing and Communications Lead	Michela Enna Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator	Ana Davison Events and Community Engagement Specialist	Lisa Baudry Graphic Designer	
 EcoMatters Nature	Damon Birchfield and Carla Gee Team Leaders (Acting)	Pamela Gill Principal: Restoration, Community and Iwi Relationships	Alanah Mullin Stream Ranger	Chrissy Yates Nursery Manager			
	Melissa Ward Senior Engagement Specialist	Erika Kuschel Senior Weed Ranger	Sandra McLean Weed Ranger	Ananda Birchfield Weed Ranger			
 EcoMatters Waste	Sarah Jane Murray Team Leader	Thomas Peters Waste and Food Project Co-ordinator	Shannon Otene Logistics and Operations Supervisor	Meg Liptrot Organic Teaching Garden Coordinator / Education Programme - EcoHub	Amanda Hookham-Kraft Community Gardens Co-ordinator - Hope Gardens / Education Programme - Schools		
 EcoMatters Food							
 EcoMatters Homes	Myrthe Braam and Penelope Baber Team Leaders	Dominique Crowe Sustainability Advisor	Sydney Shead Sustainability Advisor	Alix McKenzie Sustainability Advisor			
 EcoMatters Bikes	Brent Bielby Team Leader	Josca Craig-Smith Community Bike Mechanic	Shane Price Community Bike Mechanic	Eugene Dranovski Community Bike Mechanic	Tyson Hobson Bike Hub Co-ordinator	Jackie Makasani Bike Hub Co-ordinator	
EcoMatters Trustees	Dr Charlotte Moore Chair Kaiwhakahaere New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse	David Hall Auckland Airport Aeronautical Engineer	Nicola Campbell Spirited Leadership Executive Coach	Anna Groot Managing Director Linchpin Productions	Sharon Davies Waitākere Ranges Local Board PA	Lauola Schuster Community Advisor Community Operations Department of Internal Affairs	Nick Pollard Senior Planner Senior Principal Boffa Miskell

FUNDING

For any organisation, resilience comes from diversity of funding. We are incredibly grateful to all those who have contributed towards helping us to nurture kaitiakitanga and restore the whenua.

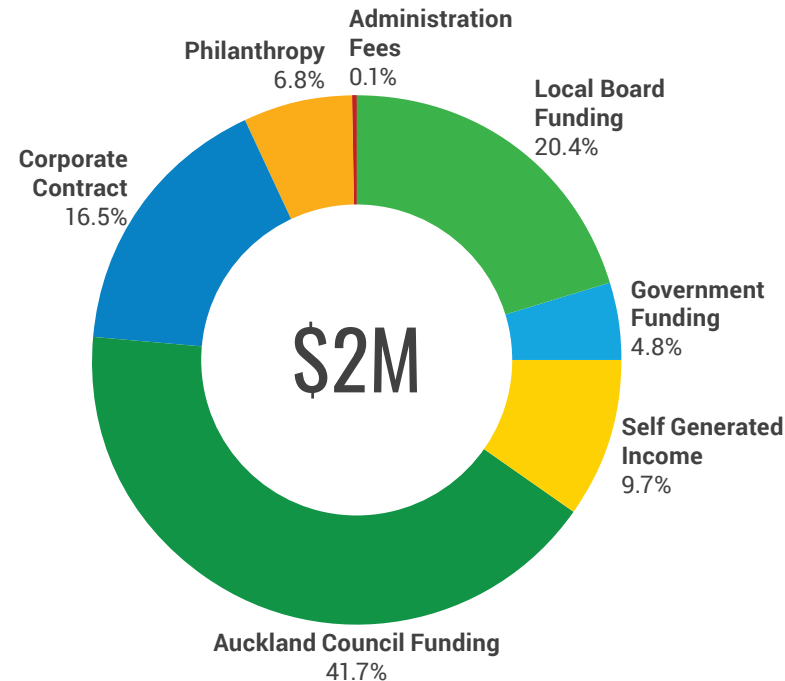
Our achievements are only possible with the support of our funding partners and we are truly grateful for what you enable us to do.

Thank you to Auckland Council's local boards, especially Henderson-Massey, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Waitākere Ranges and Whau. We appreciate the support of Auckland Council, especially Parks, and Infrastructure and Environment Services. Ngā mihi to our other key funding partners Watercare, Auckland Transport, Eke Panuku Development Auckland and the Ministry for the Environment.

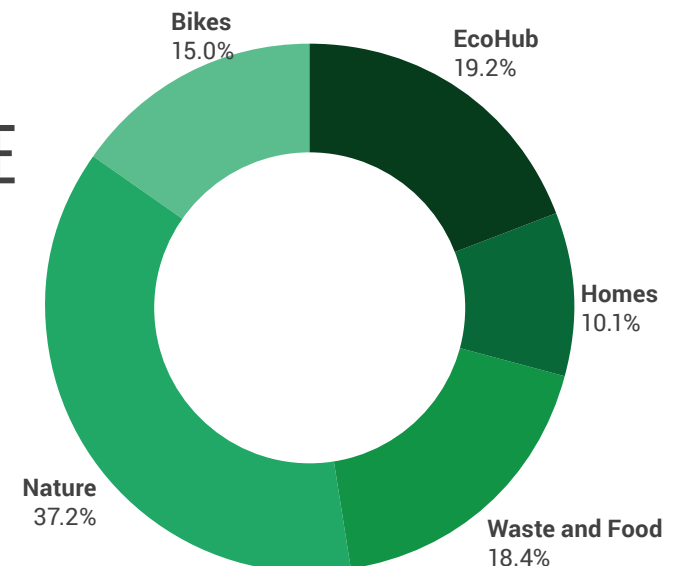
The significant contributions from The Trusts Community Foundation, The Trusts, the NZ Lottery Grants Board and Foundation North, and grants from the Ministry of Social Development and Ministry for Ethnic Communities are appreciated. Thank you to all philanthropic and grant providers who have assisted us.

Individual givers, both regular and one-off, and those who have purchased from our store and nursery also make a difference. Ngā mihi nui to you all - in what has been a difficult year, you have helped enable meaningful outcomes for te taiao.

FUNDING BY SOURCE



FUNDING BY INITIATIVE



FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



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