



Environmental Education - Working with schools for a sustainable future

Thank you for your interest in the Waste Aware Environmental Education Programme.

[About the Waste Aware Environmental Education half-day programme](#)

The Waste Aware - Environmental Education half-day programme is a Napier City Council (NCC) initiative aimed at educating primary and intermediate aged school children (particularly Years 5-8) and the wider community about waste minimisation and sustainability. The programme's vision is "to educate school children and the wider community on how to minimise solid waste entering the local landfill". This is achieved by focusing on the following aims during the programme:

- Critically assess what we do with our rubbish and learn about what happens to rubbish in the wider community.
- Understand what impacts our rubbish has on the environment (e.g. marine, atmosphere and land).
- Explore ways in which we can minimise rubbish that we produce and to create and implement a strategy for reducing rubbish within the student's environment (i.e. at school and home).

The half-day programme of the Waste Aware Environmental Education, is in essence similar to the Full Term programme, but with only two 'impact Waste Aware' messages and based at the National Aquarium of New Zealand. The half-day programme allows more schools to participate and is well suited for schools visiting from outside the region.

Increasing students' knowledge base is an important start to achieving a change in attitudes and values. However, simply raising awareness of environmental issues may be insufficient to bring about change. Personal initiatives and social participation are needed. The Waste Aware half-day programme challenges students to plan and implement their own school 'Waste Aware' project (i.e. action "for" the environment) by signing a pledge poster and reporting back to the Waste Aware co-ordinator once their pledge is completed. This focus complements the Education for Sustainability approach to learning and links with the intentions of the revised New Zealand Curriculum.

A teacher support package; pre and post half-day programme activities and 'did you know' facts will be available from a web-site where teachers can download chosen activities.

Based on previous experience, this single term programme can be an exciting time for students as well as teachers! While those involved need to be committed to the programme, the end result will be a positive learning experience for all.

This information outlines the responsibilities for all parties to help clarify expectations.

Expectations of the Waste Aware half-day programme

The half-day programme provides an excellent learning opportunity including pre and post half-day programme activities and an introductory brainstorming session focusing on the 'Waste Aware' project that students will implement at the school. The programme is easily integrated into a school's term work and schools taking part in the programme are expected to be strongly committed to teaching the programme within their own school curriculum (i.e. incorporated into science, social studies, maths and literacy lessons).

The teacher is expected to complete some of the suggested pre and post half-day programme activities before and after the programme. These activities will add significant value to the half-day programme and help give a strong focus to the Waste Aware pledge. Check out the website for all activities: www.napier.govt.nz keyword: [waste aware](#)

As part of the half-day programme the Waste Aware pledge poster is signed and taken back to the school. Once the pledge is completed, the school is expected to report back to the programme co-ordinator. Evidence of how the Waste Aware half-day programme fitted into the school's teaching programme (e.g. the terms teaching plan) may also be requested (as part of the half-day programme questionnaire to be handed out to teachers at the completion of the programme).

The school will:

- Pay the special visit fee for the Aquarium visit. (*price on enquiry*)
- Provide the coordinator with feedback on the programme (*we have prepared a table for this purpose*).

Contact details:

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Web site: www.napier.govt.nz Key word: Waste Aware