



EcoMatters Environment Trust



Photo: Visitors at t Te Whare Āhua, Ecohub

EcoMatters Environment Trust (CC34322) is a registered charity based in Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland.

Established two decades ago with the aim of delivering environmental initiatives to local communities, EcoMatters' mission is to “nurture kaitiakitanga (guardianship)” and their vision is to see “the mauri (life force) of our whenua (environment) restored”.

Teaming up with the Ministry for the Environment, Auckland Council, other not-for-profits and community groups, EcoMatters run a wide range of programmes, initiatives and events to build community resilience through sustainable living.

Last year, they helped deliver a thousand workshops and events, including EcoFest West, a month long festival celebrating environmental action in West Auckland.

“Our mahi (work) is about teaching people practices they can easily adopt into their daily lives to make sustainable living easy and fun – from urban agriculture and repairing bicycles, to upcycling and learning about household sustainability.”

Their programmes, delivered with the help of volunteers and supporters, helped divert 75,200 kgs of waste from the landfill, save 11.5 million litres of water, and turn 210,000 kg of food scraps into soil.



Photo: Matariki garlic planting

Te Whare Āhua, their community hub based at Olympic Park in New Lynn, draws in crowds eager to share knowledge and advice on sustainable living. It's also home to an urban oasis - a teaching māra (garden) complete with interpretive signage explaining concepts, such as native revegetation, rongoā (traditional Māori medicine) principles and food forests.

The team has five main focus areas: Nature, Bikes, Homes, Waste and its newest focus – Food. The importance of promoting food security has never been more timely, as food prices and the cost of living affect many whānau (families) in Aotearoa. This work aims to improve the equitable opportunities for accessible healthy kai (food) in communities.

Last year, EcoMatters ran a survey six months after delivering food workshops to Aucklanders. They found that four out of five workshop attendees said they are now more conscious of the food they buy, eat and throw away.

EcoMatters uses the [17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#) as a framework to help them better understand how what they do every day is contributing to global efforts to create a more resilient world.

To find out more about EcoMatters (CC34322), [check out their website](#) or search them on the [Charities Register](#).