

## Mission compostable: ShareWaste project launches on Waiheke

Waiheke residents can help fight climate change with food scraps using a new ShareWaste scheme connecting composters with the wider community.

Brought to you by the Compost Collective, ShareWaste is a website which connects people who wish to recycle their food scraps with neighbours who are already composting, worm-farming or keep chickens, thus reducing the amount of food waste that goes to landfill.

Aude Balguerie, ShareWaste's Waiheke coordinator, wants to implement the scheme on a large scale on the island.

"If you don't have a compost bin and don't know what to do with your food scraps, if you want to make more compost for your lovely garden, if you want to connect with your neighbours, or if you love food and hate waste, ShareWaste is for you," she said.

Throughout July, composters and scrap donors have been able to visit the Grow stall at Saturday's Ostend Market to learn how to sign up, pop in to see the information stand at the library or call by Waiheke Sustainability Centre from Monday to Friday to speak with staff.

**"Currently 40 percent of Waiheke waste sent to landfill could instead be composted." - Aude Balguerie, ShareWaste Waiheke coordinator**

"If you are interested but are afraid to sign up, don't worry," says Aude. "Its use is pretty straightforward: sign up for free as a host, prepare your 'What I accept' list so that donors know what type of food they can bring, decide how much you can accept and regularly check your emails as a donor might have gotten in touch with you. As a donor, browse the map and email the nearest host in your neighbourhood."



Compost like a pro – Waiheke Resources Trust intern Aude Balguerie with a display for the new ShareWaste campaign which remains throughout July at the Waiheke Community Library.

The Compost Collective Waiheke project, which is managed by Waiheke Resources Trust and funded by Auckland Council, aims to build resilience within the community by sharing the skills needed to process household and garden organic waste on your own property.

"Composting at home helps to replenish our soils and will reduce waste to landfill," said Aude.

"Currently 40 percent of Waiheke waste sent to landfill could instead be composted. This is costing us a lot both financially and environmentally as food waste in landfill creates methane, a toxic greenhouse gas. ShareWaste is a great way to reduce your waste to landfill if you aren't already

composting or to gather more resources to boost your existing compost."

So what can you put in your bucket? It all depends on whether the host has a composter, worm farm or hens. As a general guideline, most people will accept fruit and veggie scraps, tea bags, coffee grounds and filters, egg shells, dry leaves, tissue paper, peanut shells, wood ashes and withered flowers.

Most would also accept shredded newspaper or cardboard, shredded cardboard egg cartons, wood shavings, grass clippings and cotton pads.

These details will be agreed in advance between donors and hosts. Visit the website at [sharewaste.org.nz](http://sharewaste.org.nz) • *Liza Hamilton*



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