

GO

GARDEN

Tairāwhiti

2022



The Gisborne Herald
TE NUPEPA O TE TAIRAWHITI

Welcome to The Gisborne Herald's brand new feature – Go Green Tairāwhiti



Ideas | People | Trust

Ko tō ngakau ki ngā taonga a o tipuna
- Cherish the treasures of your ancestors

BDO Gisborne has been proudly backing local businesses in Tairāwhiti and on the East Coast for over 100 years.

We value the importance of relationships and working alongside our clients to support sustainable business growth.

Through the right tools and expertise, we also empower and enable our clients to make more informed decisions within their business.

To speak to one of our advisers, contact us at:
1 Peel Street, Gisborne or telephone (06) 869 1400.

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BDO
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Are you ready to unfold real signs of climate change in our region, learn about scientists who figured out how to use plastic as fuel and hear amazing stories from our region? Then make yourself a cup of tea or coffee, sit tight and let us take you on green journey . . .

5 easy tips on how to become more environment-friendly that might also save you some money!

1. Be mindful about packaging

One of the first rules for environment enthusiasts is to be mindful about the packaging of products you are purchasing. This ranges from food to personal care to tech products. An easy way to start is to think about the packaging of your fruits and vegetables, as most of these do not need packaging at all. You can also use your own cotton bag each time you go to the supermarket.

2. Re-use

If you have to buy something that has some kind of packaging try to repurpose it. You can use food containers from your takeaway meals for food storage and lunches for work. Cans of beans or other food items can be cleaned and painted — a great family activity — and used to store pens or cosmetic products. Great family fun that saves you money. Glass jars are excellent for food storage or homemade chutneys and jams. The list goes on. Be creative!

3. Recycle

When you have to dispose of something, check if you can recycle it. There are plenty of cool infographics on the internet. Print one and put it on your fridge to use as a reference. Better still, let your kids draw it and that way they will remember the rules much better. Also, don't forget to RINSE an item before you put it in the recycling bin.

4. Minimise your food waste

Planning is key when it comes to minimising food waste. Think about what you want to cook in the next couple of days and buy only what you need. If you are not sure you will use something you have already bought any time soon — freeze it. This will save you money and reduce your environmental footprint.

5. Walk or bike when you can

We are lucky to live in a small city where you can walk or bike almost everywhere. And with petrol prices skyrocketing, this is not only kind to the environment and great for your health, but also beneficial to your pocket. That's a win-win-win!

What do you think about our new feature? Let us know. We would love to hear your feedback,

Interested in participating in the next issue about sustainability? Get in touch with Tereza at tereza.kalinova@gisborneherald.co.nz or 06 869 0613

Go Green Tairāwhiti!



FREE CLIMATE ACTION WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS & EDUCATORS IN TAIRĀWHITI/GISBORNE

Wed, 11 May | 9 am - 4 pm
Tairāwhiti Environment Centre
sustaintrust.org.nz/your-sustainable-school

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Exploring ways to turn plastic waste into fuel

For decades plastic has been poisoning marine life, fouling beaches and creating health hazards, but we may have come a step closer to solving the problem.

Eco-friendly firms across the world are adopting methods to turn plastic into fuel such as petrol and diesel.

The world generates over 400 million tonnes of plastic wastes every year, according to a United Nations Environment Programme report.

The majority of it is disposed of in landfills or dumped into oceans.

It is estimated that from 1950 to 2017 about 9.2 billion tonnes of plastic was produced — the equivalent weight of 28,000 Empire State buildings.

However, of all the plastics produced in the past six decades, less than 10 percent of the produce was recycled, the report states.

The high cost of recycling plastic waste and the ineffective methods used to do so convinced researchers, firms and environmental activists to find a possible partial solution by way of a process called pyrolysis.

It is a technique which involves the thermal degradation or conversion of plastic wastes at different temperatures (300 to 900 degrees), in the absence of oxygen, into energy in the

form of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels.

In 2018, French actor Samuel Le Bihan and self-taught inventor Christofer Costes attracted attention from media around the globe when they designed a low-tech machine that converted plastic pellets (manufactured from plastic wastes) into diesel and petrol — the aim being to fight pollution and provide for remote communities in developing countries.

For every kilogram of plastic, their machine produced a litre of liquid divided into petrol and diesel.

Last year the Government estimated Kiwis threw away about 159 grams of plastic waste per person a day.

Multiply that by the country's population of five million, coupled with the waste collected on a yearly basis, and the weight of that total waste would equate to more than 47,000 African bush elephants.

It also meant New Zealanders were among the highest waste generators in the world.

The recycling crisis offers an opportunity to explore some innovative ways of turning waste into valuable products, along with the creation of jobs by building plastic conversion plants.

Perhaps regions across New Zealand should consider plastic waste to energy as part of bringing about change.



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Reuse, recycle, recover

Gisborne District Council is undertaking a study to determine whether a resource recovery centre or centres are feasible for the region.

The council secured \$90,000 from the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Minimisation Fund for the study and contracted Civil Assist to do the work.

The study will determine the feasibility of developing a Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) or network of centres.

Such centres provide a place for the reuse, repurposing, recycling and recovery of resources from waste.

The council said waste figures from 2017 showed 42 percent of what went to landfill could have been diverted for reuse, recycling or recovery.

"It doesn't even include what gets illegally dumped, burned or buried," council solid waste manager Phil Nickerson said. "Keeping resources in use for as long as possible is better for people and the environment locally, nationally and globally."

The study was divided into stages.

For the first stage, the council procured consultants Civil Assist, which conducted an online survey to find out what people knew about waste, and their

waste disposal habits.

The council hoped the survey would provide an insight into what whānau already knew and what the community needs were in dealing with and repurposing waste.

More than 1000 people provided feedback.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions earlier this year, engagement had to occur remotely, company through online meetings and workshops in the form of videos and photos.

Five workshops have been held so far.

Mr Nickerson said based on feedback received from the community, the next

stage would be applying to the Ministry for the Environment for funding.

"It will include aspects like the design of the building and based on input from the community we might have to build several satellite centres across the region."

"Different centres around the country have different purposes."

"Part of this study is to see what our community thinks is the best for the community."

Community engagement formally finishes at the end of April but the council and Civil Assist are more than happy for people to reach out at feedback@gdc.govt.nz



One person's trash, another's treasure

Second-hand SUNDAY



This Sunday is Second-hand Sunday.

Addresses will be published on Saturday on Council's Facebook page and in the Herald.

Have a go – your trash may be someone else's treasure.

www.gdc.govt.nz

0800 653 800 or 867 2049

Do you have household items you don't use and want to get rid of but have reservations out of concern they may end up in a landfill?

Then why not take part in Second-hand Sunday and help promote a circular economy by giving away your unwanted items.

Held on the first Sunday of every month, participants are advised to place items on the kerb in front of their house by 9am.

Collectors are encouraged to pick up the displayed items.

People are encouraged to put out any home products but not items such as rubbish and food or dangerous goods like chemicals, faulty electrical equipment and firearms.

Gisborne District Council says: "all you have to do is provide your address by the Thursday before the first Sunday of every month so we can advertise it both on our social media and in the Gisborne Herald."

"Even if you miss this date, you can add your address to our Facebook post."

The council receives about 20 addresses on average each month, which it publishes a day before the day of collection.

Second-hand Sunday was born out of the need to repurpose items that might otherwise have been sent to landfill, and to discourage fly-tipping.

The council encourages the community to join in the fun of shop-hopping second-hand goods.

So if you no longer have a use for your old coffee table, have accumulated far too many bowls or your old spade is collecting dust, give them a second life and register for Second-Hand Sunday at www.gdc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/secondhand-sunday

To provide feedback on any Second-hand Sunday experience, contact Gisborne District Council at services@gsc.govt.nz

\$10k grant for paper pots initiative

Every year Gisborne District Council supports projects aimed at reducing waste and increasing reuse, recycling and recovery by providing funding through the Waste Minimisation Fund.

The council receives funds from the national waste levy — a government charge for all waste going to landfill — to be used to support local initiatives and projects aimed at minimising and diverting waste from landfills.

This year it granted \$10,000 to the Native Garden Nursery — a wholesale plant nursery at Makaraka owned by Lana and Nigel Hope.

"The Native Garden Nursery team was really excited to learn that we had been given GDC waste minimisation funding, as we know there are so many great initiatives and groups working hard to make a difference in this space," Lana said.

With demand for native plants on the rise, the nursery team realised the importance of having an upgraded and efficient production system.

They were also committed to finding sustainable initiatives to incorporate into plant production — a set-up that could upscale numbers while producing a quality, robust and affordable product ready to be planted in various environments.

The use of plastic pots for growing plants is standard practice in the nursery industry, although it has been tagged by the Government to be a part of a recycling/stewardship scheme by July 2023.

The Native Garden Nursery has a policy of asking customers to return the pots for

reuse but noted there were many buyers who didn't return the pots.

This motivated the nursery team to find a solution to the problem — a machine that produces biodegradable paper pots — and subsequently applied for the funding.

The money will be used to purchase parts — a soil mixer and a conveyor belt which will eliminate the process of manually climbing up the machine.

"Currently, one of us is up and down a ladder with a bucket, but from experience we know it is good to start small, trial and add to systems as we have confidence and necessity."

The paper pots are made of wood fibre from certified, sustainably-managed forests. The product degrades safely and efficiently in an aerobic environment within 12 months.

Once in the ground, roots penetrate through the pot while it degrades so the plant is never held back or stressed through de-potting or transplanting.

The nursery is trialling 10 species of native plants in the paper pots and these are being monitored for growth rate, watering requirements and reaction.

Council waste minimisation lead Charlotte Phelps said from the 12 applicants this year, the nursery put forward a clear and consistent plan on how it would trial the product and the way it could create wider benefits to the environment and community.

The nursery plans to extend its production capacity and reach out to many landowners, community groups and organisations.

Applications for the Waste Minimisation Fund open again in October.



Gisborne District Council has granted the Native Garden Nursery \$10,000 for a trial of eco-friendly paper pots aimed at minimising waste.

Plasback: Turning farm plastics into timber

Plasback is a nationwide initiative in which livestock farmers get their plastic waste such as silage wrap — used to hold fodder for the cattle — recycled or repurposed.

Plasback operates a product stewardship scheme to recover used plastics for recycling and has collected over 19,000 tonnes of waste since the scheme's inception.

More than a dozen farms in Tairāwhiti collected more than 8300 kilograms of plastic silage wrap this year.

During winter, when farms don't grow much grass, livestock farmers usually make use of their stored silage (fodder) to feed their stocks.

Through the Plasback scheme, farmers store away the plastic wrap after use to be picked up by a Plasback company driver.

The company sends the plastic wastes to Te Puke to be repurposed into Tufford timber sheets — a board that will not rot, rust, splinter, corrode or warp.

In the last 12 months, the company has transformed 40,000kg of plastic waste into over 1600 sheets of Tuffboards.

Unlike other regions in New Zealand, only

about 20 farmers in Tairāwhiti utilise this service. The reason for this is the distance drivers have to travel — making it logically challenging and expensive.

This is where Gisborne District Council comes in.

"We help to coordinate which farmers will be getting the pick-up and where," council waste minimisation lead Charlotte Phelps says.

The collection of plastic wastes happens once a year within a window frame of January to March.

The council is encouraging more farmers to spread the word around and join the Plasback bandwagon.

Ms Phelps says the council is also having talks about rural recycling programme Agrecovery teaming up with the Plasback unit.

Agrecovery is also a nationwide initiative which safely disposes of unwanted agrochemicals and recycles empty containers and drums.

If you want to be a part of these cool initiatives contact the council at service@gdc.govt.nz



Several farmers from around the region took part in a recent Plasback collection, meaning plastic silage wrap is recycled rather than burned or buried.

TOHA:

Regenerative economic transformation



Financial technology start-up Toha was established in 2018 as a response to the shortcomings of the global financial system in addressing climate change.

The founders could see a transition to a new economic system was needed, and fast.

Three years on, Toha has more than 40 staff and contractors of diverse expertise working on this bold vision.

Among them are business leaders, scientists, analysts, lawyers, accountants, engineers, solution designers, bankers, regen advisers and community facilitators.

The team have been designing and testing infrastructure for a global financial marketplace that will provide economic incentive for individuals and organisations to take immediate action against environmental degradation and climate change.

People may be surprised at Toha making Tairāwhiti its homebase, given it isn't exactly a global hub for climate action or financial markets innovation.

Toha is ready to demonstrate how that can change, however, and is set to invest heavily in the region and people over the coming months.

Toha's long-term vision for Tairāwhiti is regenerative economic transformation and the first case studies are already under way on pockets of land all around the Coast.

Over the next 12 months more nature-based solutions such as indigenous forest protection, native biodiversity, freshwater improvements, wetland restoration and on-

farm emissions reduction will be supported by Toha's platform.

Climate action is about to heat up in Tairāwhiti and with that will be a high demand for people wanting to work in the environmental space.

If you are looking to make a difference, and would like to be informed about these exciting work opportunities as they arise, subscribe to Mean Mahi — a new recruitment portal by Gizzy Local through which local job opportunities are sent directly to your inbox.

To subscribe, head to gizzylocal.nz/meanmahi

If you are interested in finding out more about Toha's marketplace, get in touch with Toha's Tairāwhiti lead, Renee Raroa, at tairawhiti@toha.nz



Reducing your imprint

Enterprises looking to reduce their overall carbon emissions for their project and product can find support through Myimprint.

The carbon accounting firm was born out of the need to provide organisations an easy way to understand their impact on the environment and to foster a positive environmental change.

A survey conducted by business management platform MYOB earlier this year revealed that about 69 percent of respondents said they did not know how to measure their business's carbon footprint.

Myimprint has a dedicated team of consultants from diverse backgrounds, including civil engineering, farm emission research and environment, who can help a company by measuring its annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and suggest ways to reduce its imprint.

The firm works with many Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) — the "lifeblood" of the country's economy.

Its support extends to sectors such as construction, irrigation, architecture, computer services, accommodation, not-for-profit food rescue services and larger organisations such as councils and district health boards.

One of its mottos is "We say 'working with' as it's an ongoing journey, not a set-and-forget box tick."

With some activities causing more emissions than others, Myimprint can assess which activities are emitting the most carbon emissions then help organisations take steps to reduce their imprint.

"Unless you have an unlimited pot of gold you need to know you are making the best decisions for your business and which change is going to have the most beneficial and positive effect on reducing your carbon emissions," environmental accountant Anna Byers says.

Taking steps to lower emissions has many benefits such as helping companies stand out from competitors, creating new work opportunities, strengthening existing client relationships, saving money and, most of all, ensuring a better future.

Civil engineering company Civil Assist is one of the many beneficiaries of the support provided by Myimprint.

By its second year, Civil Assist had reduced its emissions by about 10 percent and was awarded MyImprint Carbon Reduce status.

"Let us take the guesswork out of assessing your project's GHG emissions," Myimprint says. "Together let's save our world, our environment and ourselves. It is a big goal, which working together we can achieve."



Making it easy to measure your emissions

myimprint

THINK GLOBALLY : ACT LOCALLY

Need help measuring the carbon footprint of your organisation or project?

Our team of carbon accountants and researchers, energy engineers and waste experts can help you measure and reduce your Greenhouse Gas Emissions. It's important to measure first, so that you can make the most effective emissions reductions with the resources you have.

Let us help you reduce your imprint.

0800 10 20 15 | hello@myimprint.nz

www.myimprint.nz

THE HEAT IS ON . . .



Severe storms, melting glaciers, rising oceans and loss of species are some of the common outcomes of climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) working group's sixth assessment report states that in the last 110 years, New Zealand's annual average temperature had risen by 1.1 degrees, including more "extreme hot days".

Subsequently, the ocean temperature has also increased significantly, resulting in longer and more frequent marine heatwaves (a short period of abnormally high sea or

ocean temperatures).

But do we know how these heatwaves have affected the people of Aotearoa over the years?

National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) principal scientist Dr Sam Dean says the question is a "challenging one".

"While we do know that we have been experiencing increasing heatwaves, the impact is not as huge as some feel it is.

"Then again, we don't have the data set to say how many Kiwis are being severely affected by it."

Dr Dean says although there are still many data gaps that warrant the need for more research, scientists are taking steps to fill in that "lack".

Collaborative research by NIWA and Deep South Challenge found that the country could experience long and severe marine heatwaves by the end of the century.

The research also explored the intensity of future marine heatwaves, or just how warm they will be. For the North Island, this means an average marine heatwave could be between 0.5 to 2 degrees more intense than they are today.

NIWA ocean modeller and research lead Dr Erik Behrens says the chance of marine heatwaves becoming a permanent fixture is worrying.

"What is particularly interesting is the disparity between regions, with some coastal areas predicted to experience a much bigger intensity, frequency and duration of warming seas than others."

"This is important to know so we can focus our efforts on helping marine ecosystems adapt to these changing conditions," he says.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Local land use is changing. Maranga ake!



As the price of carbon increases, land use in Tairāwhiti is changing.

28,000ha of local farms are transitioning to forests that may never be harvested.

What will it look like to have far fewer farm workers, forestry crews and truck drivers? Where will the new jobs be? What will be the impacts to our communities and culture?

We want whānau involved in farming and forestry (including Māori landowners) to understand what is happening and have a voice in decisions about future land use in the region.

Join us to find out more.

Register at: www.recloaking.nz

Dr Sam Dean says that while there is no evidence of an increasing number of tropical cyclones or ex-tropical cyclones crossing near the country, the fact a one-in-100-year rainfall event has happened twice in the last six months is an indication of climate change.

FROM PAGE 7

Marine heatwaves are not the only climate problem the country has to deal with.

Dr Dean says earlier NIWA studies found that the country's winter seasons are running a month shorter than 80 years ago "if you define winter as crossing a temperature threshold ... when the daily maximum average temperature goes below a certain point and stays there before going back up again.

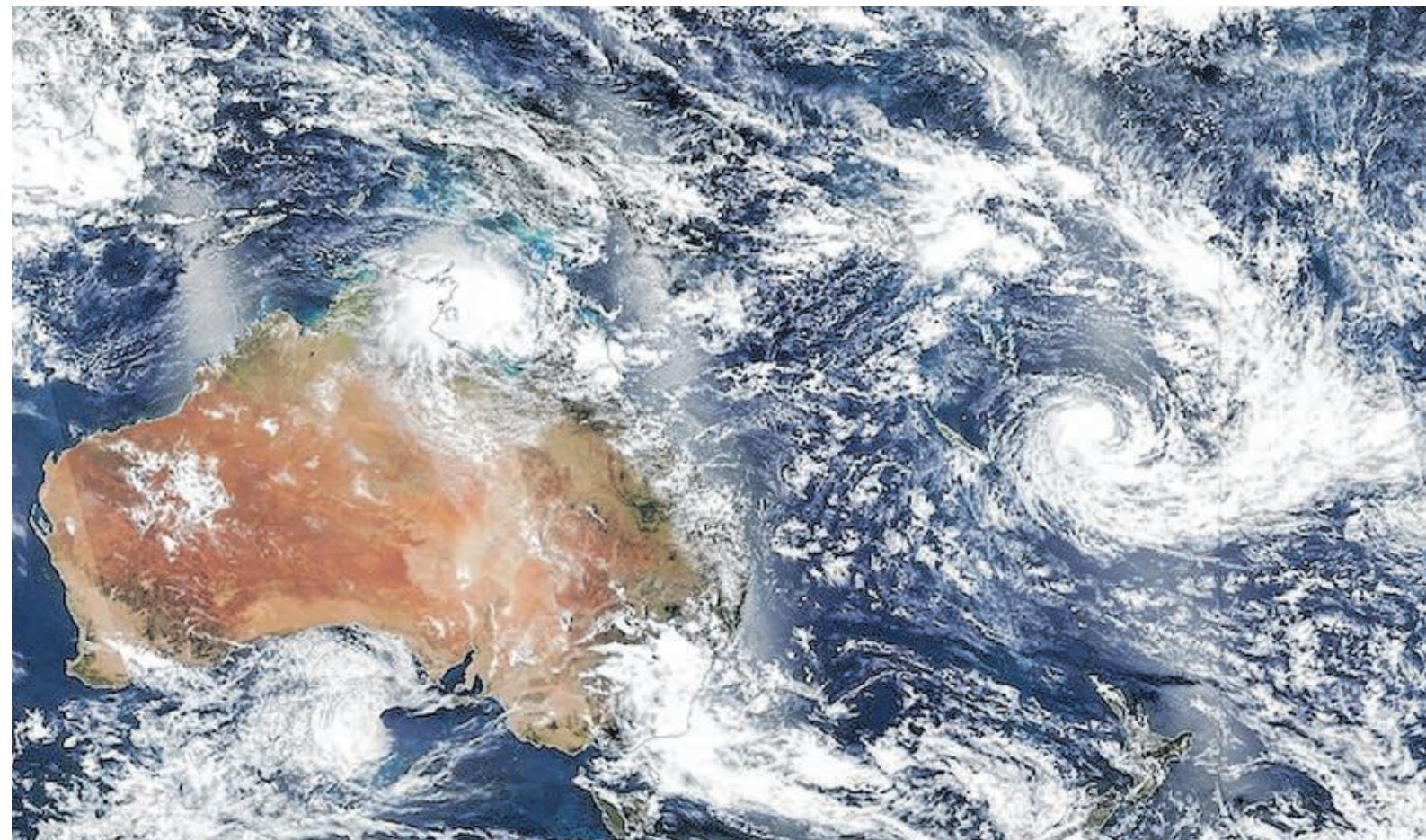
"That entire period of time has got shorter than it once was."

Dr Dean recalls that about 40 years ago the winters used to be "quite frosty", especially during the early mornings when he left home for school.

"My kids don't get to experience what I went through years ago. That's definitely a change I can personally identify and bear witness to."

Reminiscing about a trip to Cuba 20 years ago, the scientist remembers meeting a tribe who acknowledged how climate change was warming up the land and affected their termite rituals.

The tribe told him how termites



seemed to come out of the hills on many later dates with every passing year due to the "warming effect".

"I'm not quite aware of those things happening in our country but then again we don't have any research that could suggest such changes," he says.

Another significant consequence of climate change was experienced on the East Coast this year.

The region received a battering

from severe weather events over the space of six months.

"Tropical cyclones are tricky as they need a certain threshold of sea surface temperature to form."

Dr Dean says based on NIWA's observations, the areas in which the cyclones formed "are and will be getting a little bit closer to New Zealand".

"What's interesting is that the path they have been taking all seem

to be going down the East Coast, but it's something we can't explain at the present moment."

Dr Dean also shared "a climate truth" he said often got lost when activists fight for climate change.

"Climate change is real but if you look back at what scientists had predicted about 20 years back — the condition we would be in — it's right on track."

"We don't have any evidence

to suggest that situations are worsening at an accelerating rate, and I know a lot of people who get surprised when I share this fact.

"What it actually means is that if we want to stop climate change from changing the course of our journey in the future further, we have to act now."

"The problem lies in the fact that we are not doing enough to stop it now."

Community hub committed to caring for our environment

There is a hum of community activity in Palmerston Road at the not-for-profit Tairawhiti Environment Centre (TEC), where making connections is their mission.

Connecting ideas, organisations, eco-systems and the community to create a hub committed to caring for our environment in as many ways as possible is the idea behind TEC.

"This is a space for the community," TEC manager Rena Kohere says. "It's about raising awareness, knowledge and engaging in the kaupapa of the centre."

A big part of that kaupapa is waste minimisation and encouraging individuals, businesses and organisations in the community to further engage in that process.

TEC follows the 5 R's hierarchy model of Refuse, Replace, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Hub support coordinator, Stephanie Temple says it is about "being mindful of resources and switching your way of thinking about the purchases you make and asking yourself, 'do I really need this product (reduce)' and 'can it be easily reused or recycled?'"

There is a drop-off recycling depot on-site for a variety of household items.

Here is a comprehensive list of what can be recycled at Tairawhiti Environment Centre.

E-waste Tech Collect initiative

- All IT computer equipment including computers, laptops, modems, printers and ink cartridges.

Terracycle programme

- Gillette Razor: any brands of razor blades and packaging (disposable/non-disposable)
- Garnier (all brands of skincare products: plastic packaging, tubes and caps)
- Nescafe Nespresso capsules (aluminium)
- Moccona capsules (plastic)
- Colgate (all brands of plastic toothbrushes and toothpaste)
- GLAD (cling wrap, bags and containers).

Metalco

- Aluminium wine bottle caps
- Steel/tin beer bottle caps.

Interwaste

Compact fluorescent light bulbs and fluorescent tubes.

E-cycle: (GDC service agreement)

- Batteries (all household batteries, including tool and hearing aid batteries).

Swapkit:

- Mobile phones.

TEC collaborates with Gisborne District Council in all areas of waste minimisation.

It also works closely with the Department of Conservation and iwi/hapū and mana whenua.

Another initiative in place at the hub, in collaboration with DoC, is the Trap Library.

Animal traps are available at the "library". These help reduce the population of rats, stoats, possums

and feral cats, which are all a threat to native trees and birds.

The traps can be borrowed from the library for two months and require a \$20 bond (which is refunded when the trap is returned).

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee has tested the traps and approved them as effective in pest control.

■ For further information



Helping bring about change in environmental practices are Tairawhiti Environment Centre (TEC) volunteer John Hudson, support coordinator Steph Temple and manager Rena Kohere.