

Student 2: High Merit

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

How the composting project contributed to environmental sustainability

"The main reasons we need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill are to conserve our natural resources and to limit the environmental effects of landfills.

As well as taking up space in a landfill, organic waste is damaging to the environment when it breaks down inside a landfill, producing toxic leachate and methane gas. Leachate can damage waterways and aquatic life if it reaches local streams. Methane gas can cause dangerous fires within landfills and is also a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. By reducing and composting organic waste instead of burning or incinerating it we can also reduce air pollution, reduce odours and help to stop the release of greenhouse gases." Source:

www.createyourowneden.co.nz

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How this action has changed my behaviours and attitudes

The effects on the environment from dumping compost into landfill are much more damaging than I realised. I am now aware of the large amount of food waste our school produces in a day that we were sending to the landfill. Dangerous chemicals and contamination in the landfills is produced when the food waste is not being composted.

I have talked about this with my parents and they have since bought a compost bin for our garden. Even though it is an extra chore, each time I empty the scraps from dinner into it, I remember the consequences of when we were putting it all into the large rubbish bag for landfill and feel good about it composting them. We will also have free compost in the garden when it breaks down. The 'create your own eden' resource (www.createyourowneden.co.nz) also gives information on what to do if the compost bin gets smelly or too acidic.

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