

Student 3: Low Merit

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

The action that I chose is to make and sell reusable shopping bags outside our local supermarket, so people will not need to use plastic bags. An estimated 4.8 to 12.7 million metric tonnes of plastic entered the oceans in 2010. That included 600 million plastic bags.

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I think our action helped to sustain the environment to help to create a more sustainable future. ... The action was to try and replace the plastic bags with reusable bags in the local supermarket. By replacing the plastic bags in our community, we will create a sustainable future as it will reduce waste in our parks walkways and streets. It will help remove plastic bags from the waste stream, reducing landfill. This is because we raised awareness and had the opportunity for the community to use reusable bags. This will help the environment in our lakeside community because it will mean plastic will not get into our waterways, lakes and on into the ocean. ... This has a major impact on our sea-life. Any hunting mammal or bird can easily mistake the size, shape and texture of a plastic bag for a meal and find its airway cut off or that they can't have normal digestion.

For another example, plastic bags won't go down the drain and into local rivers and lakes where it can still break down into microplastics that fish can swallow, and it can make them sick or die.

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Plastic bags in New Zealand are not socially sustainable because they can cause major health issues as they have BPA in them which is bad for your health and can lead to cancer. Many countries and places around the world have already banned plastic bags including; California, Portland, Mexico City... Making reusable bags locally is socially sustainable and people from the Environmental Trust said they would be making more of them because they liked my idea. They have volunteers who get together socially to do improvements for the environment. People are used to using single-use plastic shopping bags but could easily adapt to using over means, but this would take a cultural shift in their thinking.

Every year 4 million New Zealanders use 1 billion plastic bags, ... It is estimated that it costs governments, businesses and community groups over \$4 million to clean up littered plastic shopping bags around New Zealand. This is not good economical sustainability.

Completing this work task made me think a lot more about how we are treating the environment as we did a lot of research on the effects of plastic around the world.

I also wondered about other single-use products that end up in the waste stream and in our waterways negatively affecting the future sustainability of our environment.

I enjoyed talking to people about my idea and will also continue to raise awareness on this issue by talking to other students and my family...