INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Shared Conversations in Ranui

Tags; networking, sustainability, peer support

This is a great PTS example of a peer support group and workshop approach established through Sustainable Ranui (the PTS Sustainable Living Sustainable Households demonstration project in Ranui). Thanks to Sue Berman for this snapshot.

Detail

As part of the household engagement component of the programme, Sue and her team developed relationships with a number of community leaders and groups and invited local households to come together in groups to consider and discuss a range of sustainability topics, and then make commitments in terms of personal actions they would take.

The workshops ran as facilitated shared conversations. They started by brainstorming on the four areas of household sustainability (energy, water, waste and transport) and discussing practical actions that households could take to reduce their environmental impact (eg worm farming, composting, installing water tanks etc).

Participants were encouraged to write down a take home copy of ideas that they would like to "set as goals" for their households. Areas of common interest and questions for follow up were also addressed.

Participants were then able to sign up for an EcoMatters home check.

Things that seem to have worked:
Being very flexible based on the needs and dynamic of the group - some groups were conducted in Samoan, some emphasised the Papatuanuku model strongly, there were differences in approach between groups where everyone knew each other well, and groups of new immigrants, etc
Sharing food during the workshop
Looking for common understanding and overlapping areas of interest between participants
Involving neighbours and people who live nearby, who know each other and are likely to have ongoing contact with each other
Making sure the sessions were at a time and place that suited the participants, ie running the Toy Library group while the kids were playing and the adults were checking toys out of the library