



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Sustainability Street

Tags; networking, training, sustainability

Overview:

[Sustainability Street](#) is an Australian example of a long-term community-based education program where participants get together as local communities, learn about environmental sustainability and then do what they can to encourage, assist or 'teach' other individuals or other communities to become more environmentally conscious. It is a great example of transformational learning through a long-term peer support network approach. It was originally created by [Vox Bandicoot](#), who also created the [Business Streams](#) approach.

They describe themselves as "A not for profit organisation dedicated to community strengthening through ecological protection"

Local community groups undertake a basic training program in sustainable living which is documented in the Sustainability Street Manual. The 6-month training period is based around 4 stages called mulch (learn), sow (plan), grow (do) and harvest (teach). The course also teaches Deep Sustainability and Dynamic Capacity Building, which revolve around a values based, visceral and potentially life transforming model of relationships with the earth and with each other.

As they progress through the stages, participants are encouraged to think about sustainability issues, how they can work together as a group to reduce their environmental impact, and how they can influence others to do the same.

Participants in the program often report three outcomes:

Around 30% reduction in waste, water and energy consumption

A degree of excitement and pride about working with friends and neighbours on locally devised and driven sustainability projects (eg community gardens, water tanks in schools projects etc) - that would not have come about without the program and peer support

A deep satisfaction at having made new connections and friendships with others in the community

Streeters also have regular hub meetings every other month and topics include water, waste and energy reduction.

Why is it relevant to PTS?

Involves community members networking and supporting each other to achieve tangible environmental outcomes

Is a good example of a long-term peer support network programme

Ideas and tips for PTS:



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Could be a good model to explore further and consider adopting in Auckland
As part of the evaluation process, each household's energy and water use history is tracked through the relevant utility

Contact and further information:

See the [Sustainability Street](#) website for more information

Also see the [EcoTeam](#) case study for a similar long-term peer support network model