



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Connecting the Gutter to the Stream to the Sea

Tags; stormwater, mapping, installation

This is a lovely PTS example of using creative visual prompts to engage people and to help them think systemically and make connections between house, stream and sea.

Detail

During a Green Streets event, community coordinator for Waikumete Stream (Teremoana Jones) created a connective trail of flags and signs which led people from their homes to the stream while educating them along the way.

She found the nearest household gutter grate and put up a big flag to indicate where it was. Next to it she made a sign that said "Everything [she wrote in all the items you could see ie soap, paints, cigarette butts] that goes down this drain ends up in our stream [she also inserted the little known name of the stream]"

She then connected this grate along the road with flags indicating other signs which pointed out refuse and pollutants that could be easily be seen. Finally the flags ended at the stream side. At this point a big handmade sign again reminded people of the stream name. Next to it a Keep Waitakere Beautiful Trust van inspired people with examples of stream critters actually living in their water.

This was an innovative way of not only engaging local people, but also connecting them through a surprising and connective visual installation.