

Seeking local sustainability champions for a future ready Auckland

Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) has developed two new business programmes to educate and upskill local small and medium sized enterprises about practical ways to be more environmentally sustainable.

Better Business Challenge

The *Better Business Challenge* is a friendly competition to help local businesses reduce waste, measure environmental impacts and tell their sustainability story to build reputation.

The challenge aims to create a network of businesses that care about both(?) the bottom line and community impact. It is designed to be flexible, so that small and medium sized businesses can participate as time allows.

Businesses challenge existing sustainability practises using scorecards to evaluate energy, waste and community-based activities, and implement sustainable actions to gain points and win challenge awards.

Local business owners looking for ways to make smart and simple investments to make their brand more sustainable, while building a sense of community, are invited to join the *Better Business Challenge*.

Business Sustainability Kick Start

The *Business Sustainability Kick Start* programme offers personalised coaching and in-depth advice to businesses looking to establish a practical sustainability action plan that can be confidently implemented over time.

The programme specifically addresses issues related to energy, carbon, water and waste – with areas of action including sustainable procurement, pollution prevention, waste minimisation, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, logistics and carbon emissions.

In 2018, ATEED initiated the *Business Sustainability Kick Start* pilot in the Albert-Eden Local Board area with support of the local board – 10 businesses participated. In 2019, the programme ran for its second year in the Albert-Eden Local Board area and for the first time in Waitemata Local Board area. Both local boards provided funding for the programme and 10 businesses to participate in each area.

Results from the 2018 Albert-Eden pilot included Kings Plant Barn reducing waste to landfill by 27 per cent and taking 150,000 plastic bags out of circulation; Hamish Stewart Catering diverting 77 per cent of waste from landfill, putting a plan in place to transition to a fully electric vehicle fleet by 2021 and a circular food production model; and Rocky's Restaurant decreasing its use of plastic straws and disposable coffee cups and increasing its use of locally grown vegetables and herbs.



Kings Plant Barn – St Lukes

Kings Plant Barn, St Lukes made a 27 per cent reduction in waste to landfill and took 150,000 plastic bags out of circulation.

Where to, what's next

ATEED is working to ensure Auckland businesses and people are future ready, which includes transitioning the region towards a more sustainable economy.

Local business owners interested in improving their organisation's environmental practises, connecting with businesses on the same path, or joining the *Business Sustainability Kickstart* and *Better Business* programmes can contact Luo.Lei@aucklandnz.com, Local Economic Advisor at ATEED to join ATEED on its journey to a future ready Auckland.

ATEED is also working in partnership with local company Circularity to offer XLabs, Auckland's first circular economy lab — a series of five one-day workshops and two events in February and March 2020 — that teaches businesses how to use circular economy principles to solve business challenges.

Find out more about the circular economy, the circular opportunity for Auckland and XLabs at <https://www.aucklandnz.com/circular-economy>.