



FAQs – For Programme Leaders

What is Good Caps?

Good Caps is a trial programme designed to divert plastic and metal lids from landfill. Because lids are often small, they are not able to be recovered during the recycling and recovery process, so they end up going to landfill. It is estimated that up to 5000 tonnes of recyclable material is ending up in landfills throughout NZ each year.

Where do the collected caps end up?

For the pilot programme, we will be sending plastic caps to Aotearoa NZ Made in Palmerston North. This material is reprocessed to make new products like recycling bins (e.g. Method Bins) and plant pots. The metal caps are going to Hayes Metal in Auckland and they have an offshore buyer for this material who will use it to create new products, such as car parts.

Everything we collect will be made into something new!

How will this programme benefit our students?

The programme is designed to illustrate to students the importance of separating waste streams (as this makes the recycled materials more valuable), material recovery and using creative solutions to divert materials from landfill. By participating, they are actively engaging in sustainability and circular economy activity, which are critical skills for our future generations to understand.

These are our future innovators, consumers and thinkers! By empowering them at an early age to understand the concepts of sustainability and circular economy, they may go on to become sustainability leaders in their community.

Will my school receive anything for participating?

Yes, absolutely. As a “thank you”, Good Caps is providing your school with a donation. In addition, we are delighted to have engaged the team at Nanogirl Labs, led by Dr Michelle Dickinson to provide each participating school with a Nanogirl teacher Professional Learning Development session (valued at \$1265). This 1-hour session will be led by a Nanogirl Science Communicator and is designed to give your teachers practical enquiry-led experiments aligned to the NZ Education Curriculum that use common plastic and metal items found in homes and schools.

Do students need to wash the caps?

Yes please! This is a really important step, so please ensure students take the time to wash and dry the lids and caps before placing them in the collection bags. Contaminated or damp caps will cause mildew and odour issues in the collection bins.

Why is this programme not available at all schools?

You are participating in a special trial which is limited to schools in your area who have chosen to participate based on logistics efficiency. If this trial is successful and a lot of caps are collected, more schools will be added to the programme. If you have a school outside of your region that is interested, they can contact us at info@goodcaps.org.nz.

What will we receive in our collection kit?

Each participating school will receive flat packed, pre-labelled cartons with liner bags for each material stream (one for plastic and one for metal). Your enrolment levels will dictate how many boxes are sent initially. There will be collection bags included for all participating students – enough for each student to have one set of bags to take home, with additional bags available for lost or damaged bags. The kit will include instructions on collection which will be done by volunteers of the Hawkes Bay Lions Clubs.

How do we collect and store the lids and caps collected by students?

Students will bring their two collection bags to school when they are full (or on a designated day). It is suggested each classroom appoint a pair of Good Caps monitors for the day/week with each monitor assigned a material stream (Metal or Plastic). The student will take the collected bags and tip them into the corresponding collection bins held by the school.

Minimising the risk of cross contamination of the two material streams is vital to the success of this trial. Hence the suggestion of assigning one material stream per monitor.

Can students use their own bag/container to collect caps?

For this trial, we would like students to use the colour-coded bags provided so we can test to see if they are suitable for use long term if the programme proves successful. We need to assess that the bags supplied are suitable to re-use without becoming damaged. The clear bags will also help us in reducing the risk of cross contamination.

What do we do with the collection bags after the trial finishes?

After the trial, it is suggested you encourage students to find ways to re-purpose their bags. It might be useful for wet togs, taking drawings home from school, a book bag or for storing toys or craft supplies in etc... Encourage them to get creative! Alternatively, they can place the bags into a Soft Plastics recycling bin at your local supermarket or The Warehouse for recycling. Please do NOT place the collection bags in household kerbside recycling bins.

Is there a prize for the school or individual who collects the most caps?

Yes! The top three schools who collect the most caps per number of enrolled students will receive a Nanogirl Live Show (valued at \$1265).

There is also a prize pool of New World vouchers that your school will be given, as well as pre-loved, refurbished Method Bins that have been made from recycled plastic.

Who are the partners involved in the Good Caps programme?

Good Caps has a number of partners who have given of their time and/or financial support. The partners range from industry associations and not-for-profits, brands, manufacturers, retailers, transport and waste management.

What metal lids can be placed into the bags?

Crown caps (e.g bottle caps), jar lids, ring pull caps, wire from sparkling beverages, metal screw top lids.

Can we include metal pull tabs from cans in the metal collection bag?

We would prefer that metal pull tabs are NOT included as these items are already attached to aluminium cans and are successfully recovered through New Zealand's recycling efforts.

Can we include lids from plastic storage containers?

Yes, you can – just ensure they are clean and dry.

What are some examples of plastic lids students can collect?

Plastic hinge caps, screw cap lids, plastic milk bottle lids, drink bottle caps, plastic ice-cream container lids, plastic yoghurt, and dip pottle lids (not peel off film), supplement bottle lids.

Who can I contact if I have a question about the Good Caps programme?

Visit our website www.goodcaps.org.nz or email us at info@goodcaps.org.nz

How will the cartons be collected?

Collection of the lids and caps will be done by volunteers from the Hawkes Bay Lions Clubs. The volunteers will come to the school office 1-2 times per week to collect the caps. They will take them to Waste Management in Napier where they will be stored until they are shipped to the different metal and plastic reprocessors.