



FAQs – For Students and Whānau

What is Good Caps?

Good Caps is a trial programme designed to divert plastic and metal lids from landfill. Because lids and caps are small, they are not able to be recovered during recycling, so they end up going to landfill. It is really important that we try to avoid things ending up there, so we have designed a programme to see how many lids and caps we can collect and save from ending up in landfill.

Where do the collected caps end up?

For the pilot programme we will be sending plastic caps to Aotearoa NZ Made in Palmerston North. Method Bins will be using your collected caps to manufacture special rubbish and recycling bins which we think is pretty cool!

The metal caps are going to Hayes Metals 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!

Do I need to wash my caps?

Yes please! This is a really important step, so please take the time to wash and dry your caps before placing them in your collection bag. It may be a good idea to leave them drying in the sun while you're at school.

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. If this trial is successful and a lot of lids and caps are collected, more schools will be added to the programme.

Where do I take my collection bags once they are full?

Just take your filled bag with you to school and place in the designated collection bin in your classroom. Your caps will be tipped into the large collection boxes, and you will have your bag returned to you ready to be filled again!

Is it OK to take my bag to school even if it is not full?

Yes! If you don't fill your bag during the trial, that is OK! You've still diverted caps from landfill which is so great for our environment. Take whatever lids and caps you have collected, and they will be added to the collection bin at school.

Can I use my own bag to collect caps?

For this trial, we would like you to use the bags provided so we can assess their suitability for future use if the programme is successful. By using a clear bag, we can easily see that the caps and lids are correctly sorted and clean before they are tipped into the bigger collection bins.

The zip lock will also make sure they don't spill in your school bag when you're taking them to school. You will have two bags, one for metal and one for plastic. It is really important that the plastic and metal lids are not mixed in together.

What if I lose my collection bag?

Notify your teacher. There will be spare bags available for you.

What do I do with my collection bag after the trial finishes?

After the trial, perhaps you can think of other ways you could use this bag in your house. It might be useful for your wet togs, taking drawings home from school, a book bag or you could store some of your Lego or craft supplies in it? Get creative! Alternatively, you can place your bag into a Soft Plastics recycling bin for recycling when you no longer have use for it (not your kerbside bin).

What metal lids can I put into my bag?

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

Can I include metal tabs from cans in my metal collection bag?

No, metal tabs are attached to aluminium cans which are already captured and recycled through kerbside recycling programmes, so we don't need to include these.

Can I include lids from plastic storage containers?

Yes you can! As long as they are clean and dry.

What are some examples of plastic lids we 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), vitamin bottle lids.

What will happen to the collected caps?

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 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.

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

Yes, there are prizes available to be won, as well as a donation for your school for participating in the programme. There is the opportunity to win a live show with Nanogirl Labs for you and your fellow students, as well as some pre-loved, refurbished Method Bins (made using recycled plastic). Every participating school will also receive a Nanogirl education session, where your teachers will learn a lot of exciting science activities to share with you to teach you about the recyclability of caps and ensuring these materials aren't wasted!

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

*If you have any questions, go to your school's Good Caps co-ordinator, speak with your teacher or you can **visit: www.goodcaps.org.nz***