# How Can the MHC Recycling System be Improved?

Mt Hutt College

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## **Paper Waste**

In 8CU we are looking at paper waste for our Term 1 Waste Not-Want Not Social Studies topic. Our group got the task of researching and finding out ways that the paper recycling system can be improved at our school. To do this we first had to get some information...

#### The Email

To get the information we needed we sent an Email to Mrs. A. McLean our Property Manager asking these questions:

- How often are the large paper bins emptied?
- Where does it go?
- Is there ever any non-paper things in the bins?
- Is cardboard and paper separated?
- How many classrooms have paper recycling bins?

#### The Answers

- How often are the large paper bins emptied? When they are full, the larger paper bins in the administration block are sometimes emptied every 1-2 weeks.
- Where does it go? We have a council owned recycling skip at school. The paper goes in there. We call up Envirowaste when it needs emptying and they empty it for us.
- Is there ever any non-paper things in the bins? Yes, sometimes there are non paper items in the bins.
- Is cardboard and paper separated? Yes, cardboard is put into the large wire container around the back of the school by the rubbish skips. It is flattened and then put in the recycling. The new council bins don't require the paper and cardboard to be separated. We separate it initially to ensure it is all flattened.
- How many classrooms have paper recycling bins? Most classrooms have paper recycling of some sort, whether it is a bin or just a cardboard box. The cleaners do not empty these, the staff and students are responsible for the recycling.

#### What We Did With It.

After we looked over the answers we found two things we could change: First of all we found out that sometimes non-paper objects end up in the paper bins. Second is that not all classrooms have a proper grey paper recycling bin, some just have a cardboard box.

## The Survey

After we got this information we decided to go around all of the classrooms and see if they had paper recycling bins. We split into two groups and surveyed the whole school and got these results:

- M block: 1/6, need 5 paper recycling bins.
- G block: 1/3, need 2 more paper recycling bins.
- E block: 3/3, need no more paper recycling bins.
- C block: 6/8, need 2 more paper recycling bins.
- D block: 1/5, need 4 paper recycling bins.
- A block: 8/8, need no more paper recycling bins.
- B block: 4/4, need no more paper recycling bins.

#### Conclusion

After we had gotten these results we concluded that the school needs 13 more paper bins. We thought that it would be fine to start off with only having a simple cardboard box, but it would be good to eventually get proper paper recycling bins for the whole school. Also it would be a good to print out the RONZ symbol for paper recycling, so that people don't mistake the paper recycling bin for a rubbish bin.

# Thanks For Looking At Our Presentation!

Hope You Enjoyed It!