



## Megan, Zara and Alicia - School rubbish one-cup challenge

### What was your goal?

We were trying to reduce waste at our school and in our local area. We mainly wanted to try and get our whole school involved. So not only did we go to all the classes and do a big presentation, we gave every class a challenge, and the challenge was to have one cup as your rubbish bin for one day, and only fill that cup.

Only one class had a fully empty cup and bin because we had to go and check all the bins as well. So with our statistics we found out that 85% of rubbish that we're creating is landfill, 13% is recycling and 2% is organics, and the only organics thing that was in there was a single banana peel.

We did it for one day and we'd like to do it again to find out how much people improved. A big part of it was people being more aware of what goes in which bin.

We worked with our teacher and our Principal and a different teacher as well. We started by doing a presentation to every class to try and teach them more about it. We saw some pictures of some classes' lunch boxes afterwards and they were completely nude food!

### Your biggest success so far?

I started using a lunchbox!

Getting most of the classes' cups empty or almost empty, and definitely affecting the kids a lot more as well. I really enjoyed going around to the classes and talking to everyone.

### Next steps?

We want to try it again and to see if it's improving or if they've only done it for one day. The prize is very good – a jar of lollies and a compost bin for the class. But only two classes know what the prize is.

### Your advice to other students?

Definitely making people aware of it before anything else, everything that's going to happen, and give them an idea of what shouldn't be in the bins because if they don't know it they're just going to mess everything up and put the wrong things in there. Do your research!

*This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Megan and Zara's words and opinions.*