

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING

WHAT CAN YOU PUT IN THIS BIN?

CLEAN CLING WRAP

Please make sure your cling wrap is free of crumbs and food before placing it in this bin.



CHOCOLATE / CHIP WRAPPERS

This includes individually wrapped chocolates and larger bags as well!



PLASTIC SLEEVES

It doesn't matter if these plastic sleeves are torn or not.



Sharli 2021 - New environment team tackles soft plastics

Goal for the year

Sharli decided to start an environmental group within her school because they didn't have one. A few weeks after the YEC camp (May), she talked to one of her trusted teachers who helped her with starting meetings. They have now met once a week for the year. After the first meeting, the group decided one of the main issues in the school was waste, and they wanted to start soft plastic recycling. The group organised a school clean up and got about 30 other students to use their own time to clean up around the school. Those who filled up their bags with the most rubbish won house points, which encouraged more people to join in.

Biggest achievements

Later down the track, the group decided to create soft plastic bins and came across the issue that the school wouldn't fund their purchase. So the resourceful team decided to make their own, and asked people to bring in cardboard boxes and made their own labels to show people what they could and couldn't put in them. They are aiming to implement this system at the start of next year. Sharli really enjoyed helping her school and finding more people within her own school that have a passion. She said finding solutions to issues made her feel like she'd made a change.

Challenges

The first challenge was finding members, as not a lot of people in Sharli's school were passionate about the environment, or just don't want to use their own time to come to the meetings at lunch. Over time the group attracted more and more people, because the members started bringing their friends along. The second issue was the struggle to keep the meetings going when there were lockdowns or other issues. This was resolved by having catch-up meetings, although this wasn't always possible. The last issue was setting reasonable goals. The dedicated group had visions of a perfect environmentally-friendly school, but a lot of these were unrealistic as they cost money the school didn't have, and they weren't able to hold fundraisers. Instead, they had to put all their brains together to overcome these issues.

Advice

Sharli says make sure that you put up posters around your school to say you're starting a group, and promote some of the problems that you've noticed in the school so students know that there are already things they can help with.