



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Resource Centers

Tags; educational centres, sustainability

Resource centres are set up as a hub, either online, or in a physical location, to house all manner of information, displays and resources.

Fixed Locations

Fixed location centres often demonstrate sustainability principles through things like organic gardens, energy efficient heating, composting and worm farms etc, as well as offer information on a range of other sustainability principles and environmental issues.

As a great example, the EcoMatters Environment Trust's [Sustainable Living Centre](#) in Waitakere offers information on everything from hot water and energy efficiency to green building and renovating. It has an organic garden showcasing permaculture principles, an in-house eco design advisor as well as a series of practical workshops in sustainable living.

The [CERES educational centre](#) in Melbourne is another fantastic example of a physical resource centre that both demonstrates sustainable practices and provides a community environmental education role, engaging 470,000 people per year. It has a range of activities and models available as a resource kit and people can be trained on how to use them and then pick them up as appropriate. CERES acts as a physical centre for education and research and a hub for a range of educational activities to start from.

The [Kaipatiki Project](#) has a project centre that offers free advice and resources to raise community awareness of ecology and environmental sustainability.

Earth Literacy Centres are a network of community health clinics focussed on the earth. They offer a number of models of different types of centres that meet different needs. See <http://www.narrowridge.org/elcenter.html>

Temporary and Mobile Locations

Another take on the resource centre model is to make it mobile, and take the resources directly to the community.

The [Environmental Health Clinic](#) is an innovative project in NYC, designed by artist Natalie Jeremijenko. It uses a traditional medical health clinic as a model to educate and empower people to take practical environmental action. A visitor to the clinic, located in a number of different temporary 'installations' makes an appointment to talk about his or her specific environmental health concerns. After the consultation they walk out with a prescription, not for pharmaceuticals but for actions.



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[FutureFarmers](#) have created a mobile energy smart tent as a site for discussions and teaching about energy use and sustainability that could be adopted to suit PTS events and activities

More traditional mobile resources include trucks such as that used by the [EcoMatters Environment Trust](#). This can be used as a mobile workshop at events or planting days, so that while half the kids/participants are planting, the other half are taken through the interactive things on the truck – e.g. they can engage with eels, look at invertebrates, watch the Stream Talk DVD, use the games etc.

Another example of this is provided by the [Lincoln Envirotown Trust](#) which has a mobile caravan to take to community gatherings, events, schools and businesses.

IDEA INCUBATOR

one of the contributors to this research forward the idea of mobile visuals and sounds, scientific experiments, water collection devices and other research and measuring devices that could be put on environmentally friendly vehicles and taken to the community. These vehicles could even be hired out to different groups and organisations as a way to recoup their purchase and running costs. (We would note that the cost involved and diverse nature of different audiences make this a large scale project perhaps best undertaken after further research.)

another contributor suggested converting one of the flood-plain properties purchased by PTS into a resource centre to house information and act as a local hub. Again, this would be a large expense.

creating temporary 'clinics' and resource points at planting days and community events with experts assisting with diagnosis and prescriptions may be a fun way to give practical support - at a much lower cost.