

# Whare Karakia Para Kore

Working With Your Church Towards Zero Waste



The Zero Waste Programme for Churches is also known as Whare Karakia Para Kore in te reo Māori and are both used in this document. The words 'churches' and 'whare karakia' are used interchangeably throughout the document.



**ECO CHURCH NZ**  
AN A ROCHA AOTEAROA NZ PROJECT

# He aha te Para Kore?

## What is Para Kore?

Para Kore means Zero Waste.

Para Kore is a Māori zero waste organisation with a kaupapa based on whakapapa to Papatūānuku and expressed through an experienced and skilled team who are passionate about, and committed to, achieving a zero waste Aotearoa.

The purpose of Para Kore is to educate and advocate from a Māori worldview for a world without waste.

## Te Pae Tawhiti Our Vision

*Oranga Taiao, Oranga Marae, Oranga Whānau*

Para Kore's vision is for a thriving environment that nurtures our communities, marae and whānau, who in turn contribute to the collective wellbeing of Papatūānuku and Ranginui.

We promote protecting our whenua and natural resources, regenerating biodiversity, and contributing to the wellbeing of people and all living beings, both of this time and for generations yet to come. This way of living acknowledges our urgent collective responsibility to positively contribute back to Papatūānuku and Ranginui.

## Te Pae Tata Our Mission

Para Kore promotes closed-loop living practices and philosophies, from a Māori worldview, through an experienced and skilled team of kaiārahi who work regionally. The role of kaiārahi is to empower and support churches to design out waste and strengthen connections to taiao. Kaiārahi provide ongoing support and advice, and deliver education within a tikanga Māori framework.

Para Kore aims to go beyond the aim of reducing rubbish and recycling, to creating and supporting the design of systems which generate no waste in the first instance.



# Whare Karakia Para Kore

## How Does the Programme Work?

The Zero Waste Programme for Churches is an initiative of A Rocha's Eco Church NZ project in partnership with Para Kore. Churches are encouraged to [join the Eco Church NZ network](#). The Zero Waste Programme for Churches links Para Kore kaiārahi with zero waste champions in churches to set up reduce, reuse, recycling and composting systems. The Para Kore programme can be delivered both online using Zoom or via in-person visits.

### ■ ■ 1. Presentation to church representatives

The first step involves a short presentation to the church representatives either online with Zoom or in-person. This may be organised by A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand for a group of churches in an area as part of the introduction to Eco Church NZ or offered directly by Para Kore waste advisor / kaiārahi. The Para Kore kaiārahi will outline the Para Kore kaupapa and the components of the Para Kore programme for churches. Discussions may include some of the key waste issues facing churches. The church representatives have an opportunity to ask questions about the programme and the commitments required. The next step is signing the relationship agreement with Para Kore.



### ■ ■ 2. Signing of a Relationship Agreement

The church representatives may make the decision immediately or take time to decide whether or not to join the Para Kore programme for churches. If they decide to join then a relationship agreement (sometimes referred to as MoU) is signed with Para Kore. The next step is nominating zero waste champion(s) at the church.



### ■ ■ 3. Identifying Zero Waste Champion(s)

The church will nominate their zero waste champion(s). The champion(s) will work with the Para Kore kaiārahi and A Rocha staff members to:

- book future site visits
- collect data about the volumes of rubbish and recycling and
- ensure the Para Kore systems are running smoothly.





# Whare Karakia Para Kore

## Programme Outline

### ■ ■ 4. Identifying the Current Situation

The kaiārahi will meet on-line, over the phone, or in person with the zero waste champion(s) to complete a *Getting Started* questionnaire. This conversation will focus on what is currently happening in terms of recycling and rubbish, so that we can find out how Para Kore can best support your church.



### ■ ■ 5. Equipment Set-up and Tracking Your Progress

If your church is located in areas where Para Kore or A Rocha has funding, Para Kore is able to provide recycling equipment at no cost to your church. In some areas recycling equipment will need to be purchased or we can direct you to local suppliers. Labelled crates, wheelie bins and signage are dropped off and set-up as required. Compost bins can be made or brought in. The Para Kore kaiārahi and zero waste champion(s) may review where the bins are kept and discuss any issues and options.



Education is given to those present about what's recyclable and what's not, how to use the bins, how to wash and squash cans and plastics, how to flatten cardboard and how to separate glass into colours if this is required. If the church is going to compost dirty paper, education will be given about what dirty paper can be composted.

The kaiārahi will also sit down with the zero waste champion(s) to discuss how information regarding the amounts of recycling and rubbish can be communicated to the kaiārahi. This information tracks their progress towards zero waste. The kaiārahi will explain how to fill out the tracker on paper or online. The zero waste champion(s) may enter the information themselves online or email or phone the information about the volumes of recycling and rubbish to the kaiārahi.

# Whare Karakia Para Kore

## Programme Outline

### ■ ■ 6. Waste Checks & Workshops

A waste check involves tipping the church's rubbish out onto a tarpaulin and sorting it into 17 different categories, i.e. plastic, metal, glass, food, etc. What's recyclable, what's compostable and what actually should be sent to landfill is discussed. Estimates are made of the percentages of recyclables, compostable and landfill, so the zero waste champion(s) and the church whānau can see and discuss how much could have been diverted from landfill. A year after Para Kore systems have been set up another waste check is undertaken to measure progress.

A time is arranged for online or in-person delivery of at least three wānanga or workshops. The workshops available include: natural resources whakapapa; te hīkoi of stuff; burning and burying; what's recyclable and what's not; composting; worm farming and other educational needs as requested. Education visits by a Para Kore advisor are done within the first six months until the new waste minimisation systems become the normal way of operating.

### ■ ■ 7. Annual Questionnaire and Ongoing Support

On an annual basis, the Para Kore waste advisor / kaiārahi will sit down with the zero waste champion(s) to review progress of the church towards reducing waste as well as to evaluate the Para Kore programme. This evaluation will provide information about where to next for the church in terms of further reducing waste as well as to ensure Para Kore is continually improving its programme and delivery.

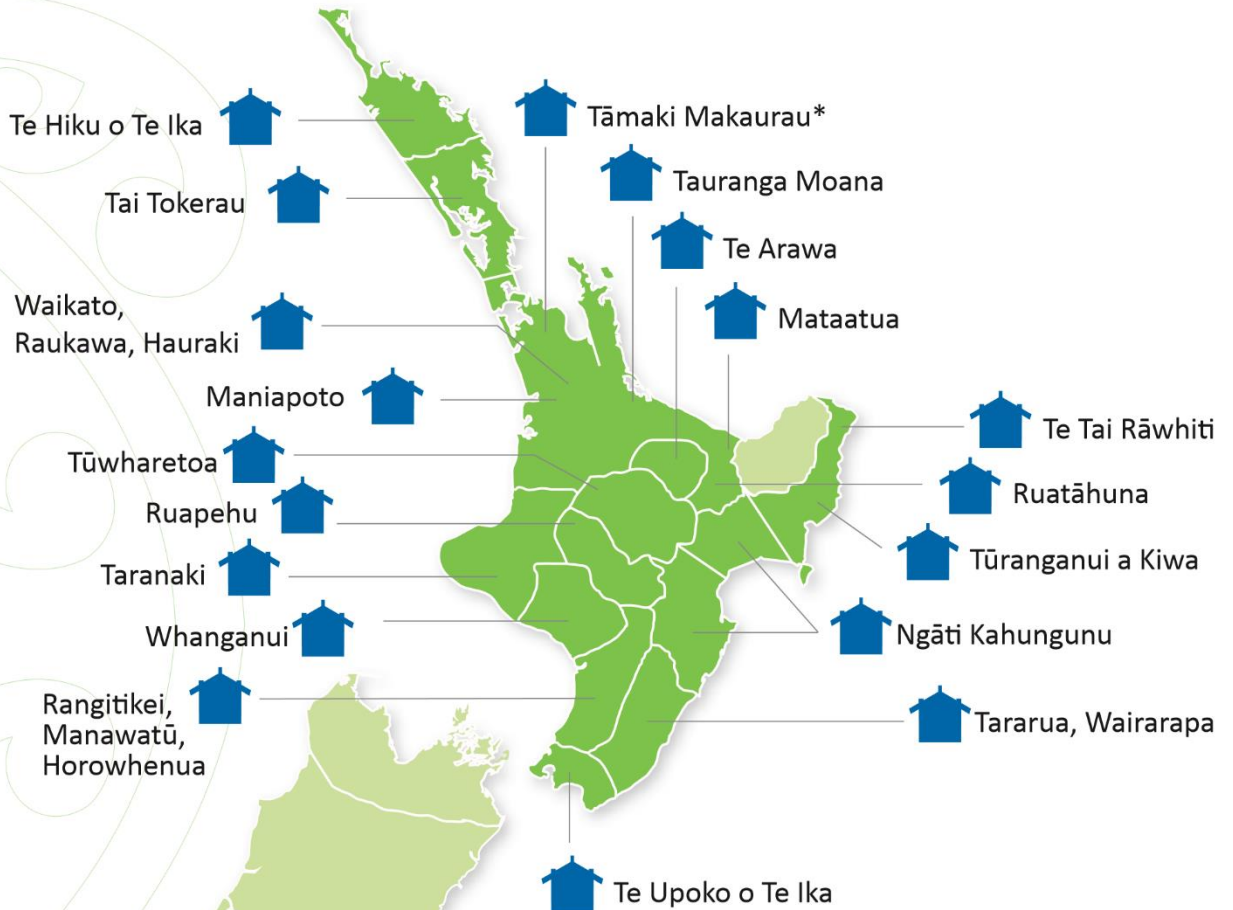
Waste checks can also be undertaken annually to assess the progress of the waste minimisation systems at the church. From the information gathered, further improvements to the Para Kore systems, and more education can be provided as required.



# Working Together

## He Waka Eke Noa

The programme has been running since 2009 and is currently operating in the following rohe:



**REGIONAL AREAS**

- Kaiārahi Available
- No Kaiārahi Yet

\*Para Kore ki Tāmaki is managed by a separate entity

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Working Towards Zero Waste



Reduce



Reuse



Recycle



Compost

### ■ ■ Does Para Kore provide rubbish and recycling collections?

Unfortunately no, Para Kore does not provide recycling or rubbish collections. Nor do we pay for the disposal of your waste or recycling. Rather we provide a free education and mentoring programme to help your church set up waste reduction systems, such as reuse, recycling and composting systems which will reduce disposal costs.

### ■ ■ Is there a cost?

The Para Kore programme is free in most of the North Island where Para Kore is currently working and have a kaiārahi (see map on p5) and in locations where A Rocha is able to secure funding for the programme. In these areas, the programme provides recycling equipment at no cost to your church. In areas where Para Kore does not currently work, recycling equipment can be purchased from Para Kore or we can direct you to local suppliers.

### ■ ■ What does Para Kore provide?

Para Kore can provide a range of equipment such as signage, crates, wheelie bins, paper trays and compost bins for the reduction of waste. We also provide workshops and ongoing waste minimisation support for the zero waste champions and the church whānau.

### ■ ■ What must our church commit to?

Your church must commit to all the stages of the programme: a presentation, signing a relationship agreement, nominating a zero waste champion, undertaking workshops and waste checks and providing data about your rubbish and recycling to your kaiārahi.

### ■ ■ What makes the Para Kore programme successful?

The programme is successful when there is desire and commitment from the church whānau to implement all the stages of the Para Kore programme.

### ■ ■ What feedback does Para Kore get from participants?

Feedback about the Para Kore programme is overwhelmingly positive.

*"It was great to learn about soft plastic recycling and dirty paper composting."*

*"That whakapapa workshop you did with our staff changed it for us, it helped us to see things in a whole new way, it changed our perspective on our relationship with water and land."*

*"The difference at school is amazing, the lack of litter and the cleanliness of our school environment inside and outside."*

*"The waste check helped us understand what we can compost and how much in our waste stream doesn't need to be sent to landfill."*



