



Marlborough Airport wins top sustainability award

Marlborough Airport has, alongside Wellington Airport, won the Sustainability Initiative of the Year award for their joint bid to host New Zealand's first all-electric aircraft with Air New Zealand.

The win came at the annual NZ Airports Hui in Hamilton, a conference recognising excellence in achievements for airports and supporting industries.

The Blenheim-Wellington trial route is the first major step in lowering emissions for domestic aviation to help meet New Zealand's international targets.

"Decarbonising domestic aviation is going to take everyone working together," Dean Heiford, Chief Executive of Marlborough Airport said. "We look forward to the learnings and opportunities for this trial route and have already started to share this knowledge with other airports."

Wellington Airport will be the home base of Air New Zealand's first next-generation aircraft, BETA's ALIA CTOL, while Marlborough Airport will also establish charging infrastructure to power the aircraft for the return journey.

From 2026, this route will initially operate as a cargo-only service between the North and South Islands for New Zealand Post.

At the conference Operations and Safety Manager Steve Holtum took part in a panel discussion about preparations underway to host the aircraft in Marlborough.



Marlborough's Steve Holtum and Wellington Airport's Sustainability Manager Georgina Blane accepted the joint sustainability award at the Hobbiton-themed NZ Airports Hui in Hamilton.

Turning trash into treasure

Marlborough's Re-use Shop is a treasure trove of previously loved goods saved from going to the landfill.



Nic Fairbrother and Jabian Takarua from JBL Environmental admiring the well-stocked shelves at the Re-use Shop

Eagle-eyed staff who are passionate about the environment make sure any usable items are given a new lease of life and any groups looking for items are welcome to put their hands up.

Take Outward Bound - the non-profit organisation goes through lots of crockery so take any white plates, bowls and cups that are free of chips and cracks.

Blenheim School was recently refurbishing their cooking unit so kitchen utensils were put aside for them. Chloe Abernethy from JBL Environmental Ltd which runs the Re-use Shop is excited about future plans for the shop and working with people, groups and businesses to continue to reduce what goes to landfill.

"There are lots of different ways these materials can be used and there is so much of it - we love seeing the benefit it brings to people," she said.

JBL works closely with local businesses on projects including the Pallet Recovery

Scheme, which has diverted more than 200 tonnes of pallets going to landfill by offering them to the community for projects.

Another popular project is the repurposing of coco peat from a local tomato farm, which is given away as garden mulch, keeping around 180 cubic metres of waste from the landfill every year.

In coordination with Council, JBL also carry out the Unwanted Goods Project, which collects surplus household goods and furniture and delivers it to people in need throughout Marlborough and through organisations such as Kainga Ora, WINZ and migrant groups.

"It really is easy to keep stuff out of the landfill and we are blessed with amazing staff who support other organisations as we all work together," she said.

Chloe says they are currently setting up bins to make sorting reusable goods easier and developing their yard into a more user-friendly place.

Seymour Square annuals giveaway

Twice each year, Council gardeners plant thousands of annuals in the flower beds of Seymour Square.

With summer nearly here, it's time for them to be removed and beds prepared for replanting.

Next week, the poppies, wallflowers, forget-me-nots, violas and calendulas will be given away to those who need some colour in their garden.

Come along on Monday 2 December from 8am to 10am with your own fork and containers.

In the event of rain, the event will be postponed to the following day, Tuesday 3 December. Council gardeners will be on site to help.



Marlborough

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