



Spotlight on Queenstown Golf Club

Queenstown Golf Club custom built a composting system as part of their Organic Waste Composting initiative.

It's time for another recipient of our Waste Minimisation Community Fund to shine! Here Matthew Judd, General Manager of Queenstown Golf Club, shares how their Organic Waste Composting initiative came about and their drive to support other clubs in reducing their organic waste.

Tell us what sparked the idea to implement a system to reduce organic waste and how the waste minimisation grant from QLDC helped kick-start the project?

Having lived onsite at the club for three years it was painful to see the amount of food waste that ends up in the bin from our café kitchen, café users, and our onsite residence. Knowing how simple it is to compost food waste inspired the idea to set up composting at the club and reduce this material unnecessarily going to landfill. The grant helped us purchase the materials and build the compost system with support from Dr Compost, aka Ben Elms.

What parts do different staff members play to make the project tick?

Our greenkeeping team constructed the compost bins on site and they also provide the carbon material for the composting via leaves and woodchips. Our café staff separate the food waste from general waste and recycling and then take it to the compost bins. Everyone has been really engaged in the project, which is great!

We've heard you are keen to share your learnings with other golf associations, how is this going?

We are in the process of compiling a case study outlining how we built the compost bins and the composting process. This case study will be shared with all golf clubs domestically through New Zealand Golf.

What is in the works for the next stage of the project?

Our next stage is to start using some of our compost on the golf course. We are hoping to use more organic fertilisers on the course and compost tea will become part of this. We will also use the compost in gardens around the golf course and clubhouse.

What advice would you share with other local businesses keen to follow in your footsteps?

Give it a go! Composting is easy to set up and implement. Not only does it save waste going into the landfill it also saves money in reduced rubbish collection costs.

The project diverts 20 litres of organic materials per day from landfill which will equate to more than 7 tonnes for the year!