



Indigo Regen

The Cool Seat Project

Proposal

To set up composting seats containing worm farms in selected locations around the township.

Rationale

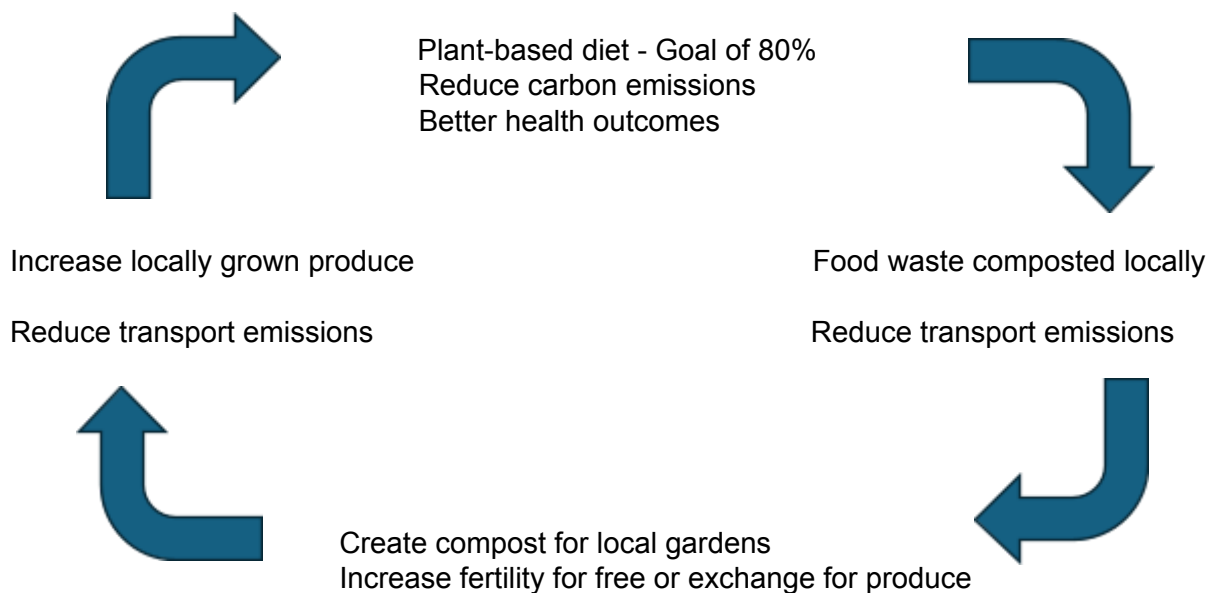
Food Waste and Green-house Gas Emissions

Waste decomposition in landfill generates **methane which is a greenhouse gas with 21 times the warming effect of carbon dioxide**. Transport and processing of recyclables also creates emissions. Intervening higher up the waste hierarchy not only reduces waste in landfill but also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. With these principles in mind, we aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by;

- reducing quantity of food waste going to landfill
- reducing transport costs of moving food waste from FOGO bins to Albury

An example of circular economy

Food waste remains in the community where it is generated, is converted to compost in worm farms, and compost is shared with community members, providing opportunities for community education and conversations about increasing quantity and quality of organic food grown locally, improving soil fertility, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Increase awareness of benefits of organic plant-based diet

Stage 1 – Connect with community

- Gather data on number of businesses without a FOGO bin
- Obtain support of Chamber of Commerce (Beechworth Inc.) in collaborating with local hospitality businesses
- Obtain support of Indigo Shire Council Environment Advisory Group
- Obtain support of Quercus Beechworth Neighbourhood House, Community Meals Group and Community Garden
- Obtain support of the Old Beechworth Gaol
- Hold a stall at Farmers' Market to start the community conversations, create interest and garner support
- Submit Expression of Interest to NED Foundation Project Coordinator
- Apply for grant funding through NED Foundation
- Apply for sponsorship from local businesses

Stage 2 – Trial the composting seat

- Purchase and set up a trial cool seat to compost food waste
- Agree on optimum location(s) for the trial
- Develop Cool Seat Maintenance Guidelines for volunteers
- Create a roster of volunteers to maintain the health of the worm farms
- Create How to Use Your Cool Seat Handbook for hospitality venues
- Run workshops on worm farms at Quercus
- Develop media strategy

Stage 3 – Roll out Cool Seat to other sites

- Review and update Volunteer Guidelines and How to Use Handbook
- Agree locations of two more Cool Seats
- Purchase more Cool Seats
- Gather data on quantity of food waste being composted
- Develop community partnerships
- Record the project in a short film

Mentorship and Funding the Project

NED Project Category:

Community (General) – projects or activities that address social participation or promote multiple group involvement and interaction around a general issue of community wellbeing.

Community partners:

Hospitality businesses Beechworth Inc. (Chamber of Commerce) Mens' Shed

Indigo Shire Council U3A Quercus Neighbourhood House Old Beechworth Gaol

U3A Local schools and students Local gardeners Visitors to the town

