



WAIHI BEACH TOP 10 HOLIDAY RESORT

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Ian Smith - Owner, Waihi Beach Top 10 Holiday Resort.

WHAT HAPPENS AT WAIHI TOP 10?

Every year, about 40,000 holiday makers flock to Waihi Beach Top 10 to stay in tents, motel units or campervans. The community-minded operators of this resort offer top-notch facilities on a five-acre property that extends from native bush down to the sea.

POSITIVE SPIN-OFFS

“To be honest, we began recycling way back in the mid-1990’s as a way to keep costs down, but it’s now deeply ingrained in the way we operate here,” says resort owner Ian Smith.

“A lot of European guests expect to see very visible recycling and composting initiatives here, others are pleasantly surprised. And everyone loves feeding their food scraps to the eels.”

He says being socially responsible continues to make sound financial sense.

“If we stopped recycling tomorrow, our waste bill would immediately jump by close to 90 percent. If we stopped composting and feeding the eels, that figure would be much, much higher.”

“Right now, with the systems we have in place, it costs us almost nothing to deal with food waste from tens of thousands of people.”

He says staff constantly review and refine waste minimisation systems and take pride in finding new ways to reduce waste. The resort’s waste policies have other positive spin-offs for the business.



KEY BENEFITS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Through these initiatives Waihi Beach Top 10 Holiday Resort has:

- **Significant savings.** Recycling collection costs are almost half the cost of standard waste disposal
- **High customer satisfaction,** which relates directly to excellent online reviews
- **During peak season, up to a dozen 440L bins of recycling are emptied every week. Eight of these bins can be filled over a long weekend**
- **Qualmark Enviro Award - gold.** Awarded only to a business that “exceeds the highest levels of environmental and social responsibilities”
- **Reduced heavy traffic on site from 72 truck visits a season to just a few per month**
- **Worm farm produces more than 200litres of fertiliser that is used to regenerate camp sites**

WASTE REDUCTION INITIATIVES

- Eight recycling stations that allow guests to sort cans, glass, paper, cardboard
- Food buckets in kitchen blocks so guests can separate food waste
- A commercial sized worm farm on site
- Additional food waste goes to resident eels
- Tree planting programmes
- Installation of energy and water saving devices
- Construction of energy-efficient facilities and buildings
- Unwanted magazines and books reused in resort library

