



Kai Community Developer

Job Description

Background

The Kai Resilient Neighbourhoods initiative is a collaboration between local partners to engage and support communities in localising food systems. The initiative focuses on empowerment, locally led solutions, cross-community learning, and building a more resilient, equitable, and nourishing food system for the people of West Auckland. To achieve this Kai West partners are working together to grow local capacity for local food initiatives to thrive and connecting and strengthening communities across the West Auckland area.

Purpose of the Role

The Kai Community Developer will help the Kai West Collective to fulfil their shared purpose by supporting activating the ideas emerging from the Kai Conversation events, promoting locally-driven kai projects and connecting emerging kai leaders and key partners forming a network of action where they can share ideas, experiences and discuss strengths, barriers and opportunities for local food access, growing and distribution.

Networks of action are a key workstream of Kai West and provide the foundation for our model to localise kai systems, build community resilience and activate collective solutions that strengthen our local economy, improve access to fresh kai, and empower communities to shape the future of food in West Auckland.

Key Outcomes:

To develop a well connected Kai Resilience community of action that will be resourced to work towards activating multiple local food initiatives where the community can come together to connect, access, celebrate, share and grow kai.

Local food projects are more visible and accessible and can build capacity to devolve resources.

Increased community engagement, connection and empowerment in shaping their local food system.

Key Tasks

- Engage with emerging leaders from all kai resilient neighborhoods to help continue momentum with actions
- Support developing action plans and next steps for the implementation of collaborative, place-based approaches to circular food systems
- Provide guidance and connection to resources and people within the kai ecosystem.
- Promote locally driven kai projects to increase visibility and community access (e.g., Facebook posts, stories, community updates).

- Support local kai leaders with implementation of ideas and concepts identified through the initial community kai conversations and continue mapping local kai-related assets and resources.
- Identify and connect community champions and organisations to help implement ideas from the local kai conversation events.
- Work collaboratively with key partners to support community engagement and development around kai initiatives.
- Whanaungatanga – develop and strengthen relationships and partnerships.
- Organise quarterly **Kai Resilience Neighbourhoods Network of Action** meetings and events, including:
 - Community outreach
 - Promotional materials
 - Social media updates
 - Photography and note-taking
 - Collating reports
 - Maintaining regular communication to sustain momentum
- Provide monthly updates on progress and activities and support with evaluation and monitoring of the **Kai Resilience Neighbourhoods** kaupapa.

Key Skills and Experience

- Has experience in community development and working alongside diverse communities in strengths-based, mana-enhancing ways.
- Demonstrates a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Mana Motuhake o te Kai, valuing Māori leadership, mātauranga Māori, and community-led approaches that strengthen local food sovereignty.
- Has a strong understanding of West Auckland communities, their aspirations, challenges, and unique local contexts.
- Understands or is eager to work within systems approaches, recognising how relationships, collaboration, and collective action create lasting change.
- Has knowledge of, or a passion for, local food systems, food resilience, food security, and community-led solutions.
- Is relational, well organised, self-motivated, and enjoys bringing people together to turn ideas into action.
- Believes that real change grows from the ground up through whanaungatanga, collaboration, and community leadership.
- Excellent organisational and coordination skills, and the ability to prepare clear and concise reports.
- Has an understanding of The Kai West Collective.
- **Candidates will also need to:**
 - Hold a current full New Zealand driver's licence and be willing to travel regularly throughout West Auckland as part of the role.
 - Be legally entitled to work in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Status and Hours

- Fixed term role 10 months.
- up to 20 hours per week.
- Based at Community Waitākere and at other West Auckland locations as advised.