

## **Cliff Colquhoun - Community Business and Environment Centre**

"There's no such thing as waste, it's just about finding another use for it,"

Cliff is the manager of the Community Business and Environment Centre in Northland. It is a community-owned company that was formed in 1989 to strengthen the local economy and create new business and employment opportunities in the Far North that are sustainable to the environment. It retains its profits within the community and creates career paths for the local people.

The business, which struggled in its early days, now pays \$1.5 million annually in wages and employs about 80 people. It runs and maintains the swimming pools in Kaitaia, Kerikeri and Kawakawa, has a nursery, provides labour hire, conservation corps and recently created an education and consultancy through its newly formed Eco Solutions.

The Centre, in a joint venture with Te Runanga o Te Rarawa called Clean Stream Northland, operates a three-year contract to run the recycling and refuse services that cover the 12 refuse transfer stations in the Far North. They also run a community bus service that runs on waste cooking oil from fish and chips shops.