

Waste-Free School Programs

Why do we want to participate in waste-free initiatives?

Adopting waste-free initiatives helps your school with litter prevention and minimising waste sent to landfill through the operational practices of 'refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle'. It's a fact that 80% of the plastic pollution in our oceans has come from land, much of which is a result of litter and mis-managed waste. Reducing our consumption of single-use disposable plastic is therefore a vital part of conserving our resources and protecting our environment.



Bottle for Botol

Bottle for Botol is a social enterprise that works with Australian and Indonesian schools to help prevent plastic waste entering our water streams, rivers and oceans. Their program aims to educate students on the importance of protecting our environment by leading a generational change away from single-use plastics. For every stainless-steel water bottle sold by their Australian partner schools, Bottle for Botol donate an identical re-usable bottle to a student in Indonesia, paired with a water station. Every bottle sold puts students through an educational program about the impacts of plastic on the environment.

Curriculum/lesson plans available [here](#).



Boomerang Bags

Boomerang Bags is a community driven initiative tackling plastic pollution at the grassroots level. Dedicated schools, community groups, businesses and volunteers get together to make re-useable 'Boomerang Bags' using recycled materials as a means to replace plastic bags. Through Boomerang Bags we start conversations, make friends, up-cycle materials and work towards shifting society's throw away mentality to a more sustainable revolution of re-use. Your school may wish to help sew bags, cut fabric, craft timber display boxes or host a sewing bee.



Plastic Pollution Solutions

PPS is a traveling social enterprise that provides highly engaging presentations, events and activities about the impact of plastic pollution on our environment. It is their aim to educate students about the problem and its causes and guide them in being part of the solution through their educational program and ongoing projects that focus on litter and single-use, plastic reduction. Specific activities include school presentations, guided clean ups, Family Trivia Nights and film screenings.

School Program Information available [here](#).



Take 3

Take 3 works with primary and secondary schools to raise awareness of plastic pollution and encourage simple actions to prevent it. Their approach is to provide students with a compelling reason to act before encouraging them to develop their own ideas to solve the problem locally. Students are encouraged to develop solutions that will: 1. Prevent litter in their school and community. 2. Reduce waste sent to landfill from school. 3. Share information to educate and inspire others.

For curriculum/lesson plans enquire with info@take3.org

Waste-Free School Initiatives



Green Canteen

It's simple – the school canteen does not sell food or drinks which come in disposable plastic. This means not selling water in plastic bottles or pies in plastic wrappers. A reusable and more sustainable alternative is available for everything and you will also find that your canteen will turn to healthier options.



Plastic Free July

Again, the challenge is quite simple. Attempt to refuse single-use plastic during July. "Single-use" includes plastic shopping bags, plastic cups, straws, plastic packaging ... basically anything that's intended only to be used once and then discarded. If refusing ALL single-use plastic sounds too daunting this time, try the TOP 4 challenge (plastic bags, bottles, takeaway coffee cups and straws). If you can't commit to a month, why not try a week or a day?

Register as a school or an individual [here](#).



Nude Food Day

Nude Food Day is a worldwide initiative developed to encourage kids and parents to eat well and live well, and eliminate all unnecessary packaging and wrapping that goes into schools. Essentially, kids bring their food – nude! This will reduce the amount of rubbish that goes into the bins, to landfill, or escapes the waste stream entirely and ends up as litter. This is an amazingly simple concept that really empowers the students to create change. Nude Food Day used to be held on a specific day, however as of 2016, it will run for the entire month of October.

Curriculum/lesson plans available [here](#).



Plastic Police

Plastic Police® Partnerships is a social enterprise initiative and shared value program to develop more sustainable communities. Soft plastics currently have very low rates of recycling and are a significant contributor to landfill volumes and environmental pollution throughout our communities. The program provides each school with the necessary tools, support and equipment to engage the school community to recycle clean, soft plastic currently not able to be recycled through traditional kerbside recycling. Your plastic waste can be turned into furniture and equipment that can go back to your school. If you can scrunch it you can save it through Plastic Police® Partnerships.

Waste-Free School Initiatives



Plastic Patrol

Plastic Patrol aims to motivate students to reduce litter and plastic packaging in their school. It involves both project-based learning and enquiry-based learning. One class will take the lead, plan the project and present it to the entire school. Plastic Patrol can be conducted over one or more terms. Students take turns to patrol and collect litter items weekly from the school grounds over a term. Items must then be sorted into main categories and counted. The information will be logged on a displayed litter chart. At the end of the period, the class can report the litter reduction outcome to the school. It could also be of interest to discover the main problem litter items and to investigate source reduction and prevention initiatives in the school.



Adopt a Beach/River/Park

This is an activity in citizen science which aims to reduce litter in a public place and contribute to national and global litter research. Your class "adopts" a small section of a nearby beach, foreshore, riverside or park and a group from the class will conduct a monthly litter clean-up. All litter items will then be sorted, counted and registered on the national litter database (The Australian Marine Debris Initiative). This should be done in consultation with your local council's waste department who will be interested to discover which items are most problematic. * It is recommended that the class participate in the Guided Clean-Up activity outlined in the PPS school program and will therefore be familiar with the process of registering the litter on the national database.



Responsible Retailers

Students approach local businesses and determine their output and consumption of single-use, disposable plastic via surveys. They will then engage these businesses to encourage and assist them in adopting environmentally responsible practices. They can also explore alternatives to disposable plastic and promote collaboration with local initiatives such as Boomerang Bags, EcoBags and Responsible Cafes.



Bin-audit: What's in my waste?

Students engage in a school waste audit to determine the quantities and makeup of the waste generated at their school. This baseline data is collected to calculate the total waste output of the school. Students investigate landfill, co-mingled recycling, paper and organic waste. Based on this data schools can explore how to reduce their waste. Further audits can be conducted periodically over a term or the entire year to determine and promote any reductions in waste to landfill. Curriculum/lesson plans available here.

What if I want my class to focus not only on waste, but sustainability in general?

Other environmental programs



ResourceSmart Schools *VIC only

ResourceSmart Schools is a Victorian Government program that helps schools benefit from embedding sustainability in everything they do, and take action on climate change. The ResourceSmart School's Sustainability Certification system provides a platform for schools to track their sustainability journey, identify savings and be rewarded by achieving sustainability modules and stars. The aim for schools is to reach for the stars - from 1 to 5 stars, with 5Star as the ultimate achievement! Many of the activities listed here will contribute towards ResourceSmart School modules.

Curriculum/lesson plans available [here](#).



Cool Australia

Cool Australia creates units of work and learning activities that can be downloaded from their website and taken straight into the classroom. The learning activities are year level specific, from Early Learning to Year 12. All are linked to Australian Curriculum standards and the Early Years Learning Framework outcomes. They provide an online Digital Library to support learning and teaching. It contains videos, images, infographics, research and news articles. They also deliver online professional development to help educators build their confidence and skills. They can sometimes provide keynote addresses at conferences across the country. Cool Australia are also responsible for coordinating Enviroweek. Curriculum/lesson plans available [here](#).



Kids Teaching Kids

Kids Teaching Kids raises awareness and drives action on local and global environmental issues. By giving students the opportunity to present a workshop to others during Kids Teaching Kids Week or at one of the Kids Conferences, students see that they can have a positive impact on the world, starting in their own communities. They are given tools to manage their own learning and become confident, caring and informed citizens ready to take on new challenges.



Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation

The kitchen garden program is based on pleasurable food education and teaches Australian children positive food habits through fun, hands-on learning. Pleasurable food education is about children experiencing the joy of digging in the garden, picking fresh veggies, smelling and tasting the food they prepare, and sharing the experience with their classmates and helpers.

Curriculum/lesson plans available [here](#).