

Waste Education Program



Maroondah City Council's FREE Waste Education Program raises awareness of waste and litter issues within the community. It ensures students and teachers are provided with sufficient knowledge to make informed decisions; ultimately contributing to Council's vision to reduce waste in our local community.

Audience

The Waste Education Program is specifically designed for primary and secondary school students. All presentations cover major waste and litter issues, and feature examples relating to the students' local environment. Each lesson is tailored to the year level and their current understanding of the subject.

Learning standards

The Waste Education Program complements several domains of the Victorian Curriculum Foundation – 10 and each lesson relates to specific level standards.



Lesson overviews – Primary School

Reduce Reuse Recycle

This interactive lesson introduces the concept of the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and looks at how to practice them at school and at home. Students will learn what happens to their recycling and issues with contamination are also discussed. Older students will build on the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle principles and find out how items are made from natural resources. The lesson finishes with a fun relay game where students learn which bin to throw it in!

Worms and compost

Delve into the wonderful world of worms and compost critters! Students will learn the differences between a worm farm and compost bin and learn how to look after one at home or at school. Students get the chance to look at worms and other critters that live in the complex compost community.

Litter in our environment

Where does litter come from and where does it go? Students will have a discussion on the origins of litter and its effects on our local and natural environment. This lesson gives students a chance to look at litter problems in their school and identify the issues associated with litter, particularly on the environment. To explain the impact litter has on the environment, there are two options:

1. Students participate in a 'river relay' which shows the types of pollution a river picks up on its journey to the ocean.
2. Students conduct a litter audit of the school grounds and discuss ways to reduce litter at school.

Rubbish free lunches (Foundation – Year 3)

Did you know that most rubbish in schools come from food wrappers and drink packaging?

Students will learn about the environmental impacts of packaging and how to pack a rubbish free lunch box for school. Rubbish free lunches can assist schools in reducing litter and waste at school, whilst also promoting healthy eating.

Waste-wise shopping (Years 4 – 6)

Students will learn the reasons behind waste wise shopping while also learning how to reduce waste by changing purchasing patterns at home. The concept of a product life cycle is explained, and how buying certain types of products can help save both the environment and money. Examples are used to show differences in packaging, before students get the chance to put their new knowledge to practice in a simulated supermarket.

Lesson overviews – Secondary School

Litter Audit

Students consider the different forms of littering, why it happens and its consequences on the environment. Conducting a litter audit within the school grounds, students are able to identify any problem areas and patterns of behaviour which will then assist them in developing an action plan to address littering in your school.

Organic Recycling

Students will explore the issues associated with food waste and the importance of keeping organic waste out of landfill. Students learn the difference between composting and worm farming, how easy it is to set up and maintain each of these systems and the benefits of composting for the garden.

Life Cycle Analysis

By taking a closer look at everyday shopping items, students will explore the resource inputs involved in each stage of a products life cycle from production through to disposal. With a greater understanding of what it really means to throw an item into the bin, students discover the importance of the waste hierarchy and how they can make a difference through sustainable shopping choices.

Other services

Waste audits (1.5hrs)

Waste audits are available to schools as a hands-on incursion. One full day of the school's waste is audited by the students to give a snapshot of the amount and type of waste produced at school.

This information is then used to assist students to assess the school's current waste practices and develop a waste minimisation plan specific to your school. Schools will also be provided with a waste audit report, to showcase the audit results and identify any areas of opportunity.

Waste audits are required for schools to complete their baseline data for the Resource Smart Schools Waste Module.

For more information or to book an incursion, please contact Maroondah City Council's waste education provider, EnviroCom on (03) 9703 5288.



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and sustainable**