



Case Study

Glen Osmond Primary School

Years: R - 7

School population: 300

Location: Myrtle Bank

Source: Liz Hillam and Mark Bormann

A WOW Support School

Highlights

Glen Osmond PS has been working on a number of waste-related initiatives in recent years including 5c container recycling, 'Go for Green' cartridge recycling and establishing a composting system and food garden. The 2006 Year 6/7 Camp had an environmental sustainability focus.

What the school says about waste

'The environment is something for which children seem to hold a great deal of intrinsic value. Naturally, they are keen to participate in waste management strategies that promote environmental sustainability. There are many links to the curriculum, including the science of composting and the sorting, measuring and money-related skills involved in 5c container recycling. Not only are students willing to take part in waste management activities, but they are also more than capable of discussing their ideas and attitudes towards environmental issues related to waste. This allows them to articulate their beliefs, justify their decisions from an ethical standpoint and better educate and persuade their community about adopting waste management practices.'

Mark Bormann, Year 6/7 teacher

Waste Systems and Learning

Waste in Curriculum

Aspects of waste are incorporated across the curriculum. Individual classes identify waste issues within their own classroom and develop strategies towards better waste management. As part of a Year 7 Leadership program, a small group of students is responsible for maintaining the recycling program and promoting the use of recycling bins within the school community. Bird boxes situated around the site were built by Junior Primary students.

Classroom teachers also base their curriculum around ethical questions that are socially and environmentally relevant to their students, such as 'Do we have a responsibility towards reducing waste?' These questions lead students to collect and evaluate the empirical information required to make an informed decision about an ethical issue. The ethical question is discussed as a class and reasons for opinions are exchanged. Students are supported to arrive at well-founded beliefs or opinions that they are then encouraged to act upon within their school and wider community.

Reducing

Apple peeling / coring devices have been made available to students to reduce the volume of uneaten apples. They are used daily, allowing students to eat their apples with minimum waste. Fewer uneaten apples end up in bins and the apple waste is used as compost.

The school has an ongoing facilities program to reduce water use through the planting of waterwise gardens, and this has been linked to the school's visual arts program from 2004 - 2006.



Wipe out Waste



Reusing

Single-sided A4 paper is collected in each classroom, printer area and office. The school has equipment that can be used to make notepads from this paper. Newspaper is reused in animal enclosures, providing a comfortable environment for goats, rabbits and chickens.

Recycling

Paper and cardboard is recycled through SITA Environmental Solutions. The SRC is responsible for contacting SITA for collection.

Printer, fax and toner cartridges are recycled through 'Go for Green'.

The system for recycling 5c containers is organised with 5 wheelie bins located throughout the school. These bins are well labelled visually with the specific recyclable items that students can place in them.

Composting is managed by individual classes within the school, providing meaningful and relevant hands-on experiences in the Science curriculum. Classes have established their own gardens and students have been involved in researching and choosing native plants for waterwise landscaping.

Paper Recycling

Has the paper been used on both sides?

Yes – put it in the white recycling bin!

No – use it again!

- take it to your class for scrap paper.
- put it back in the printer and use it again.

Paper is a valuable resource. Use it wisely!

Effective signage improves efficiency

Getting started and keeping it going

The school focus on waste management is regularly discussed at staff meetings. A Year 7 'Environment Committee' takes responsibility for 5c container recycling as well as other recycling strategies employed by the school. The Visual Arts / Waterwise initiatives are ongoing.



Clear visual signs assist in 5c container recycling