



Wipe out Waste



Lady Gowrie Child Centre

Thebarton, 32 staff, ~300 children

Case Study

At Lady Gowrie Child Centre, 'there is no excuse when it comes to the environment' according to Administration Officer Allie Holmes who is passionate about sustainability.

Staff are working towards the goal of cutting their materials sent to landfill in half by the end of 2014;

- nappies and face washers are reusable
- paper and cardboard are recycled
- food scraps are collected in the green organics bin
- child-safe hand dryers in bathrooms keep paper towels to a minimum and
- plastic bags are not supplied; families can purchase or bring their own reusable laundry bag for soiled clothes.

Nappies

The centre has been using cloth nappies for over 10 years and although nappy changing can take longer with cloth nappies, staff view this as bonding time with the children. Cloth nappies and face washers are supplied by Stork Linen Services.

Used cloth nappies are put in a 240 litre bin and collected weekly. New staff are trained in folding and changing cloth nappies.



Every week, used nappies are collected and replace them with clean ones.

Nearly 80% of the parents of children attending the centre are happy to use the provided cloth nappies, while others supply their own single use ('disposable') nappies.

Used cloth nappies are placed in a 240 litre bin supplied by Stork.

Stork collect the nappies once a week, and supply clean nappies for the next week.



Staff encourage families to consider cloth nappies because of the environmental benefits and to help with toilet training as children can more easily feel when a cloth nappy is wet. A cod liver oil based barrier cream is used to prevent nappy rash.

Single use nappies are no longer provided as the centre stopped purchasing single use nappies in 2013. If a child's carer does not provide enough nappies for the day, the child will go home in a cloth nappy and the family is responsible for washing and returning it to the centre.



Families must provide their own nappies if they prefer their child to wear single use nappies.



Government of South Australia
Zero Waste SA

WOW - Wipe out Waste: a program of Zero Waste SA
delivered by **KESAB** environmental solutions



Composting/Organics

Kitchen caddies lined with compostable bags for the collection of food scraps and paper towels are located near the sink in learning rooms. The staff room kitchen also has this system. When full they are emptied to the larger bin in the kitchen.

As all food is prepared on site, kitchen staff dispose of food scraps to a 60 litre organics bin, also lined with a compostable bag. This bin is emptied daily to a 240 litre green organics supplied by SITA. The organics bin materials are collected once a week by Jeffries organics recyclers at a cost of \$8 per bin collected (plus an annual fee).



The kitchen caddy with compostable liner for the children's food scraps.



The 240 litre Organics bin.

The staff room also has a collection for 10c drink containers with funds raised used within the centre.



It's easy to recycle in the staff room; staff have turned cupboards into a materials separating system.

Recycling

25 litre recycling bins for paper and cardboard are placed around the centre (classrooms and offices) and are easily accessible to staff and children.



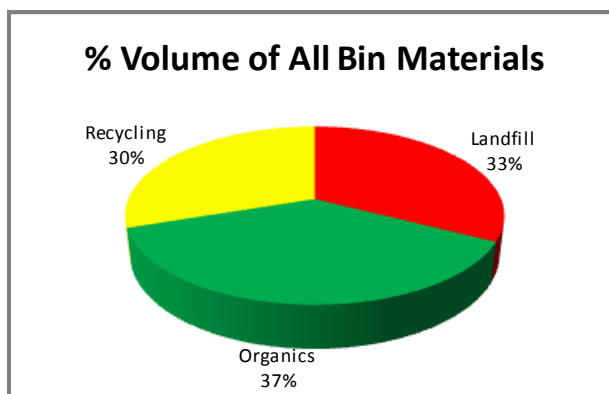
A 25 litre bin for recycling located near the children's drawing area.

Children are encouraged to put all used paper and cardboard in these bins for recycling. As a result, these bins are usually full by the end of each day.

A 25 litre recycling bin for mixed recycling is located in the staff room.

Audit Results

Wipe Out Waste conducted an audit of bin materials from the Lady Gowrie Child Centre's landfill, recycling and organics bins in March 2014 and found that 67% of all materials generated are diverted from landfill for recycling or composting.



We look forward to reauditing in the future to see how they have improved on this already excellent result!