



Case Study Rosary School

Years: R - 7

School population: 340

Location: Prospect

Source: Gerald Heath

A WOW Support School

Highlights

School waste reduction systems have been operating for a few years and began with one or two keen staff members. Students now manage waste and recycling collections in a well coordinated system.

A council community environmental grant of \$1 000 in 2004 assisted in purchasing materials to further 5c collection and composting programs, including safety equipment and tools for students.



Entrance to 'Waste Warriors' classroom

Waste Systems and Learning

School waste operations are managed daily by the 'Waste Warriors' Year 5 class. The class is divided into 5 teams, each with a coordinator who rotates the various waste and recycling tasks, including bin management, every 8 weeks and meets with staff involved in supervising the relevant collection areas. Volunteer squads, involving 3 collectors, 2 processors and 3 counters, manage the 5c container collection and supervise the emptying and cleaning of food scrap buckets.

Reusing

Reuse of materials is incorporated into the recycling collection system, with reused and reusable containers used for 5c container and food scrap collections.

Recycling

White paper and coloured paper / cardboard are collected separately in the SITA schools recycling program. In 2006 coloured paper bins were painted by students to make it easier to identify the correct paper bin.

5c container recycling was initiated after Container Deposit Legislation was extended in 2003 to include 'fruit box' style cartons. 15 crates with effective signs are placed around the school to make the system easy for students to use.



Painted boxes clearly show type of paper required



Wipe out Waste



Food scraps are collected and composted by Year 2/3 and Year 4/5 classes. A previously successful vegetable garden from which produce was used for soup days is being re-established in a new location in 2006 after recent extensive school redevelopment. Worm composting is also planned for 2006.



Clearly labelled food scrap buckets



Crates and buckets are located next to rubbish bins around the school

Getting started and keeping it going

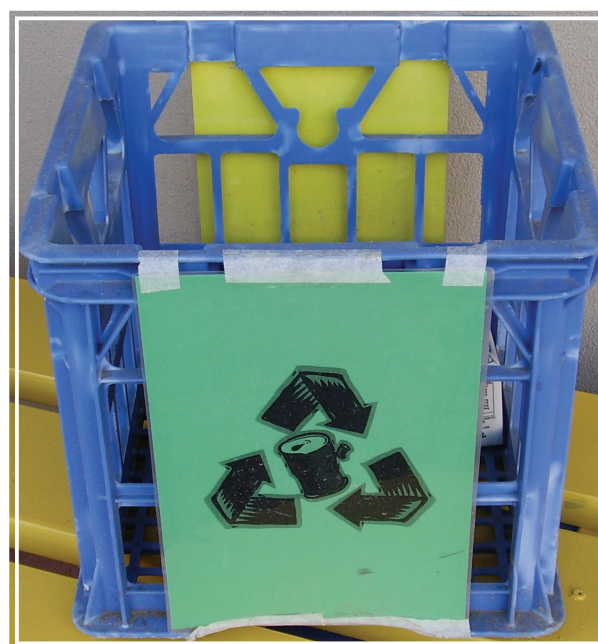
With initial interest from one or two staff, the involvement of students has led to increasing interest from the school community. The 'Waste Warriors' recognise the importance of their role and generate enthusiasm which is infectious.

Whole School Community

Support has come from various members of the school community including library staff. Parents and Friends activities have assisted with recycling systems and the use of vegetables for cooking.

In collaboration with a neighboring school, a composting trial was conducted on shared council land.

The support of local council has been a key element in continuing the waste reduction initiatives.



Open crates work well for 5c containers



Crates and buckets are placed near bins