

Primary Schools Environmental Newsletter



Term 4, 2007

Primary Schools Environment Program

- a new co-ordinator

Greetings

I have recently taken on the challenge of trying to fill those huge shoes left by Maree Whelan in the running of the Schools Environmental Awareness Program. So far I have spoken with all of the schools participating in the program this year and I am looking forward to meeting you personally during the judging phase of the program. For schools not participating in the program this year, please still feel free to contact me if you have any queries with regard to environmental issues and be prepared for a few persuasive phone calls when we launch the program in 2008.

Regards

Anni Griffiths
Environmental Education Officer



Judging Time and Awards Ceremony

We are quickly approaching the final stages of the program for 2007. Our team of judges will be visiting schools in the first two weeks of Term 4 and the Awards and Presentation Ceremony day is **Monday December 3**. Keep the diary free.

How many black balloons do you create?

A black balloon is a simple way to measure and visually represent our greenhouse gas emissions. This is especially useful in educating children by giving them a measurement they understand and can visualise. An average Australian home creates 7 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year just from electricity. That's 240, 000 balloons!

Here are some interesting facts:

- Every 1km you travel in a car, you create 10 balloons (0.5kg) of greenhouse gases. Find out how many km you travel by car a day. Times it by 10 to find out how many balloons you emit from daily driving!
To help: Car pool, catch the bus, ride or walk.
- If you watch television for only 9 hours a week, you are creating 40 balloons (2kg) worth of greenhouse gases!
To help: Read a book and get children to play with toys instead!
- An 8-minute shower with a water saving showerhead creates 80 balloons (4kg) of greenhouse gases from heating water!
To help: Cut showers by half and turn the temperature down on the hot water system!
- Recycling one aluminium can save enough energy to run a television for three hours, that's 13 balloons. Close the loop and buy recycled items!
- A single tree absorbs 2 000 balloons (one tonne) of CO² over its lifetime. Every tree in your yard makes a difference, so plant more!

EVERY ONE
ADDS TO
CLIMATE
CHANGE

Sustainability
victoria

Sustainability Victoria has a
fantastic program to help put our
impact into perspective.

View their program on: <http://www.saveenergy.vic.gov.au/>

View their TV advertisement on: http://video.vividas.com/media/5410_Sustainability/web/



The Central Coast Climate Challenge is here.

This is a free community program that provides easy, practical steps for individuals, families or even schools to work towards saving electricity, money and our climate. The program is based around a "Platypus Pete" like passbook which lists green house gas reducing actions. On completion of each action a star is earned. Gain a certain amount of stars and you are in the running for some great prizes—solar hot water systems and energy saving appliances. For more information or to register go to www.climatechallenge.org.au or phone 9279 2633



Water Saving in Schools Program

Gosford City Council is offering ten grants per year, of up to \$5,000 per school, to fund water saving projects. Successful schools have applied for funding for various initiatives including smart water meters, waterless urinals, tap aerators and water tanks. For more information go to the council web page at:

http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/water_and_sewer/water-savings-in-schools-program



Green Vouchers for Schools Program

Opportunities for Schools to install a Solar Hot Water System and Rain Water Tank

The Australian Government is offering grants of up to \$50,000 for schools to install a solar hot water system and water tank. This offer is available to all schools. If you have already been granted money for a water tank from another grant source, you are still able to apply for the money to install a solar hot water system. This is a great way for you to reduce your school's carbon output.

For further information go to : www.environment.gov.au/programs/greenvouchers



Sharing Ideas

We have heaps of fantastic environmental initiatives happening out at our schools, so we thought we may use this newsletter to share a few of these ideas.

Landfill Time capsule - Somersby Public School made a landfill time capsule to demonstrate to children what actually happens to the waste that ends up in our landfill facilities. They gathered up a variety of typical rubbish items, some tied in plastic bags, placed them in a cage and then buried it on the school grounds. The plan was to dig up the rubbish in the following term to see what changes have taken place.

Shredded Paper Business - Entrepreneurial students at Woy Woy Public School had a small business going of selling shredded paper to a local pet shop as bedding for small pets. As shredded paper can not be recycled, this is a great way to reuse this paper resource and has provided the school with some money that can be used to fund other environmental initiatives. Another group have made some fantastic paper mache bowls out of shredded paper and they ARE dishwasher proof. Very resourceful.

Schools Poster Competition

Celebrate National Water Week by creating a water-saving themed poster. Open to all primary aged children. The best pieces of artwork will be displayed at the Central Coast Water Festival at Erina Fair. To register your school contact Chris Walters on 4385 7850 or cwse@bigpond.net.au