Involve your community in sustainability

Examples of how (pre)schools are encouraging families and their local community to lead more sustainable lifestyles.

General

Banksia Park Kindergarten sends out an annual sustainability survey to families requesting information about what sustainability things they do at home.

Waite Campus Children’s Centre invites parents/caregivers to write an article for their green column in their newsletter.

St Catherine’s School Stirling student environment group take turns writing the green column in their school newsletter.

Emmaus Catholic School held a Sustainability Fair.

Hallett Cove Preschool Governing Council organised a twilight sustainable market.

Star of the Sea School held a parent/caregiver information night where groups of students had a stall on various sustainability topics. Parents were given a passport to ‘tick off’ each of the stalls.

St Michaels College had a parent develop a Green Challenge App that students could download and then receive points for taking steps at home to reduce their environmental impact.

Woodcroft Primary School has an annual Green Points Challenge that every class participated in, with points given to individuals that were educating their family and people outside the school, bringing nude food etc.

Brighton Primary School uses their Facebook page to share tips on connecting with nature, ideas for reducing packaging in lunch boxes, upcoming sustainability events and to promote sales to their community of fresh produce from their garden.

Reducing waste

O’Halloran Hill Preschool ran a workshop for parents/caregivers on product choices as part of their AGM.

Hallett Cove Preschool made information available to families about reducing waste at home.

Unley Kindergarten has a Sustainability Board showcasing their resource management systems, including ones available to families e.g. printer cartridges can be taken to the local Post Office.

Springhead Lutheran School received a grant that included giving every student in the school a re-usable sandwich wrap.

Blackwood Kindergarten included beeswax wraps in the pack that parents purchase at the start of the year. This massively reduced the amount of packaging that comes to the centre.

Fulham Gardens Primary School has a recycling centre and families are invited to donate materials for up-cycling projects. Families volunteer their time to create materials for the school e.g. baby food tins up-cycled into hanging plant pots; a sensory board etc.

Blackwood Community Childcare Centre introduced a worm farm to the centre and as a result of some children’s enthusiasm at least two children received worm farms for their birthdays.

On behalf of the City of Tea Tree Gully, the local community can collect kitchen caddies and green bags from Banksia Park Kindergarten.

Christies Beach High School Youth Environment Activist group collect old mobile phones to recycle and it is a fundraiser for their camp.

Hallett Cove Preschool has participated in the Garage Sale Trail with donations from families.

Blair Athol North Primary School asked families to bring their 10c containers to school to fundraise for a celebration day.

Hallett Cove Preschool asked children what they would like to fundraise for. Families and community donated 10c containers. Children graphed the number of 10c containers it would take to reach their goal.

Southern Montessori School introduced nude food one day a week, challenged classes to reduce the amount of packaging that was going into bins and reported back at assembly’s and in newsletters. A survey went home at the end of last year to find out how many days parents would ideally like nude food to be and the overwhelming response was every day.

Aldgate Kindergarten encourages parents to adopt a nude food philosophy by providing information about the reasons behind it (e.g. sending home fact sheets on yoghurt containers and the waste issues associated with them).

St Brigid’s School Kilburn wants to engage more non-English speaking families in their nude food program, so are asking their youth voice group to come up with creative ways for students to share the reasoning and practises with their families.
Biodiversity

Tanunda Lutheran School Early Learning Centre arranged with their local nursery that when families purchase a local native plant for the Learning Centre they also get a local native plant to grow at home.

Catholic Education Cluster, Southern Hills Ecological Action Project provide families with butterfly attracting local native plants to create corridors for butterflies to travel.

Seacliff Primary School, with the local council, developed biodiversity spaces just outside the school with interpretive signage.

Aldgate Kindergarten is looking at holding working bees with families to assist with weed control of their local remnant native vegetation (The Wirra).

Golden Grove High School is working with their local Friends Group to revegetate a section of Cobbler’s Creek. They are also working to get other local schools and community members on board and spreading the word.

St Joseph campus, at Hectorville and Tranmere, are working together this year on a new project to revegetate a section along Fourth Creek. They are putting together information for local landholders to inform them of works and ask for support.

At O’Halloran Hill Kindergarten’s launch of their butterfly garden, each family was given information about how to create a butterfly garden at home.

A parent at Clarence Park Community Kindergarten developed signs for their butterfly garden at kindy to inform families and community what local native plants butterflies and caterpillars need.

Active travel

Somerton Park Kindergarten invited families to map how they travelled over a week to highlight walking and riding.

Reynella Kindergarten provided maps of the local area to families to encourage families to go for walks together.

Food gardens

The Hub Preschool has a basket for families to share home-grown produce.

Unley Kindergarten has a basket on their fence to share produce from the vegie patch and to receive donations of excess produce from their community.

Brighton Primary School sell produce from their food garden to help cover costs of their vegie patch.

Reynella East College Preschool plan to sell vegie seedling packs as a fundraiser coinciding with Mother’s Day.

Brighton Primary School held a Food Garden Festival.

CaFE Enfield Children’s Centre with support from an NRM grant ran a workshop for families on wicking beds for use in small spaces, as many families live in units.

CaFE Enfield Children’s Centre ran a Magic Harvest program where produce from the centre’s food garden was shared with families. In return families shared recipes.

St Brigid’s School introduced the One Magic Square program and supported a cohort to grow veggies and enjoy a meal at the end with ingredients from those patches.

Nazareth Catholic Community is going to provide families with the opportunity to adopt a garden bed outside their community centre.

For more information

For other similar case studies by NRM Education and to contact your local NRM Education Office for support: