

Eco-Schools Case Study

Name of the School:	International Grammar School		
City/ State/ Territory	Sydney, NSW	Project Title:	Plastic Free Term 3
Eco-Coordinator's name:	Carmelo Fedele	Project Completion Date:	17 September 2021
Age group of participating students	3-18 years old	Current Award Level:	Bronze Award

Eco-Schools Theme: Please tick relevant boxes

<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Litter & Waste
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Climate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste & Waterways
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Go	<input type="checkbox"/> Water
<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy lifestyles	

Guidance Notes:

- Please type in the boxes below. The boxes will expand automatically with the text when entered.
- You are more than welcome to separate your projects out into different case studies or cover a variety of projects within the one template.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- **Why did you decide to undertake this project?** (i.e. was it a particular issue in school or part of a larger campaign)
- **What aims did you have starting out?**

Our sustainability actions are student led. This particular initiative was suggested by a group of Year 8 students that were interested in reducing our plastic use and wanted to participate in Plastic Free July. It aligned with our broader efforts to improve our waste management. Our aim was simply to raise awareness about the impacts of plastic and to encourage our community to lessen their own impact.

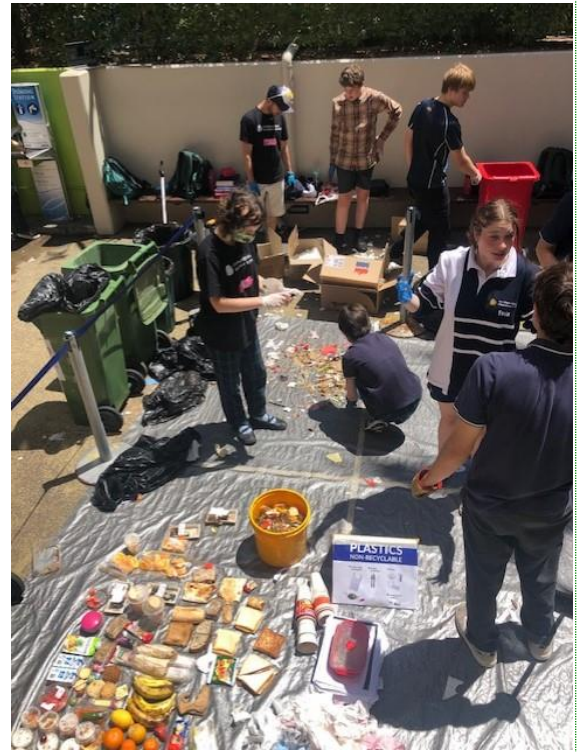
ACTION

- **How was the project delivered?**
- **Was the project topic integrated into the curriculum? If so, please describe how.**

We are in lockdown in Sydney so we had to be creative. We decided to do the following:

- Shared videos about the impacts of plastics and what we can do about it
- Created a survey to gather information about plastic use
- Asked our students, staff and parents to make a pledge to reduce their plastic use (we had over 250 responses)
- We provided resources to teachers to facilitate lessons from our youngest students in Early Learning to our oldest HSC students.
- Conversations about plastic occurred across the school in Early Learning, Primary and High School
- Students were invited to create posters to promote reduced plastic use
- Finally, we wrote an article in our school newsletter





STUDENT LEADERSHIP

- How did you get the students involved? How did they have ownership?

We have a 'Sustainable Futures' student group that regularly meets to discuss and plan initiatives. Students drive the agenda and hold leadership roles in our key focus areas (waste, energy, biodiversity, resources, water and activism). Students love being part of Sustainable Futures because there are genuine leadership opportunities and we get things done!



FUNDING

- Did you receive funding for the project?

No

PROJECT SUPPORT

- Did you receive any support from parents, staff or outside agencies in regard to the project?

For this initiative we didn't receive support from parents but we did use resources from Plastic Free July

CHALLENGES

- Did you have to overcome any challenges to make the project succeed?

We had to plan and facilitate the initiative during a lockdown. All communication was digital.

RESULTS

- How have the students benefitted from the project? (e.g., knowledge gained, skills learnt, an improvement in behaviour, attainment, or attendance?)
- Have there been any other benefits for the school as a result of the project? (e.g., reduced costs, cleaner school, etc). Please include any figures and analysis if appropriate

Students are more aware of the impacts of plastic and how they can be part of the solution. Students gained skills in research, planning, leadership, communication, design and media.



IMPACT

- How did you measure and monitor the impact of the project?

We collected data using a Google Form.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- **Have you used any Eco-Schools educational resources? (If yes, indicate which ones)**

Yes. We have used the Eco-Schools planning resources, particularly those related to environmental reviews and action planning.

LESSONS LEARNED

- **What advice would you give to schools that want to follow in your footsteps?**

Sign up to Eco-schools and start your sustainability journey!

NEXT STEPS

- **Has this project inspired or driven other Eco-Schools ideas? What is the school working on next?**

- We are fundraising to protect our forests through the HalfCut campaign
- We met with our Federal MP, Tanya Plibersek, via Zoom to discuss our concerns about action on climate change
- We are planning a Bush Tucker Garden
- We are reorganising our bin system after performing a waste audit
- We are reassessing our energy supplies to minimise our carbon footprint
- We hope to restart our periodic 2nd hand uniform sales once COVID restrictions are eased

EXTERNAL SUPPORT

- **Has your school received any local council support with regards to the Eco-Schools Program?**

We have tried to engage with our local council and have promoted some of their recycling programs in our school community, however, we would like to work with them more.

Please return your completed case study and attach 1-2 photos to marina@kab.org.au

We will publish it on the Eco-Schools website and newsletter, as well as showcasing your school on our social media channels!

www.eco-schools.org.au

Thank you!