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LGA Prospectus

Eco-Schools is a proven schools-based sustainability education framework operating in 72 countries globally. Eco-Schools Australia is managed by Keep Australia Beautiful.



Keep Australia
Beautiful
National
Association

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Eco-Schools Australia

The Eco-Schools program engages with schools across the country, providing an Environmental education framework, resources, support and accreditation. The program aligns with the UN SDG's, and accreditation is internationally recognised.

We are one of seventy-two countries in the global Eco-Schools community.

What We Do

Keep Australia Beautiful

Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) has been a leader in environmental responsibility and change since 1975. KAB runs the Eco-Schools Program, Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Program and the Keep Australia Beautiful Week and our iconic "Do The Right Thing" Campaigns.



Schools are the heart of our communities. A litter-free, healthy, eco-friendly school is a real asset to a community – as part of the physical environment of a local area and as a site where young people gain knowledge, skills and positive attitudes towards the environment. The introduction of this program gives a real boost to Keep Australia Beautiful's mission for a litter free and sustainable Australia.



Eco-Schools Australia Program Overview

Eco-Schools is a proven schools-based sustainability education framework operating in 74 countries globally and developed by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

It is a curriculum-linked, democratic and participatory program that provides an excellent opportunity for students to experience active citizenship in their schools. Both schools and the wider community benefit from this program.

Eco-Schools follow 7 Steps to investigate and take action on one or more of the Eco-Schools 7 Themes.

When a school has worked through each of the 7 Steps, for at least 3 Themes, they can then apply for Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation. The Eco-Schools Green Flag is international and recognised by organisations such as UNESCO. It is a symbol of a school's commitment to environmental education.

Eco-Schools makes working on sustainability practical and fun and is motivational for students and teachers. Environmental issues and the thought of tackling them can sometimes be overwhelming. Many of those interested in promoting education-based eco-action will wonder:

- How and where do I begin?
- How can I involve and engage young people?
- How can I retain focus and momentum?
- How can we have a positive impact on issues so numerous, overwhelming and global such as the climate crisis or marine plastic pollution???

The Eco-Schools program provides a solution to all these questions. Our Seven Step Framework has been designed as a very simple environmental management system that empowers young people to introduce and lead environmental actions and education in their school and beyond!



Eco-Schools Australia Program Overview

The Seven Eco-Schools steps are designed to make environmental actions pupil-led. Working through each of the seven steps and achieving Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation can be done in a single academic year. Several of the steps, for example Step 5: Informing and Involving, naturally overlap and this is encouraged – our process is designed to be holistic.

Below is a brief summary of each step. More detailed information can be found on our website <https://www.eco-schools.org.au/7-steps/>

- 1. Form an Eco-Committee, a group of students and adults responsible for all things Eco-Schools.**
- 2. Complete an Environmental Review, a free-to-download resource which has been designed to review learning environments and provide inspiration to Eco-Committees.**
- 3. Create an Action Plan, a plan for environmental actions in the school.**
- 4. Link the program to the Curriculum, including environmental issues in the school.**
- 5. Informing and Involving the wider community, including all pupils, staff members and the local community in Eco-Schools work.**
- 6. Monitoring and Evaluation of eco-projects, measuring the impact of the projects in the Action Plan.**
- 7. Creating an Eco-Code, a rallying call that everyone can get behind!**



Eco-Schools Themes

Australian Eco-Schools can choose from seven themes to tackle with the seven step process. The Themes are designed to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).



Theme 1: Biodiversity- Habitats and Homes

Maintaining and improving the incredible variety of life on a local and global level. This theme aligns with the UN SDG's 14 and 15.



Theme 2: Climate & Energy- Super Smart Power

Reducing energy use and investing in greener energy sources. This Theme aligns with UN SDG 7.



Theme 3: Fair Go- Global Citizen for Social Justice

Taking an active role in your community and making our planet more peaceful, sustainable and fair. This Theme aligns with UN SDG 10.



Theme 4: Lifestyles- Healthy & Active

Addressing your, and our planet's health. These two issues are intrinsically linked! This Theme aligns with UN SDG 3.





Eco-Schools Themes



Theme 5: Waste- The Cycle of Stuff:

Refusing, reducing, reusing, repairing, recycling. This Theme aligns with UN SDG 12.



Theme 6: Litter & Waterways- Catchment Keepers

Reducing litter, which harms wildlife and costs millions to clear every year and protecting and conserving aquatic ecosystems. This Theme aligns with UN SDG 14.



Theme 7: Water- Drink, Think, Save the Sink

Valuing and preserving our most important natural resource. This Theme aligns with UN SDG 6.



Schools can work on one, two or three Themes across a school year, and pick up additional Themes as they progress on their Eco-Schools Journey. For more information about each Theme, please visit eco-schools.org.au/themes/



The Eco-Schools Accreditation Process

Eco-Schools who have completed the 7 Step process for 3 Themes can apply for a Green Flag. This is an international accreditation that has recognised and rewarded young people's environmental actions for over 25 years.

If Eco-Schools can only cover one or two Themes in a school year, they can apply for a Bronze or Silver Eco-Schools Award respectively, and work their way up to a Green Flag over two or three years.

An Eco-Schools Green Flag is the perfect way to acknowledge, reward and celebrate the ecological achievements of young people. It clearly demonstrates that their hard work is appreciated and it provides them with the confidence and motivation to continue actively engaging with environmental issues now and throughout their lifetimes. It creates the next generation of innovative, inspirational environmentalists and tells local communities that a school is forward-thinking and actively engaged in protecting our planet.

Submissions may be judged in an online format, or in person for a Green Flag application if this is financially feasible.



Supporting schools in your area

All schools, from pre-school to high school, government, denominational and private can join the Eco-Schools Australia program. While schools can register and go through the program for free, we charge for the Accreditation process. This helps cover the cost of judging applications, creating resources and supporting schools through the Eco-Schools process.

Local councils can support schools in their area by covering this fee.

Get in touch for a quote.

Tailoring the Eco-Schools Program to meet your KPI's

Council may prescribe one of the three Themes schools must complete to be eligible for council support. Council will receive the school's Accreditation report containing data of the school's progress across your chosen Theme, plus the two other Themes completed by the school.

Getting schools on board meet your KPI's

Eco-Schools Australia will:

- Email all schools in your LGA (council must provide current list and school emails).
- Email copy for council to promote the program and your support in your network.
- Social media tiles and copy for council to promote the program and your support in your area.



Supporting schools in your area

Benefits of Supporting Eco-Schools in your area:

- A detailed progress or end of project report from each school participating.
- Acknowledgement of your support, including your logo, on the Eco-Schools website Local Government support page, and wherever Eco-School media from your LGA is published.
- **The opportunity for Councillors, Mayors and Council staff to present the prestigious Green Flag to Schools who achieve this internationally recognised accreditation.** Copy for media will be supplied.
- Promotion of your support on our social media pages:
- An initial announcement, and annual celebration post as the support is continued.
- Three posts featuring our partnership and the projects made possible in schools annually.
- Use of an annual Eco-Schools supporter logo on your website, emails and social media.
- Use of the Keep Australia Beautiful and "Do The Right Thing" logos on your website, email signature and social media.
- Promotion of your support in the next Eco-Schools newsletter.
- Opportunity to provide copy for our Keep Australia Beautiful Newsletter.
- Opportunity to provide copy for the Eco-Schools quarterly newsletter e.g. council initiatives and other programs relevant to schools.
- ***Enabling young people to be at the heart of environmental action.***

Get In Touch



Hailey is the National Operator for the Eco-Schools Program, and more than happy to chat with you about how you can support the Eco-Schools Program.

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