



SCHOOLS WASTE CHECKLIST

The Own Your Impact guide for educators to *reducing waste at your school*

- CHECK YOUR RECYCLING EFFECTIVENESS**
Do an audit of your recycling and general waste bins to see if they are being used correctly. Check they are clearly labelled and in the right locations too. You might find with a few tweaks recycling rates improve.
- SET REGULAR WASTE-FREE LUNCH CHALLENGES**
Establish a routine – like *Waste-free Wednesdays* – for kids, parents and teaching staff to eradicate plastic packaging from lunchboxes.
- SWITCH TO RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES**
Each rechargeable battery has the potential to replace 1,000+ non-rechargeable ones – preventing hazardous waste from entering landfill **and** saving you money!
- GIVE FOOD SCRAPS A NEW LIFE**
Transform all those apple cores and left-over sandwiches into nutrient-rich fertiliser. Worm farming, traditional composting and chickens all provide great learning experiences for students too.
- GO GLITTER FREE**
Glitter is made from tiny pieces of plastic which take hundreds of years to break down. What's worse these microplastics often make their way into our oceans, harming marine life.
- EMBRACE REUSE AND REPURPOSING**
Switch brand new art supplies for salvaged products in art classes and place emphasis on assignments involving repairing, repurposing or reusing discarded items.
- SET ALL PRINTERS TO 'DOUBLE-SIDED'**
It's an easy switch to make and will reduce your paper waste. It also helps to establish good paper-saving habits in students as they move through life.
- HOLD A BATTERY AMNESTY**
Team up with a local organisation that recycles batteries (such as Officeworks, ALDI or IKEA) and host a school-wide collection. It's a good opportunity to put the importance of hazardous waste recycling on the agenda in the classroom, and at home.
- SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON PRODUCT-LIFE**
Encourage students to investigate the product-life of common items. Build a curiosity about where things come from and what happens after use through discussion, classroom exercises and take-home assignments.
- BECOME A WASTE WISE SCHOOL**
If you aren't already Waste Wise accredited school then why not sign yourself up to the WA Government's initiative that supports a program to teach students and staff alike how to reduce their landfill contributions through the 3Rs – reducing, reusing and recycling.



Share your own tips and ideas for owning your impact by tagging us on

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