

How Waste Wise is your school?

The aim of this survey¹ is to give you an overview of how your school is performing in waste and litter education and practices. The survey is also an effective tool for engaging discussions among stakeholders.

Conduct this survey before the introduction of Waste Wise interventions to provide baseline information, and after, to provide information on the impacts of the interventions. If conducted periodically (e.g. six monthly or annually), you will be able to track progress or issues that may have arise.

About your school

School name:
Address:
Contact person:
Title:
Telephone:
Email:
Is your school public or private?
Number of students & class years:
Date of survey:

1. Briefly describe any waste minimization activities undertaken to date (including dates of initiation and sources of external support where appropriate):

2. Major issues to be addressed or areas that can be improved:

3. Other remarks:

¹ Adapted from Armstrong, Pat, 1998. *The Waste Wise Way: Savings, Benefits and School Operating Practices*. EcoRecycle Victoria. Courtesy of Sustainability Victoria.

Survey 1: How Waste Wise Is Your School?

PART A. RATE YOUR SCHOOL

This survey will give you an overview of how your school is performing in waste and litter education. Give yourself a score out of five for each area.

- 1 = Poor
- 2 = Fair
- 3 = Good
- 4 = Very good
- 5 = Excellent

How would you rate your school's efforts in:

- 1 preparing a written waste and litter education policy?
1 2 3 4 5
- 2 preparing a written waste and litter education strategy?
1 2 3 4 5
- 3 including waste and litter in all levels of the curriculum?
1 2 3 4 5
- 4 recycling paper and cardboard?
1 2 3 4 5
- 5 recycling other materials?
1 2 3 4 5
- 6 encouraging waste reduction and reuse practices?
1 2 3 4 5
- 7 composting or worm composting food scraps?
1 2 3 4 5
- 8 composting garden waste?
1 2 3 4 5
- 9 applying mulch to the school gardens?
1 2 3 4 5
- 10 involving the whole school community in decision making about school waste and litter management?
1 2 3 4 5

PART B. QUANTITIES AND COSTS

You may need to refer to your school records for this information.

- 1 What volume of waste is sent by your school to landfill each year? (Calculate from the number of full wheelie bins or hoppers collected each week, extrapolated over forty weeks of the school year.) _____
- 2 How is this waste collected, stored, and transported? _____

- 3 What is the cost of this waste disposal for a year? _____
- 4 What arrangements are there for the recycling of bottles, cans and paper, etc. in the school?

- 5 Does the school earn any money from the sale of recyclables e.g. cans? Yes No
If yes, how much per year? _____
- 6 Does the school have to pay to have certain recyclables collected from the school? Yes No
If yes, how much per year? _____
- 7 How are food scraps and garden waste disposed of in your school?



Survey 2: The Waste Breakdown

TYPE OF WASTE	APPROXIMATELY WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR SCHOOL'S WASTE IS...			
	reused at school	collected for recycling	composted or worm composted at school	sent to landfill via bins or hoppers
Garden				
Canteen/tuckshop				
Other food				
Aluminium, glass and plastic containers				
Paper (e.g. newspaper, office and photocopy)				
Cardboard				
Infotech and office (e.g. ribbons, cartridges, equipment)				
Cleaning and maintenance (e.g. solvents, paints, detergents, offcuts)				
Non-recyclables (e.g. plastic wrapping, contaminated items, science equipment)				
Other (describe):				