

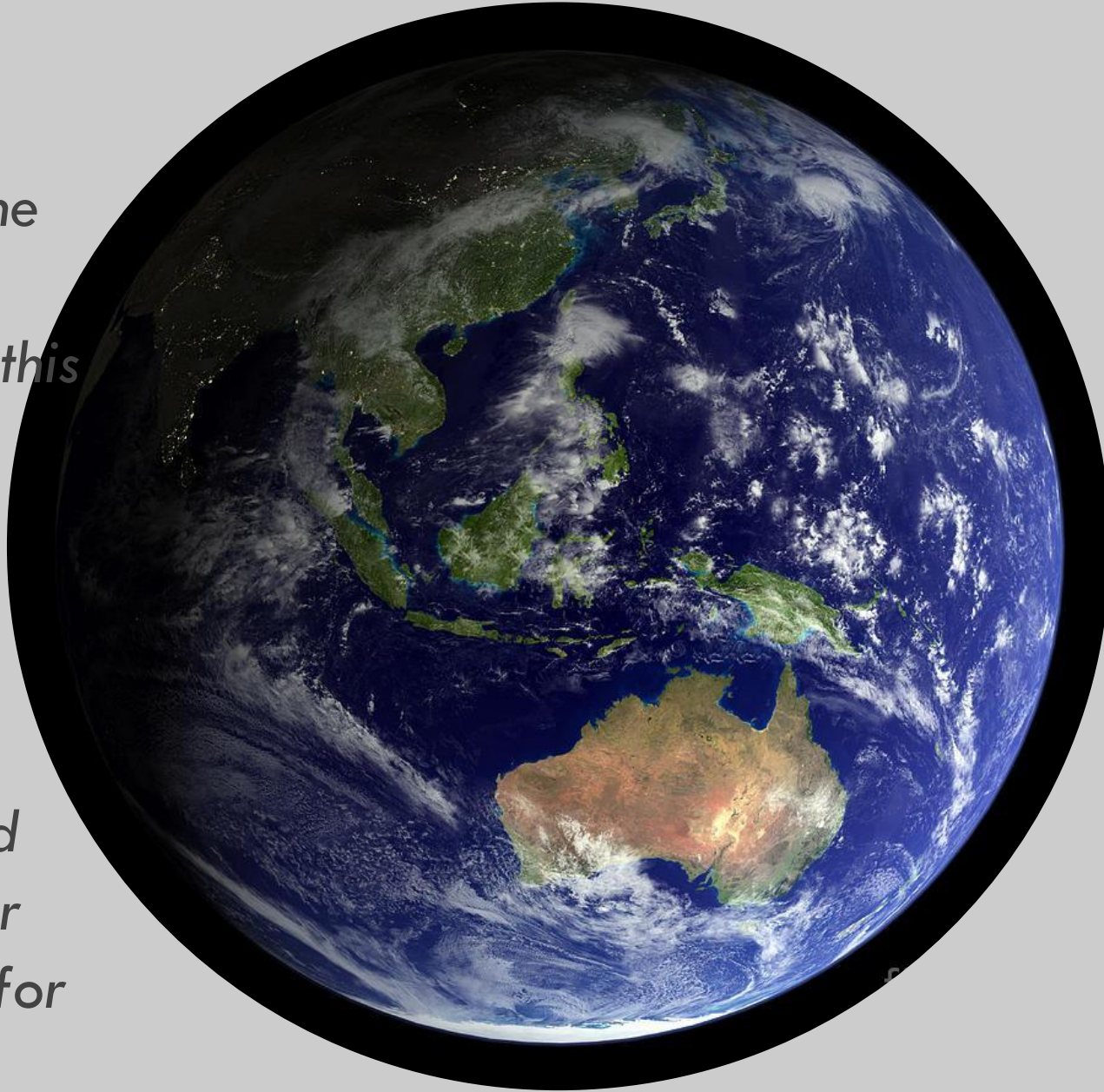
Chester the
Dragon is our
school mascot

Chester Loves Compost



Wiping Out Waste Case Study containing some results and photos from our Waste Audits in 2019 and our learnings about waste.

We
acknowledge
with respect the
indigenous
custodians of this
land, the
Darkinjung
people, their
elders past,
present and
emerging, and
work with their
spirits caring for
mother earth.



Wiping Out Waste 2019

Aim:

- less waste to landfill
- maximise resource recovery
- creating a zero waste culture in the school communities participating
- changing habits and changing behaviours



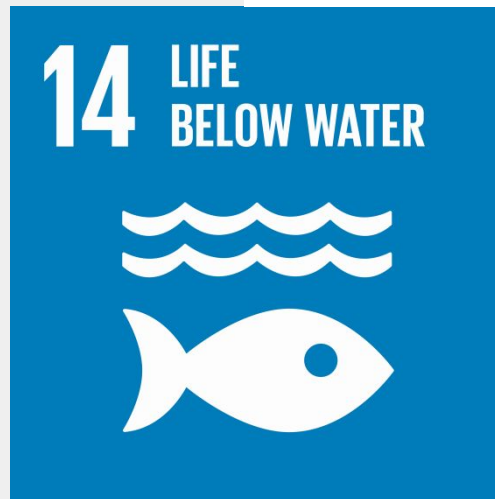
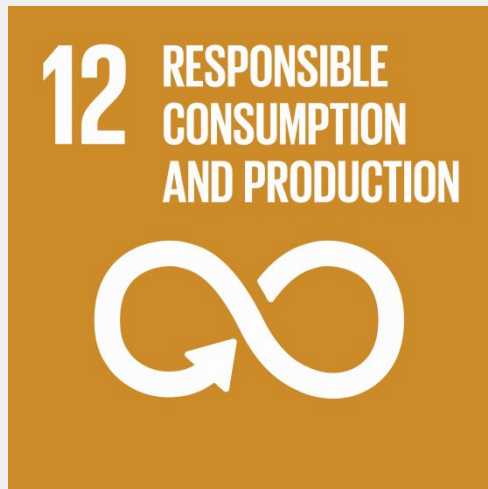
Intended benefits: financial savings for each school and achieving sustainability outcomes.

This was a Pilot Program delivered by Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre, funded by Central Coast Council and supported by Cleanaway Waste Educators.

Thinking globally and acting locally

United Nations

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



Learning to be less wasteful is part of being a good global citizen.
Sustainability is about considering the needs of future generations.



Chertsey PS Waste Audit in 2019



DURING



AFTER

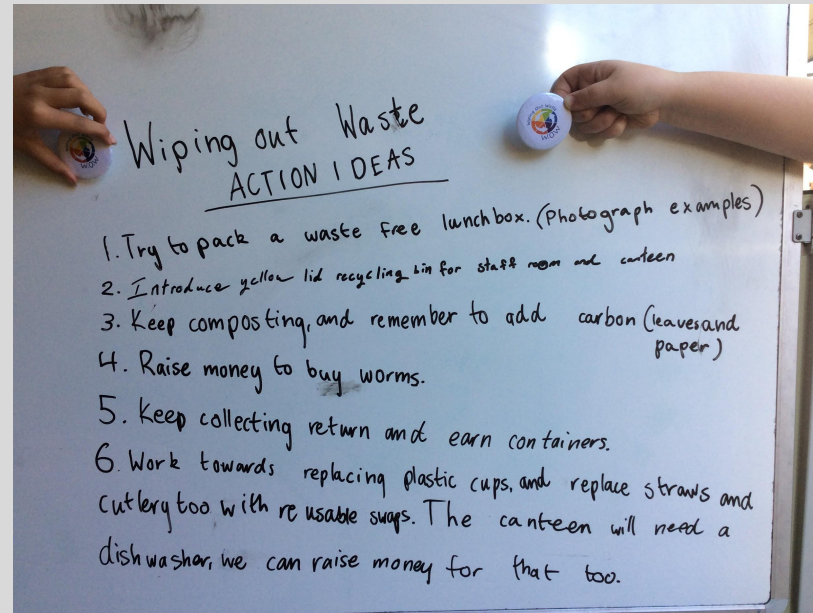
CHERTSEY PS

Waste Audit Day



CHERTSEY PS

Waste Audit Day



We measured all the waste from one day and recorded the mass and volume of each category - organic, paper and cardboard, recyclable containers and mixed waste. Then the Environmental Leaders helped present our findings to the school and we came up with some action ideas

CHERTSEY PS WASTE AUDIT RESULTS

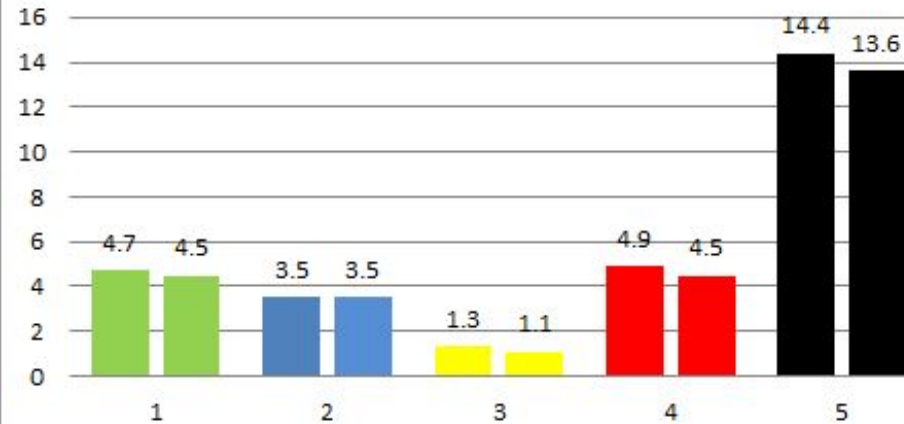
Size of our school:

Students 186

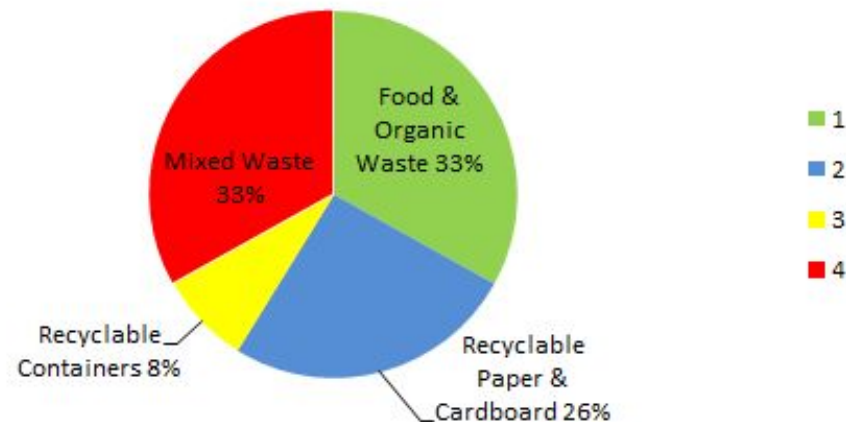
Staff 34 (on average)

Daily food waste 4.5kg adds up to 900kg/year!

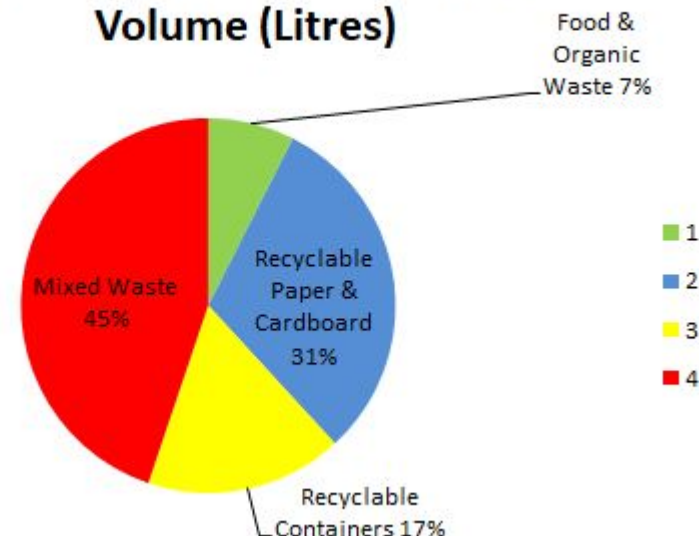
Chertsey PS Comparison Waste Audits 1 & 2 Mass (Kg)



CHERTSEY PS - Waste Audit 2 Mass (Kg)



CHERTSEY PS - Waste Audit 2 Volume (Litres)



ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill and increase resource recovery



After our 2019 Waste audits, we created teams led by senior students to monitor our waste programs and to teach the younger students about school waste management.

The teams decided our greatest need was food waste control, followed by improved paper recycling, general recycling, soft plastics and collection of 10c returnable items.

One team did some research about food scraps that could be fed to chickens and food scraps that could be composted. They also learned about the amount of green compost that could be added to compost bins each day and how much brown compost needed to be added. They set up buckets on the two areas where students eat their lunch.

One bucket was labelled 'Chickens' for the food scraps that chickens can eat and the other was labelled 'Compost' for other food scraps to go in our compost bins. They monitored the playground food scrap bins at lunchtimes to help other students use them correctly.

ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill and increase resource recovery



The school organised a recycling bin collection in addition to our paper recycling collection. Students can now place recyclable containers in these bins.

A team is overseeing the collection of recyclable containers, 10c returnable containers and soft plastics. The family of a team member has volunteered to take the soft plastics to the Redcycle bins once a week.

A student team made posters to help educate the school about the correct materials to put in the paper recycling bin and to reduce contamination. That team is in charge of collecting and checking paper recycling from classrooms.

The students collaborated in beginning a magazine to be published once a month to give the school students and their families updates about our waste and recycling programs and to provide information and news articles and fresh ideas.

A Powerpoint has been created to help inform the students and teachers about the benefits of composting (see the next 18 slides). Future Powerpoints are planned to explain recycling of paper, soft plastics and general materials.

What is compost?

Why is it good to compost?

What do we put in compost bins?

How will we compost at our school?

Are there any problems?

What will we do with the compost?

How can I help?

What is compost?

Compost is what is left after waste products are left to break down in a bin or bay for a long time. It turns into something that looks like dirt.



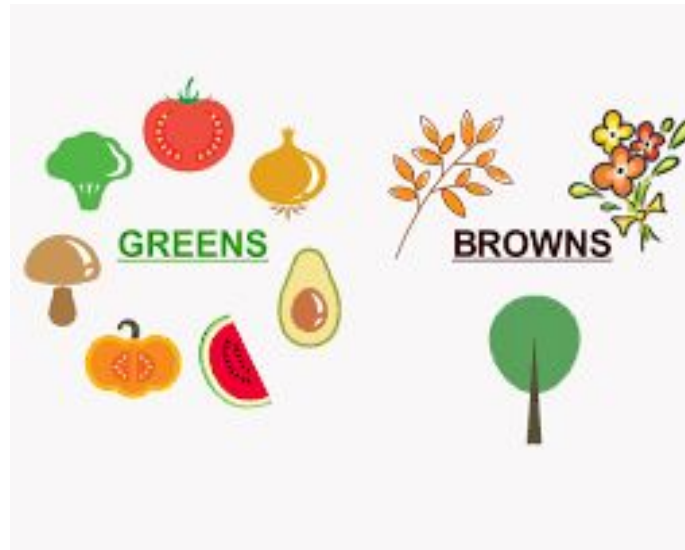
Why is it good to compost?

- It turns our food scraps and leftovers into something useful.
- If we put our food scraps into normal bins, they end up going into landfill (big holes in the ground full of all sorts of rubbish).
- When it starts to rot, it gets very stinky and pollutes our air.



What do we put into compost bins?

Food scraps (green waste) and garden waste (brown waste) can be put into the compost bins. Make a list of food and garden waste that can be used.



Green Compost.

Some of the food scraps you put in the buckets each day can be given to the chickens to eat, but most of it will be put into our compost bins. It breaks down faster if it is chopped into smaller pieces. The worms love it.



Brown Compost

Carbon Storage Bay

A carbon storage bay is a great way of making sure there is enough brown compost to put on top of the food scraps in the compost bins. This helps to reduce the amount of gas produced in the bin and the number of flies.





Too much fruit and other food waste will produce a gas called methane when it starts to rot. Too much methane is bad for the environment. It is the same gas produced by people and animals and the Wonky Donkey. Too much food waste in the compost bin can also attract rats, flies and cockroaches.



How can we stop that happening?

- Don't put too many food scraps into the compost bins each day.
- Eat your lunch or take it home again. Only the '**scraps**' should go into the compost bins. Add some brown compost and water every day.



Food scraps.



Wasted food.



How will we compost at school?

- Collect fruit scraps from fruit time. Have a classroom bin with a lid.
- Collect leftover scraps from lunches. Have a playground bin with a lid.
- Put the scraps into the compost bins every day.
- Collect leaves and other plant waste from the school grounds.
- Put some brown waste on top, every time we put in some green waste.
- Add some water and stir the compost once a week.

Keeping your compost bin happy.



- Add greens, browns, and water every day. Add some worms.



What will we do with our compost?

- Once our bin full of green and brown waste has turned into compost, we can put it into our garden beds and grow vegetables and flowers.





"So, Jack, did you use
compost or chemical fertilizers?"

What can you do to help?

- Start a compost system at home.
- Tell your parents about our school composting system.
- Help your school with the composting.
- Create a poster to help everyone understand about composting.
- Ask the local council if they have a composting program.
- Do some more research into composting.
- Do some composting experiments.

Join the WOW Team.



Bring or buy healthy delicious lunches. Share some lunch ideas and ways of packing them.



HAPPY COMPOSTING!



Try this experiment.



1. Cut around the bottle neck to form a flip top lid (large enough to pour the ingredients in).
2. Pour 2-3 cm of soil into the bottom of the bottle.
3. Using the spray bottle, moisten the soil.
4. Add 2-3 cm of fruit and vegetable scraps on top of the soil.
5. Add another 1 cm layer of soil.
6. Using gloves, sprinkle with $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fertiliser over the soil.
7. Add a layer of leaves and grass.
8. Cover with another 1 cm layer of soil.
9. Lay moist newspaper over the soil.
10. Repeat steps 4-9.
11. Tape the top of the bottle closed.
12. Mark the top of the compost on the side of the bottle.
13. Place bottles in a sunny spot.
14. Once a week, mark the height of the compost on the bottle and observe the changes in volume and rate of decomposition.

Watch this video.

- **Composting for schools with Costa Georgiadis.**
- **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU6kULOUEAsw&t=63s>**

The students and teachers at Chertsey Primary School are very enthusiastic about our initiatives and thank the team at the Rumbalara Education Centre for their ongoing help.