



HOLGATE PS

WOW

CASE STUDY

School size: 155 students and 15 staff



*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

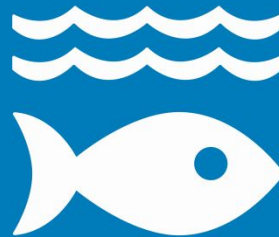
United Nations

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



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



Holgate Public School has been working hard for a long time to make their school environmentally sustainable. They were Council's Environmental School of the Year in 2016. They have a student Environment Club called the Green Dream Team that helps think of ways to improve the school and ensure plans are put into action. The team has its own student designed logo and a feature section in the school's newsletter.



Some Past Achievements:

- Take3 Turtle Project and awesome video clip
- Wildlife Corridor
- Student tree planting
- Rainforest Garden
- Frog Pond
- Beautiful signs in school about nature
- Supporting Cash for Containers campaign



Holgate Public School Waste Audit in 2019



BEFORE



AFTER

HOLGATE Public School Waste Audit Day



Holgate PS Waste Audit 24/5/19

	Classrooms		Playground		Staff/Office		Canteen		TOTALS	
	Mass kg	Volume L	Mass kg	Volume L	Mass kg	Volume L	Mass kg	Volume L	Mass kg	Volume L
FOOD & ORGANIC WASTE	3.6	10	2.1	10	0.2	1			5.9	21
Recyclable Paper & Cardboard	1.5	20	0	0	0.1	1			1.6	21
Recyclable Containers	0	0	0.2	5	0.2	6			0.4	11
MIXED WASTE	0.4	7	0.3	10	0.5	7			1.2	24
	5.5 kg	37 Litres	2.6 kg	25 L	1 kg	15 L			9.1	77



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.

ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill



Organics - Food Waste

Our canteen workers feed the worms and we received a grant from Cleanaway for our new worm sign.





Problem: The Worm Farms were being overfed.

Solution: Redistribute food waste to compost bins, always chop food scraps to help worms eat through it quicker and ask families to take surplus food waste home to chickens.



Our wonderful General Assistant built us a chook food stall. The Green Dream Team now collect and disperse food scraps between our worm farm and chook food tubs. The community collect chook food from this fabulous stall and then return the empty tubs to school.

ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill

Green Canteen Actions - Reusable containers

Two canteen managers ago we phased out single use plastics and introduced washable jelly cups and spoons.

We lost this practise for a time but our new Canteen Manager has re-introduced the washable cups and spoons and there is a noticeboard reminding the students to return containers so that they can be washed and reused.

The canteen is open one day a week and the canteen helpers wash up the cups and spoons.



Please return jelly cups and spoons



ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill

10c Refunds/ Return & Earn

We have orange bins in the playground to collect 10c containers for recycling. Once we have a bag full, they are stored in our shed. When we have enough bags, we will take them for recycling & 10c refunds.



Recyclable containers

We have small yellow recycling bins in all common playground areas that are emptied into the 240 Litre Council yellow lid recycling bin.



ACTIONS taken to reduce waste to landfill

The Cost of Waste and the Importance of Good Communication with School Cleaner/s.

We have saved a lot of money by changing waste contractors for our general waste skip bins. We were paying \$78/week and now pay \$44 every 3 weeks.

The School Cleaner and the School Administration Manager both communicate regularly so that bins are emptied as needed and not overfilled (which attracts an extra charge).

Changing waste contractors was stressful but worth it!

Paper and Cardboard Recycling

We have been recycling paper and cardboard for a long time but we changed contractors and now call when we need the bins emptied and are saving a lot of money. We now pay \$5/pick up compared to \$42/month.



Wiping Out Waste – Project Update

Our Wiping Out Waste project has just about wrapped up and we thought it would be great to share our results with you. Our WOW team included students, teaching staff, Kusum our cleaner, Prue King our SAM, and seven parents from our school community. Our first waste audit was conducted in March, followed by intensive implementation of waste reducing ideas, then a second audit six weeks later in May.

Some of the things the school implemented included:

- Introduction of the 3 coloured bin system in the playground areas
- Community working bee to install rodent proof mesh under our compost bins
- Increased use of compost systems
- Increased use of worm farms
- \$500 grant through CC Council for signage for our worm farms
- Building of 'Free Chicken Feed' stall by our General Assistant, Mark
- Creation of a wash station to enable recycling of canteen containers
- Collection of 10c recyclable containers
- Staff professional learning in wiping out waste
- Community workshop informing parents about the WOW project
- Education for students about waste reducing practices from Take 3 and Cleanaway



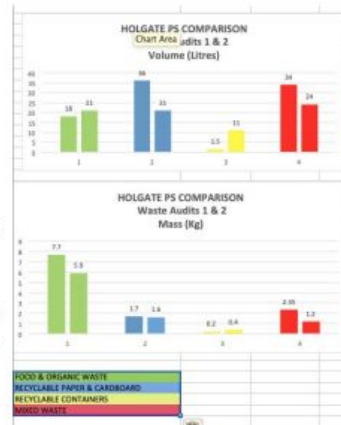
Further actions include:

- Giving away 'free chicken feed' to our community
- Continued education for students about what waste goes in what bin
- Purchasing of reusable crockery including plates, cups and cutlery for the school to use for special events

Our waste audit results show significant reductions in the amount of waste going to landfill after implementation of waste reducing initiatives:

We'd like to thank everyone involved in the Wiping Out Waste project for their time and enthusiasm in helping Holgate become a more sustainable school. A special thank you to Lisa and Sharon from Rumbalara for the countless hours they have spent with our students making this happen.

Amy Ball and Green Dream Team



We keep our school community updated with the Green Dream Team activities to wipe out waste in the school newsletter.



What plans have you got for Wiping out Waste in the future?

(post COVID-19)

- Fix up the worm farm that has suffered from the school shutdown.
- Add signage to all the bins especially Return & Earn bins (orange lids).

