Reduce Waste
at School

Keep Australia Beautiful Week

August 24 - 30

Waste lives on

www.kab.org.au

Nominate an environmental officer for your class or school

Nominate students to be in charge of monitoring litter reduction initiatives, recycling, composting and any other environmental projects your class or school is involved with.

Run a neighbourhood litter count

Teachers and students can participate in a 'Neighbourhood Litter Count' in or around the school grounds and link it in with litter education lessons.

Information, forms and a 'How to run a Tidy Up' booklet (so you can clean up the litter after your count), can be downloaded from the Keep Australia Beautiful Week (KAB Week) website at www.kab.org.au

Reuse & recycle empty printer cartridges at Cartridge World stores

Australians send millions of printer cartridges to landfill each year, leading to around 5000 tonnes of hazardous non-biodegradable waste. Each cartridge can take up to 450 years to decompose.

The switch to remanufactured printer cartridges is one of the easiest green purchasing decisions your school can make, with immediate environmental and cost benefits.

Contact your local Cartridge World store to find out more about their printer cartridge refill and recycling program for schools.
Visit www.cartridgeworld.com.au for details.

Run a MobileMuster to recycle old mobile phones & accessories

Between 14 - 16 million old and broken mobile phones are stashed away in cupboards and drawers. Over 90% of the materials in mobile phones, batteries, chargers and accessories can be recovered and reused.

Why not run a MobileMuster during KAB Week? Just round up as many old phones and accessories as you can and then drop them off for recycling at your local Cartridge World store.

Receive a 10% discount cartridge refill voucher for every handset recycled at Cartridge World in August. *conditions apply.*

To order your own free collection box, download educational resources, or find other drop off points visit www.mobilemuster.com.au or call 1300 730 070.

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My Earth lunch wraps

Encourage canteens to shop locally and seasonally. This will minimise your footprint by not travelling as far to the shops, as well as support local farmers.

Install compost bins at your school and make sure that students dispose of their food scraps in the bins provided.

Reduce your lunch waste

Run zero waste lunch days throughout KAB Week and thereafter at least once a week, encouraging students to bring in their own lunch in reusable containers and bottles.

Use Recycled Paper

Each Australian uses about 10,000 sheets of A4 paper every year (equivalent to a full grown tree). Manufacturing recycled paper uses 90% less water and half the energy of virgin paper. Do some research and make sure the paper supplied to your school has the maximum available recycled content.

Keep a paper reuse tray beside the printer and photocopier and reuse paper for drafts, notes and internal memos.

Use refillable or biodegradable pens

In Australia alone, disposable pens add 700 tonnes to landfill each year. Try using refillable pens, recycled pens or even biodegradable pens to significantly reduce landfill.

Recycle more!

Any material or packaging we don't recover or recycle can take hundreds, even millions of years to break down. A glass bottle up to 1 million years, a plastic bottle 450 years and aluminium can up to 200 years for example.

- Contact your school's waste management supplier to see what recycling services they can provide. Introduce paper and cardboard recycling as a minimum, given the high amounts of paper used by schools. However, if your school is serious about being green, why not expand this to cover all recyclable materials if you can?

- If your school is unable to introduce recycling facilities for packaged products, encourage teachers and students to take them home for recycling to reduce this waste unnecessarily ending up in landfill.

Turn off all computers and lights after school

Save money and the environment by shutting down computers at night. Form a weekly roster and designate someone to be in charge of checking computers at the end of each day.

Don't leave outdoor lights on all night – use a motion sensor or a timer.

Introduce a 'walking school bus'

Walking school buses are a safe way for students to travel to and from school under the supervision of parents or teachers. In addition to helping the environment through having fewer cars on the road, it also promotes a fit and healthy lifestyle for students.

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