

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS NETWORK FACT SHEET



The Sustainable Schools Network is a forum facilitated by the City of Canada Bay for educators and the extended school community to meet and discuss sustainability ideas, projects and opportunities for their schools and school communities.

The Sustainable Schools Network provides the space to:

- share ideas, inspiration and resources on making our local schools more sustainable
- share knowledge about environmental and sustainability issues and programs across local school communities
- provide professional and skills development opportunities for teachers and parents on sustainability and environmental issues
- streamline communications from Council to schools about workshops, events, training and grant opportunities
- communicate with Council on training needs, grant requirements or other relevant requests.

The network will not replace any existing Council-run waste or sustainability programs your school.

How will the network run?

Venue Council will facilitate the network meeting at one of the local schools. Each meeting will be hosted by a different school.

Times The network will meet 4 times per year (once per term). Meetings will run from approximately 3.45-5pm.

Cost Free! Refreshments will be provided at the meeting

Why you should join

- access to teaching and learning resources
- streamlined access to grants and other Council facilitated programs and resources
- quarterly newsletter
- support, advice and inspiration from successful projects in other schools
- professional and skills development
- It's free!

Which schools will be part of the network?

Council is inviting all primary and secondary schools in the City of Canada Bay to join the network.

Schools in Ashfield, Burwood, Strathfield and Leichhardt Council areas are also invited to participate, though all funded programs and grants are available to City Of Canada Bay only. Given the size of these five council areas and number of schools, Council would consider utilising technologies such as Smartboards for more efficient communication.

Current programs provided to the network

WastED Time

Council's waste contractor SUEZ offer recycling and waste education lessons for eligible schools. Information and resources for schools to help teachers educate students, as well as information about recycling and waste for children completing school projects are on offer.

WastED Time is SUEZ's schools recycling and waste education program in NSW. Several workshops covering waste services and recycling are available free of charge to all schools within the City of Canada Bay throughout the school year.

Schools Tree Day

Each July, Council's Bushcare team supports local schools with an interest and commitment to native bush regeneration to participate in Schools Tree Day by donating native plants.

KAB Programs

Council educates primary school on a range of environmental issues, including waste, water and catchment issues and sustainability through the Enviromentors Education program. These fun and age appropriate sessions are interactive, and engaging.

Schools small grant program

Council will offer the opportunity to all member councils to submit applications for proposed projects to be undertaken at their school. The small grants will enable school communities to undertake sustainability projects in the areas of:

- litter education and prevention
- water conservation and saving initiatives
- energy conservation and saving initiatives
- waste avoidance, minimization and management
- native gardens
- construction of vegetable, permaculture or no-dig gardens

A total of \$10,000 in grant funding is available in two different categories

- Support grant – funding up to \$1,000 to expand on existing projects
- Development grant – funding up to \$3,000 for the implementation of new projects.

Applying for the grants will be a simple process. The grant program will support projects that promote sustainability outcomes including behavior change, whole of school engagement and increased skills and ability to participate in achieving environmental outcomes. Opening and closing dates are available on Council's website.

Programs in development

Council is currently considering the following programs for schools. These, and other programs as identified by the network, will be discussed at the network meetings.

Curriculum-based programs and resources

Council would like to work with schools to identify target areas for developing or enhancing curriculum-linked sustainability and environmental teaching and learning resources. Through Council's community plan FuturesPlan20, the community identified the 3 target areas of water, energy and greenhouse gas emissions as important environmental indicators. Delivering consistent messages on these targets to the community, including to schools, is a priority. Council is also keen to support the development and delivery of biodiversity related programs and resources.



Grant Applications

Assisting schools to identify and access relevant grant opportunities by facilitating links between schools seeking similar funding, or preparing joint submissions. This could include identifying opportunities for joint submissions to local businesses and suppliers to improve procurement opportunities.

For more information, contact Council's Sustainability Projects Officer on 9911 6555 or email enviroschools@canadabay.nsw.gov.au.