

Bridgetown High School

- Sustainable Schools Initiative Pilot School • Community Links • Worm Farms
- Paper Recycling • Sustainability Coordinator • Recycling and Litter Survey

Background

Bridgetown High School, with 160 students from Years 8-10, is one of the 20 pilot schools in the Sustainable Schools Initiative, was District Runner-Up in the *Flexible Approaches to Teaching and Learning*, and a finalist in the WA Schools' Environmental Education for Sustainability Awards.

Time to implement effective environmental programs is one of the most valuable resources for schools, according to teacher Jo Bayne, who is employed one day per week as Sustainability Coordinator at Bridgetown High School. Her work has seen her liaise with staff and the community to set up and link community-based programs within the school.

The school's paper, cardboard and newspaper are diverted to the school worm farms with excess taken to the local recycling depot by the school gardener, while the local shire picks up plastics for recycling.

Raising Awareness

To launch Waste Wise to the school community in a fun and engaging way, a Waste Wise Youth Grant funded a theme day in 2005. Students became eagle-eyed sorters during rotating activities such as the *recycling relay* where they sorted waste into reduce, reuse or recycle.

The Year 9 students used their school-based survey on recycling and litter to design large recycling bins for Bridgetown High. Their humorous PowerPoint presentation on recycling and correct use of the bin encouraged good habits and was well received at a school assembly.

A household survey on reducing, reusing and recycling also brought the Waste Wise message home.



YEAR 10 STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED THE NOVEL USE OF SOME READILY AVAILABLE LOCAL RESOURCES WHEN THEY CONVERTED AN OLD REFRIGERATOR INTO A WORM FARM FOR THE SCHOOL.



THE YEAR 9'S BIN DESIGN INCLUDES SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS FOR PAPER, PLASTICS, FOOD AND OTHER.

Worm Farms

Worm farming is being promoted to Bridgetown's rural community and in line with the town's apple-growing history, the school is promoting a design for an *apple crate worm farm*.

Year 8 students have cleverly developed a brochure, incorporating design instructions, for Bridgetown's Small Landholders Group.

Community Support

Waste Wise has built many bridges of support between the community and Bridgetown High School.

- Blackwood Valley Landcare – provided funds towards a mulcher for the school and funded artworks based on native plants for the school's Commemorative Garden (Bridgetown High's 50th Anniversary).
- Bridgetown Environmental Society – shares a Community Nursery on site at the school and supports students in seedling propagation and revegetation projects.

"In a rural community it is important to use local community links as much as possible. Don't try and reinvent the wheel – use local resources and expertise."

Jo Bayne, Sustainability Coordinator

