

Kinross College

• Battery Disposal • Litter Reduction • Environmental Coordinator

Background

Kinross College in Perth's northern suburbs caters for students in Years 6-10 based on a middle schooling model. Through their environmental program and commitment, Kinross College has made significant contribution to the community's safe disposal of batteries.

Environmental education programs at Kinross College have been integrated into the school's curriculum with enthusiasm. College staff, through their learning communities, have the autonomy to design and develop curriculum to meet the needs of their students.

Batteries

When staff and students at Kinross College learned there was no battery recycling facility in the local area back in 2005, Environmental Coordinator Debbie Mullahey lobbied Mindarie Regional Council until they agreed to help.

A battery disposal program now runs at Tamala Park, Mindarie's waste disposal and recycling facility where batteries are encased in concrete for safe disposal.

Kinross College acts as a collection point for all dry cell batteries, including mobile phone, computer and hearing aid batteries. These are weighed and taken to Tamala Park by Ms Mullahey fortnightly. Car batteries are not collected at the school but can be taken directly to Tamala Park.



THE BRIGHTLY COLOURED WHEELIE BIN WAS TAKEN TO THE TAMALA PARK VISIT, WHICH WAS FEATURED IN A LOCAL NEWS ARTICLE.



REDUCING RUBBISH IS A GREAT GOAL. FOR A SIMPLE BUT VERY EFFECTIVE LITTER-REDUCTION SCHEME, BASKETBALL HOOPS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED OVER INDOOR AND OUTDOOR BINS.

The scheme was launched with a collection competition among the school's learning communities. Battery donations were weighed before being placed in a decorated wheelie bin. Parents enthusiastically supported the project.

A proud and positive delegation of students met with Tamala Park management to display their battery bin and was amazed at the variety of reusable household items and furniture available at the facility.

Negotiation is underway to partner with a local battery store, which ships used batteries to the eastern states for recycling.

Litter Reduction

The *Hunt for the Golden Garbage* keeps Kinross students on their toes as a gold-sprayed drink container is hidden in the school grounds weekly and a daily clue is given as to its whereabouts.

Students who pick up litter regularly will receive small incentive rewards (e.g. pencils) and the student who finds the Golden Garbage wins a bigger prize and certificate. The learning community with the most prizes at the end of term receives an award.

“Be proactive – call when you need help or check out the Waste Wise website. Find out what other schools are doing and contact them directly to find out more.”

Debbie Mullahey, Environmental Coordinator

