



# Evatt Primary School

## Winners at waste and recycling

### Background

Evatt Primary School has around 330 students and has been awarded **Actsmart Schools Five Star Accreditation**. Education for sustainability is a core school value.

Support for the sustainability program comes from the executive team where a part-time Sustainability Coordinator is employed to teach environmental science classes to all year levels. Resources for environmental projects have been funded by the savings made from reduced landfill bin pickups and money from the feed-in-tariff of their 10kW solar panel system.



### Sustainability Initiatives

The Green Team, Igor the Eagle (Environment Award) and Genki Denki (Enthusiastic Energy Savers) are exciting initiatives that are changing behaviours at Evatt Primary School.

The Green Team members are trained by the Sustainability Coordinator each term to be experts in environmental stewardship. They gain a whole-school perspective in leading projects that reduce the school's ecological footprint. Two representatives from each class are nominated for sustainability jobs in their classroom. This ensures students from every year level are given leadership roles and knowledge is passed on.

Igor the Eagle Environment Award is presented at assembly to the class that has maintained a clean classroom during the week. A tidy bag area, limited contamination in waste bins and pride in their environment contributes to a class winning the environment award.

### From waste to wonderful

When the **Sustainability Coordinator** decided to introduce recycling to the school, the **Actsmart Schools Waste Education Officer** provided expert advice. This led to actions such as:

- introducing paper separation bins, which saved the school \$60 per month because the landfill skip was emptied less often. They used this money to buy durable mini garbage bins and marked them with free Actsmart Schools bin stickers
- placing their recycling, organics and landfill bins together in waste stations. This resulted in a large reduction of the amount of litter in the playground
- buying washing baskets and small bins for paper and organics collection in the classrooms
- eating times being supervised indoors to ensure that correct waste sorting habits are formed and litter is reduced in the playground

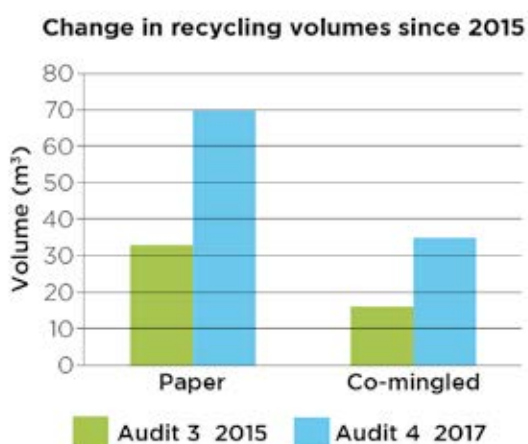




- promoting waste-free lunch days in school newsletters so parents and students can reduce the amount of plastic packaging coming to school
- the Green Team checking the indoor and outdoor bins for contamination and removing unwanted rubbish items using gloves and tongs from their Green Team kit
- the Green Team emptying the classroom organics bins daily into a compost bin in the garden
- the Building Services Officer (BSO) emptying the recycling and landfill bins into the skip daily.

## Results and Benefits

When audited in 2015, Evatt Primary was producing 33m<sup>3</sup> of paper and 16m<sup>3</sup> of comingled recycling per year. Evatt Primary has doubled its paper recycling to 70m<sup>3</sup> and comingled recycling to 35m<sup>3</sup> per annum. This is a marked improvement and has seen cost savings of approximately \$1920 per year.



## Tips and Hints

- Borrow the free **Actsmart Schools Interactive Waste Display** to learn about bin contamination.
- Engage your BSO early so they are involved and supportive of the new waste and recycling system.
- Inform cleaners of the new recycling system so they empty bins correctly.



## Challenges

- It can take between 3-5 years for a waste and recycling system to become embedded in the school culture.
- Ensure there is a group of sustainability coordinators so corporate knowledge is not lost when one teacher leaves the school.



Watch this story as a video: search 'Actsmart Schools' on [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)