

*yesterday, today and tomorrow*

Learning about the past, looking to the future

# REEF Beat 10

## THE GREAT BARRIER REEF Doing Your Bit to Look After it



The Great Barrier Reef really is closer than you think. What you do at home, work and at school can impact on the Reef. Together, we can all make a difference by looking after the Reef and helping to protect the animals and plants that call it home, as well as maintaining the heritage and lifestyle that is important to us. You can do your bit to keep it great by doing some simple things:

### At Home

- Recycle what you can - for example, plastics, paper, batteries and mobile phones
- Buy food and products with minimal or no packaging, or packaging that can be recycled
- Set up a worm farm and use the castings to fertilise your garden
- Compost fruit and vegetable scraps, shredded paper, grass clippings, leaves and cuttings (except noxious weeds and diseased cuttings), vacuum cleaner dust, used vegetable oil, tea leaves and bags, coffee grounds and egg shells
- Wash your car on the lawn, not on the driveway or road, to minimise detergent runoff into drains
- Operate your dishwasher and washing machine only when you have a full load
- Use environmentally-friendly cleaners and fertilisers
- Keep gutters, sinks and drains free of chemicals and rubbish as what washes down sinks and drains could end up on the Reef
- Minimise water runoff by planting trees, garden beds and ground cover around your home
- Use re-useable shopping bags rather than plastic bags
- Participate in community clean-up days
- Open windows and catch the breeze rather than using an air conditioner
- Clean the filters in your air conditioner and dishwasher regularly so they run efficiently
- Install energy efficient lighting and appliances and turn them off at the wall when not being used
- Donate quality second hand furniture, household items and clothing to charity organisations, rather than sending it to landfill
- Share these messages and your knowledge about the Great Barrier Reef with others.



### At School

- Encourage recycling and revegetation programs
- Reduce plastic use in your school / conduct a waste audit
- Conserve and manage water and energy use in school buildings
- Hold a clean-up day at your school, park, creek, beach or oval
- Form an environmental committee in your school to try and make your school sustainable
- Use the 'at home' messages at your school - get everyone involved.



### Out and about

- Take your rubbish home with you
- If you see rubbish, pick it up and recycle or dispose of it thoughtfully.

### Reef HQ Aquarium is doing its bit

- Energy efficient light bulbs installed throughout the Aquarium
- Variable speed drives used on tank pumps that use less energy
- Solar thermal water chilling process for predator tank
- Aquarium air conditioning preset at an efficient level during winter and summer months.

### The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is doing its bit

- Monitoring and assessing coral bleaching on the Reef each summer
- Working closely with coastal communities and Reef-based industries
- Identifying and supporting strategies to reduce climate change and its effects
- Implementing management plans that build reef resilience.



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority

[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)

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