

reef beat
river to reef



Water testing, Reef guardian activities and school projects like the manufacture of calico bags can all have a significant effect on the Great



sustainable schools



MORE than 140 Reef Guardian Schools throughout Queensland are doing things in their school grounds and within their local communities that will help to protect the Great Barrier Reef and other important environments for the future.

Even if your school is thousands of kilometres from the Great Barrier Reef, learning to live, work and play in a sustainable way will help to protect and preserve many of our precious land and marine environments.

The activities below are some of the ways Reef Guardian Schools are helping to protect the environment and operate in a sustainable way.

You can help your school do their bit to look after the Great Barrier Reef by implementing some of these in your school.

DOING YOUR BIT TO LOOK AFTER IT!

- **Become a Reef Guardian School.** Encourage your teacher to phone the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for more information on (07) 4750 0850.
- **Reduce, reuse and recycle** Ensure enough bins are placed around your school and set up recycling bins for cans, glass, plastics and paper and label these bins clearly.

Millions of plastics and other pieces of rubbish enter Australia's oceans every year.

We can all do our bit to prevent

rubbish reaching the Great Barrier Reef by reducing and reusing items such as plastic bags and containers.

- **Reduce plastic bags.** Implement a calico bag project in your school. Design and manufacture calico bags and sell or give them to members of your community and encourage your family, friends and community to use calico or reusable bags when shopping.
- **Compost** around the school grounds and collect food scraps and set up a worm farm for recycling organic waste. This will decrease the amount of rubbish your school discards every day.
- **Keep your drains clean** and free of chemicals by sweeping the drains and gutters around your school, reusing green waste (leaves, twigs etc) and never pouring chemicals or waste down the sinks.

Everything that enters a stormwater drain has the potential to be discharged to local waterways and eventually the Great Barrier Reef.

- **Keep your community's drains and gutters clear** of litter and chemicals by stencilling your bins, drains and gutters with messages such as: "This drain leads to the Reef", to raise awareness in your community.
- **Use less water** by repairing leaking taps and putting mulch in your gardens.
- **You could also design water conservation signs** with messages like:

"Don't be a sap, turn off the tap" and place them in outlets in and around school buildings. Water is a precious resource and the less water your school uses the less opportunity there is for nutrients and chemicals to be discharged to waterways through wastewater.

- **Conduct an audit** in your school to conserve water, reduce litter and waste, reduce green and organic waste, conserve energy or monitor stormwater. All of these audits will help your school to be more sustainable. Audit tools can be accessed at www.reefed.edu.au/guardians/ideas
- **Encourage your principal and teachers** to implement best practices in the school such as a water recycling system, an energy conservation strategy or a revegetation program.

You can get more information on these practices from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Learn more about the Great Barrier Reef and ways that you can help to protect it and share these with your class by visiting the Reef Ed website at www.reefed.edu.au

DOES your school have what it takes to make a difference and keep the Reef great? Do you want to help protect the Great Barrier Reef and other important marine environments for the future? Visit www.reefed.edu.au/guardians or phone (07) 4750 0850 to register to be a Reef Guardian.

