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Students now braced to ace it with waste

In the lead-up to National Science Week, Hollywood Primary School and the City of Nedlands joined forces so students could learn more about reducing waste.

Embracing this year's theme of "game-changers and change-makers", 176 students from across Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 engaged in a range of activities under the guidance of Waste Education Officer Robyn Brown and City of Nedlands Waste Minimisation Coordinator Chaminda Mendis.

Year 6 students conducted a waste audit of about 50 per cent of the school's waste.

"This entailed sorting the waste on a tarpaulin and separating it into 14 categories, all of which were weighed and some counted," Ms Brown, from Waste is My Resource, said.

"These statistics were entered into the Waste Wise Schools matrix and converted to data that provides daily, weekly and annual separation of all categories.

"It's particularly useful for the school to target waste areas that can be reduced with further education."

Results showed, out of the nearly 2 tonnes of waste thrown out by the school each year, 700kg was made up of fruit and vegetable scraps.

"This could easily be diverted to compost or worm farms," Ms Brown said. "The Year 6 class has an environmental team called Greenshoots that will be using the results to plan further waste reduction."

Hollywood student leaders will now actively promote their Greenshoots program to promote Trash-Free Tuesday within the school.

"Creating sustainable processes at school allows students to experience first-hand the benefits of wastewise consumption," principal Fiona McBeath said.

Young students were shown how to grow dwarf sugar snap peas in egg cartons.

"The message was about how they could close the waste loop by growing their own food," Mr Mendis said.

"Year 3 and 4 students made mini-compost bottles so they could observe the changes that occur and time period taken for organic waste to break down."

Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said the activities highlighted the importance of diverting organic waste so it could be composted – something the City was committed to by providing subsidised worm farms and compost bins.

“To help Hollywood Primary School, the City has donated a compost bin and two recycling bins,” he said.

“The recycling bins will be placed in the lunch and recess areas, potentially diverting about 200kg of recyclables away from landfill each year.

“This ties in with the City’s own Waste Minimisation Strategy, as we work with the community to ensure waste materials are thought of in terms of a resource to be recovered, reused and recycled wherever possible.”

Mrs McBeath added: “The aim is to eliminate all waste that cannot be used within the compost system or with the new recycle bins donated by the City of Nedlands.”



Hollywood Primary School students undertook an audit to learn how they could better divert their waste from landfill.

About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of more than 21,000 lives in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

For further information, please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500.