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**November 2015**

## **Kids are great recycling role models**

Ahead of National Recycling Week, Year 6 students at Dalkeith Primary School have successfully lobbied the City of Nedlands for more recycling bins at the school. The City's Waste Minimisation Coordinator also supplied the school with stickers which detail exactly what can be recycled.

Students Harry Miller, Jules Bertolino, Mark Renner and Sol Alder decided that Dalkeith Primary School could do more to help the environment by supporting the school community to recycle more plastic. Around 300 children eat their lunch daily on the verandah, and the student team realised the number of recycling bins needed to be increased to cope.

The students came up with the plan as part of their Challenge Based Learning program, which encourages students to become active citizens and work together to focus on global challenges with local solutions. One way these students are becoming active citizens is by reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill from their school. The additional recycling bins are part of this solution.

Chaminda Mendis, the City's Waste Minimisation Coordinator, said, "These kids are good role models for their parents as well as other kids at their school – initiatives like this send a clear message to parents to do the right thing and recycle correctly."

"We've asked the kids to help their parents with the recycling at home by making sure recycling and green waste bins are not contaminated with non-recyclables," he said.

"25 per cent of recyclables end up in the waste bin, and we want to recover that. The kids are aware of this and are doing all they can to reverse it," said Mr Mendis.

Dalkeith Primary School's Deputy Principal, Tamara Doig, said: "The Challenge Based Learning program has inspired our students to implement positive changes within our school, partnering with local organisations and Nedlands Council to do their part to solve real world issues that affect everyone in our community, such as improving recycling to reduce landfill."

Year six student, Harry Miller said: "This has been a great teamwork challenge which will help our school community recycle better."

"We're so grateful the City of Nedlands Council are supporting us and providing more recycling bins for the school," said Jules Bertolino.

The City of Nedlands is a leader of waste management in Western Australia, with a diversion rate from landfill of 49 percent. Despite an increase in the landfill levy and disposal costs, the City has been able to maintain waste charges at the same level since 2013.

The City' key focus area is to improve their diversion rate, by increasing recycling rates. With a little thought we can throw out less waste by reducing the waste we produce, reusing what we have and recycling what is left.

Did you know?

- There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminium can be recycled. Each recycled can saves enough electricity to run a TV for three hours.
- It takes 24 trees to make 1 ton of newspaper.
- Plastic bags take more than 100 years to decompose.
- WA has the worst recycling diversion rate in Australia.
- All plastic (coded from 1-7), as well as empty plastic bags, can be recycled in your recycling bin.

The City offers a number of additional services to residents that increase diversion from landfill and reduces their rates. These include: worm farms, compost bins, bokashi buckets, community recycle stations, free second recycling bins, subsidised green waste bins and e-waste, metal and mattress recycling.

### **LESS WASTE: LESS COST**

**ENDS**

#### **About National Recycling Week**

National Recycling Week, founded by Planet Ark, aims to bring a national focus to the environmental benefits of recycling. National Recycling Week runs from 9 – 15 November 2015.

#### **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 over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

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