

NSW Environmental Trust offers grants for education projects

Overview

Applications are now open for the NSW Environmental Trust's annual Eco Schools Grants Program. It is one of a broad suite of grant programs offered by the Trust, an independent statutory body administered by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, to encourage organisations to undertake projects that enhance the environment of NSW.

"Research shows us that when young people develop an appreciation of the environment early in life, those attitudes stay with them and influence their behaviours in later life," said Peter Dixon, Director Grants at the NSW Environmental Trust. *"That's why the Eco Schools Program is an important support for environmental education of young people. Schools are uniquely placed to teach students what sustainability is, why it's important to care for our environment, and what good environmental citizenship looks like."*

The Grant

In 2018, 80 Eco Schools grants of \$3,500 each will be offered for student focused environmental management projects, including water and energy conservation, recycling, bush regeneration, habitat improvement and food gardens. The Trust also encourages schools to consider projects that cater primarily for students with special needs. A great example of what schools can do is **Ourimbah Public School's *Connecting with Our Rainforest*** project in which students learnt about the rainforest ecosystem by developing a walking trail. The trail passes by an Aboriginal grinding site that is now accessible to teachers and students. Educational signage assisted teachers to integrate nature based learning into the curriculum and maximise student outdoor environmental education. Students hosted engaging environmental programs and nature walks and talks for parents.

"I encourage schools to think about what they can achieve for their students with an Eco Schools grant, and to apply for this year's Eco Schools Program," said Mr Dixon.



Student and community volunteers who helped create the rainforest walk at Ourimbah Public School.

Application Details

Applications close 3pm, Monday 18 June 2018. Information about how to apply for this year's grants is available at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm>.

Schools can also find a range of success stories, tips and resources on the website.

Contact the Trust on (02) 8837 6093 or email info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au for further information.

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