



2026 PROGRAM

Maitland environmental sustainability education in schools

maitland
CITY COUNCIL

Introduction: Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The health and wellbeing of our community is linked to the health of our environment. Improving the quality of the natural environment, reducing our impact and becoming more resilient to environmental change are important steps to secure the social and economic wellbeing of our community for generations to come.

This program for schools is designed to educate our next generation of environmental stewards. It includes events, resources and incursions designed to support schools in the delivery of hands-on environmental sustainability education connected to our local environment.

Connect

For bookings and general enquiries, email: maitland.greencommunities@maitland.nsw.gov.au or speak to one of our sustainability officers on (02) 4934 9700

Maitland's Environmental Sustainability Strategy:

<https://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2024-09/Environmental%20Sustainability%20Strategy.pdf>

Subscribe to our newsletters:

<https://nsw.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=30274d868d4af94c956b89ac2&id=49219297d6>

Nominate a school contact

By providing a teacher contact for the Maitland Environment Sustainability Education in Schools 2026 Program you will ensure that your school is advised of new environmental sustainability workshops, events and grants as they become available. Schools may have multiple contacts.

Email maitland.greencommunities@maitland.nsw.gov.au with

School:

Staff member name:

Position:

Email address:

School phone number:

Supporting sustainability in schools

Looking to engage your students in environmental sustainability? Maitland City Council offers free curriculum-aligned incursions to connect students with their environment and build understanding across a range of curriculum topics.

Presentations

Each 45-60min presentation can be delivered to classes, stage groups, and assemblies.



Green and blue Maitland

Explore our natural spaces, all from the classroom! Learn about caring for the environment, including the flora and fauna found there.

Geography syllabus links

- Early Stage 1:** 'People live in places'
- Stage 1:** 'Features of places'
- Stage 2:** 'Places are similar and different'
- Stage 3:** 'Factors that shape places'

Liveable and resilient communities

A look at the weather of the region, the water cycle, how weather can affect places and activities, and ways to design places to live.

Geography syllabus links

- Stage 1:** 'Features of places'

Living sustainably

Learn how we use natural resources in our everyday lives, like the generation of electricity, and why sustainably using energy and water is important for us and the environment.

Science and technology syllabus links

- Stage 1:** 'Earth and space'
- Stage 2:** 'Physical world'



Going circular with waste

Find out about the hierarchy of waste and how we change the way we see and manage waste. Look at the meaning of the recycling symbol and reuse opportunities.

Science and technology syllabus links

- Stage 1:** 'Earth and space'

Geography syllabus links

- Stage 2:** 'The Earth's environment'
- Stage 3:** 'Factors that shape places'

Food and fibre: waste avoidance

Discover how composting and worm farming turn food scraps into a valuable resource. Explore ways to avoid creating food waste with hints for home and the lunchbox.

Science and technology syllabus links

- Early Stage 1-3:** 'Living world'

Food and fibre: Plants and soil

Learn about managing your school veggie garden or native plantings. We'll explore pollinators, soil health, plant life cycles, and the benefits of plants in our environment.

Science and technology syllabus links

- Early Stage 1-3:** 'Living world'



Does your school need assistance in completing an environmental sustainability project? Follow the QR code to see how we can help.



Keep up to date with events, grants and news with our Green Communities Newsletter.



Find out about the PowerUp battery recycling program for schools, and other waste education programs.

Email maitland.greencommunities@maitland.nsw.gov.au to discuss a booking.

Supporting sustainability in schools (7-12)

Looking to engage your students in environmental sustainability? Maitland City Council can offer free curriculum-aligned incursions to connect students with their environment and build understanding across a range of curriculum topics.

Sessions

The below themes from our Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals relating to the environment and align with a range of syllabus content areas.



A green and blue maitland

Discuss concepts around biodiversity, environmental management including technology applications, and the ways to support our natural environment.



Liveable and resilient communities

A look at how communities can enable high quality of life, bounce back from natural hazard events, and adapt to a changing climate.



Living sustainably

Explore how aspects of sustainability are achieved using renewable resources, reduction of water use, and changes to everyday habits.



Going circular with waste

Engage students in understanding how and why waste and resources are managed and build an understanding of the circular economy.



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POWER UP

Register your school for the POWER UP battery recycling program. The program helps students and families learn how to safely recycle used household batteries, reducing the risk of fires and protecting our community. Battery fires in garbage trucks and waste facilities happen too often and are preventable with knowledge of safe disposal.

Schools in the program receive a 10L collection tube, fire-resistant satchel, educational content, risk assessment documentation, and a collection service from our Resource Recovery team.

In 2024, POWER UP ran as a trial at 14 schools and collected 175kg of household batteries for safe recycling.

Register or find out more be emailing waste.admin@maitland.nsw.gov.au



Clean Up Australia

Registration for a Clean Up Australia event is free and can be done [here](#). If you plan to hold a Clean Up event within the Maitland Local Government Area on Council land and not on school premises, then please complete the form found on our [Get involved in sustainability page](#) in addition to registering your activity with Clean Up Australia.

Tree Day

Each year schools across the local government area are invited to participate in National Tree Day. Schools can register with Council to receive up to 40 shrub or groundcover seedlings for planting in their school grounds. Council will contact schools during June each year to organise seedling requests.

Applicants must have approval for their planting activity from their principal and assets management team or site management team.

Email to maitland.greencommunities@maitland.nsw.gov.au



Schools Resource Request Application

Maitland City Council can assist schools by providing environmental sustainability resources and education incursions to assist in the delivery of complete environmental sustainability projects.

During the 25/26 financial year, schools in the Maitland Local Government Area (LGA) that have made an environmental sustainability incursion booking may apply for resources to the value of \$300 to support an environmental sustainability project at school. Please see the application form for more details.

Apply by emailing the application form on our
[Get involved in sustainability page](#) to
maitland.greencommunities@maitland.nsw.gov.au



Evaluation

A simple impact report must be submitted on completion of your funded project, which includes;

- a brief description of what the project achieved
- how it supported curriculum and/or wider school needs (e.g. strategic directions, wellbeing, community relationships, etc)
- one or more photos.

Schools must submit their impact report by email: maitland.greencommunities@maitland.nsw.gov.au

Council officers may contact you to ask for further information or invite for your project success to be shared. Failure to submit an impact report will result in the school no longer being eligible to make future resource requests.

Changes will come to this program in the 26/27 financial year.

Environmental Educator

[Subscribe to our newsletters](#) for local educators to receive environmental sustainability education resource and activity ideas, news, book recommendations and more.

Sustainable Schools Spotlight: Send in your examples of sustainability success in your school so that we can share your achievements with the community. Once per school year, if your school is selected as the feature school we will deliver a prize pack of your choice, either compost, worm farm equipment, or plants for your school garden.

Maitland Environmental Youth Forum

The Maitland Environmental Youth Forum is a biennial event providing schools with the opportunity to come together across the local government area, engage with environmental professionals from a range of industry environmental agencies and organisations, and learn about environmental sustainability. Schools will be contacted by Council in the lead up to the 2027 Forum to seek their interest in participating.

Local data to support your lessons

[Maitland's Smart & Sustainable City Platform](#) is a hub for local datasets, city insights, and citizen science.

Check our progress towards environmental sustainability targets, use real local data about energy, water use and emissions, or learn about opportunities to participate in citizen science like the Aussie Bird Count.

Consider these significant days in your school calendar!

February

- [World Wetlands Day](#). We encourage you to join us and celebrate the beauty and importance of Australia's wetlands.

March

- [National Ride2School Day](#). Register and encourage your students to be active on their journey to school.
- [Schools Clean Up Australia Day](#). Improve towards conserving our environment, eliminating litter and ending waste. (All Year)
- [Schools Earth Hour](#). With Earth Hour lesson plans and fundraising ideas, students can learn about nature and help save it.
- [World Wildlife Day](#). Recognising the unique roles and contributions of wildlife to people and the planet.
- [World Frog Day](#). A day dedicated to raising awareness for frogs and other amphibians.
- [Zero Waste Day](#). Reflecting on production and consumption globally.

May

- [National Walk Safely to School Day](#). An event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.
- [International Composting Awareness Week](#). Improve awareness of the importance of compost - a valuable organic resource.
- [World Bee Day](#). Raise awareness of the importance of protecting bees and other pollinators.
- [World Turtle Day](#). Shell-ebrate the protection of turtles and tortoises.

June

- [World Environment Day](#). A global event dedicated to raising awareness and encouraging action for environmental sustainability.
- [World Oceans Day](#). A reminder of the critical importance of protecting our oceans and marine life.

July

- [Plastic Free July](#). A global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution.
- [Schools Tree Day](#). A great opportunity to inspire and educate future generations on the many benefits of trees and connection with nature.

August

- [National Science Week](#). In-person and online events, virtual tours, DIY science and more, across Australia.

September

- [Biodiversity Month](#). Promote the importance of connecting with nature and caring for nature in all its diversity.
- [National Threatened Species Day](#). Recognising the Australian native animal and plant species facing extinction.
- [The B&B Bio Blitz](#). Participating in citizen science helps to identify species, understand declines and help regeneration strategies.
- [National Organic Week](#). Increase awareness of the benefits of organic products and farming production systems.
- [World Rivers Day](#). It highlights the many values of rivers to increase public awareness and encourage improved stewardship.

October

- [Schools Recycle Right Challenge](#). A challenge that includes themed activities, lesson plans and event ideas.
- [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#). Get ready to celebrate and observe Australia's incredible birdlife alongside thousands of fellow bird lovers.
- [National Water Week](#). Encourages individuals, communities, schools and organisations to be inspired to promote the importance of water.

November

- [Outdoor Classroom Day](#) A global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day.
- [Frog ID Week](#). Hosted by the Australian Museum, it is Australia's biggest frog count.
- [Australian Pollinator Week](#). Acknowledges our important and unique insect pollinators.
- [National Recycling Week](#). Engaging Australians on the importance of closing the recycling loop.
- [World Sustainable Transport Day](#). Whether its for work, school or fun – our transport choices have an environmental impact.

December

- [World Soil Day](#). Highlights the importance of healthy soil for the sustainable management of soil resources.

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