



Sustainable Schools Program ~ CERES

Working with Schools towards a more sustainable Future

Carbon Cuts Challenge

DEAR PARENT

Here is a great chance to get your school another Sustainable Schools Program resource module and curriculum resources, as well as help save the environment, learn more about sustainability and even save yourself some cash!

The EPA along with the Australian Greenhouse Office has developed a Greenhouse Calculator – CD-Rom for use by householders with the view of data logging your existing greenhouse rating and then setting a challenge to reducing your greenhouse rating over 6 months. The initial target is a reduction of 20% - and of course we would hope that you continue with more 'green' practices with further reductions after the challenge is completed. It doesn't matter if you don't make 20% but any change in the right direction is a fantastic step towards your children's and the world's future. Participants who achieve 20% reduction or more, will be eligible for individual prizes, and in the case of businesses, the chance to promote their corporate citizenship.

Just to make sure that we are putting our money where our mouths are – your school are going to race you at the challenge also.

The wider benefit of you participating in the challenge is that CERES will give your school a free module complete with curriculum activities to be used towards the Sustainable Schools Program and accreditation. Your school is already a 2 star school – this would make it a 3 or more star school. You may well be the first community in Australia to have a school that has all five stars!

Requirements

We need to enlist a minimum of 15 families and/or businesses, from each school to gain entry into this challenge.

You will need to do an audit using the EPA's Greenhouse Calculator CD-Rom and log your ratings and score sheets with your school. We will do this during a one off family workshop night at school. The coordinating teacher will then pass these on to CERES to be logged on a central database. This does not contain any of your personal information other than your family name, school and ratings sheet. We will get the school to verify your rating sheet by citing your power bills etc.

You will need to then adopt as many 'green practices' as possible in order to reduce or modify your consumer patterns in the areas of waste, water and in particular energy. You need to make a major commitment to at least one practice. This may include, making a compost bin or wormery, buying green electricity, changing your light globes, walking to school etc.

At the end of the 6 month period, you need to reassess your rating again using the calculator and send the results into your school. Easy isn't it!

CERES will provide you with a copy of the CD-Rom which includes the instructions, and an information and workshop evening to show you how to use the calculator and of course what things you can do to reduce your greenhouse omissions. Your kids already know many of these 'green practices' through activities that they have been doing at school. We will also give you a certificate of participation.

So jump into the challenge and help support your school, the environment and the future!