

Early Learning Centre Waste Minimisation Program (ELCWMP) Information Booklet

City of Moreton Bay

Introduction

City of Moreton Bay's *Early Learning Centre Waste Minimisation Program* (ELCWMP) is a milestone program available FREE to early learning centres (ELC) across the region to address their waste issues.

Council's partnership with member centres will mobilise, empower and achieve on-ground practice and behaviour change to avoid and minimise general waste to landfill and increase recycling and recovery. Guidance, advice, training, infrastructure and resources are provided that will engage centres and their children in meaningful investigations of on-site waste issues, thereby informing the design and implementation of more sustainable and appropriate waste management systems.

The benefits to your centre in becoming an ELCWMP member are to:

- Access to continual ELCWMP guidance, support and resources
- Understand your site's waste issues clearly and simply
- Improve the efficiency of your waste management services and systems
- Understand local waste facility processes and accepted items in waste collection services
- Reduce general waste volumes to landfill and associated costs
- Improve recycling and other valuable resource diversion and recovery processes
- Empower child/family ownership of the issue and engagement in the solution
- Processes to support and collaborate with all stakeholder levels and rationales
- Create waste management systems that reflect 'best practice' in the community
- Consult with a waste minimisation action plan for your centre that will provide resilience, and endeavour to embed and sustain implemented practice and behaviour change
- Become leaders in sustainability and champions of waste minimisation for the City of Moreton Bay

The benefits to Council are very similar to your centre with improved ELC waste management systems through ongoing partnerships, and general waste disposed in landfill is reduced with an awareness of avoidance and improved recovery and recycling of resources available for more sustainable reprocessing.

By empowering and rewarding ELC communities in developing a more sustainable and resourceful culture toward the consumption of materials, a more positive environmental change will be accepted by the wider community.

For further information please contact:

EnviroCom

Education Consultants

07-5494 5100

MBRCWasteEd@envirocom.com.au

Early Learning Centre Waste Minimisation Program (ELCWMP)

Information Booklet

Here are the milestones of the program:

Briefing Meeting and ‘What’s in your waste?’ Audit

The waste education officer visits the ELC to have a briefing meeting and complete the audit with the ELC’s educators during a staff meeting. The waste education officer conducts an audit of the ELC’s general waste with the assistance of the educators. Following the audit, the group discusses the waste diversion and minimisation measures currently in place at the centre and the waste diversion and minimisation measures the centre aims to implement over the course of the program. In the days following the briefing meeting and audit, the waste education officer sends the ELC their waste management action plan.

In-Centre Education Delivery

Once the audit is complete, a waste education officer can visit the centre to deliver waste education, either to the centre’s kindergarten class or the educators themselves. The delivery of waste education, in terms of frequency and subject matter, is dependent on the needs of the centre.

The kindergarten lessons are 30-minutes long and can focus on composting, worm farming or recycling. The lesson is delivered with the Early Years Learning kit that each centre is entitled to. During the lesson, the waste education officer can assist with the set-up or maintenance of the centre’s new infrastructure.

A waste education officer can also visit the centre to deliver a workshop to the educators. These in-centre workshops serve as a customised ELC Evening Workshop and can assist those centres struggling to attend the ELC Evening Workshops.

Progress Check-In

The waste education officer engages the centre in a short 15-minute progress meeting after delivering education to ensure the centre is working towards the goals set out in their waste management action plan. The waste education officer shows the educators the inspect and assess form and explains the elements of best practice waste management.

Inspect and Assess and ‘What’s in your waste?’ Audit

A waste education officer visits the ELC to conduct an inspection and assessment of the program outcomes in May. The waste education officer and educators discuss which goals have been achieved and the waste diversion and avoidance measures implemented at the centre over the course of the program. The waste education officer then conducts a follow-up audit of the ELC’s general waste with the assistance of the educators.

Reward and Recognise

The ELC is visited by a waste education officer with their local Councillor (if available) for a short presentation. During the presentation, the ELC is awarded with their case study and a prize pack to recognise the ELC’s efforts and achievements over the course of the ELCWMP. Media opportunities are pursued and encouraged.