CURRICULUM UNIT OF WORK

TEACHER TRAINING

OUTDOOR LEARNING

STUDENT RESOURCES

IN SCHOOL ACTION

“It really helped us to understand water issues at our school.”

School Principal

Blacktown City Council
‘WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RAIN’ SCHOOLS PACKAGE

Investigating stormwater management strategies in Blacktown City provides students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to be active citizens in the 21st century. Through project based learning students will develop real and informed suggestions for improved stormwater management at school, home or in their local community.

This schools package invites students and teachers to engage in a Sustainability Action Process to understand stormwater issues, best practice management and to design and implement a stormwater management or education plan for their school.

Benefits of the ‘What happens to the rain’ schools package program include:
- a free curriculum linked, Stage 2/3 Science and Technology Unit of Work
- a multi-touch interactive book (iBook) and worksheets to enhance student engagement
- a teacher training day and bus tour of local waterways
- a student excursion to our award winning site at Blacktown Showground
- technical support for in-school stormwater management from Council staff
- incursion opportunities, Eco Active Schools grant funding and more!

TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE PACKAGE CONTACT:
Blacktown City Council ourenvironment@blacktown.nsw.gov.au or Brewongle Environmental Education Centre on 02 4579 1136

These resources have been developed in partnership
CURRICULUM UNIT OF WORK

About the ‘What happens to the rain’ unit of work:

- It will meet NSW K-6 Science and Technology syllabus for Stage 3 Knowledge and Understanding – Made Environments – Built Environments and Skills - Working Technologically.
- It can be downloaded free from https://brewongleeec.com/resources/stage-3-resources/

The unit provides an authentic, project based learning approach to understanding stormwater as a local and broader issue facing made environments. The unit meets Science K-10 Syllabus including; ST3 -1VA, ST3 -2VA, ST3 -5WT, ST3-14BE and uses key inquiry questions and teaching and learning activities. The unit will help you meet cross curriculum priorities as well as deliver quality teaching elements (metalanguage, substantive communication, engagement, connectedness etc).

“Teaching this unit gave us a great way of integrating sustainability and cross curriculum priorities in the classroom.” Teacher, Dawson Public School

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TEACHER TRAINING

About the teacher training day:

• Discover what makes Blacktown an award winning water sensitive city.
• Participate in field study activities to investigate a healthy waterway in a built environment.
• To ensure your students don’t miss out while you learn, we can provide casual teacher fees.

Teachers will enjoy this guided field study tour of local waterways. Concepts covered include: ephemeral nature of water in Australia, flooding, riparian flora and fauna, water quality, management and history of local waterways.

An overview of the unit of work and the multi touch iBook will be provided by Brewongle Environmental Education Centre staff to ensure teachers are supported in the classroom.

“It was great meeting other teachers and sharing tips and ideas for engaging the kids. The tour of local waterways was really good. I learnt a lot.” Teacher, Parklea Public School

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OUTDOOR LEARNING

We know that students who have contact with nature have higher cognitive function and a greater sense of wellbeing (Beyond Blue 2009) so that’s why we provide an excursion as part of the ‘What happens to the rain’ schools package.

About the outdoor learning component:
- Students visit Blacktown Showground to investigate a real life, locally relevant case study.
- Students will participate in a range of scientific investigation and games to learn about water sensitive urban design, localised flooding, water quality and stormwater pollution and discover how they can help care for the creeks near their school.

Why Blacktown Showground?
Blacktown is a water sensitive city. We are committed to improving the way we manage water. The water that flows from the city centre is now treated in the Showground. While some of the water is collected for use on site, the remaining water provides good quality aquatic habitat for plants and animals ensuring our waterways remain clean and healthy and full of life.

“The games were fun, but I liked looking for waterbugs the best.” Student, Shalvey Public School
STUDENT RESOURCES

To support student learning we have developed a range of resources, designed by teachers, for use inside and outside the classroom.

We have built a multi touch interactive book (iBook) to help students and teachers delve into the world of stormwater management. The iBook opens with a welcome to country in our local Aboriginal Darug language and includes; quizzes, pop ups, google maps, student project challenges, kid friendly videos and a friendly frog to show the way. The iBook contains details about water sensitive urban design techniques and links directly with NSW Stage 3 Science and Technology syllabus outcomes.

Benefits of the resources:
- linked directly to key enquiry questions in the unit of work
- has kids teaching kids on a virtual video tour of the Showground for pre excursion learning
- designed by teachers for teachers.

“I really liked how the iBook had videos of kids showing us around the Showground.”

Student, Riverbank Public School

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**IN SCHOOL ACTION**

We want to support schools to implement on ground actions and extend learning and engagement with the community to promote healthy waterways. We can provide in school support in the form of technical assistance to identify stormwater management opportunities as well as incursions and games to support in class learning.

**Opportunities available include:**
- EcoActive Schools Program
- Sustainable Schools Network membership
- incursions, games and activities to support you in the classroom
- technical expertise and assistance from Council.

Students involved in round 1 of the program were empowered to act on stormwater management and focus on water sensitive urban design solutions. They identified localised flooding and littering issues within their school affecting water quality in local creeks. Examples of student led action include; writing to the Principal and costing repairs, building rain gardens as well as educating others about the impact of litter and water pollution on local wildlife. To view more case studies about schools involved in the program go to https://brewongleeec.com/resources/stage-3-resources/

“**Blacktown City Council staff were really helpful and visited our school to give us assistance with stormwater management issues.**”

*Teacher, Willmot Public School*