

# Local sustainability resources for educators

As at October 2022

## Summary

Rockhampton Regional Council provides a number of environment and sustainability activities and resources that can be accessed by schools and teachers. This includes:

- Living Sustainably Program e-newsletter
- Sustainability in Action Competition
- Environment and Sustainability Grants
- Native Plant Program
- National Tree Day activities
- Nature Play Passports
- Clean Up Australia Day activities
- Citizen science activities
- Contacts for local environment groups
- Portable water stations
- Other handy resources

## Living Sustainably Program

If you're looking for great local sustainability content, then Council's [Living Sustainably](#) program is for you. The program aims to improve the Rockhampton Region's capacity to live sustainably by encouraging a range of sustainability behaviours and actions for residents to implement in their own home, supported by a range of associated resources, information and activities for those who wish to learn more.

This rolling program addresses 12 sustainability themes across a wide range of areas from waste avoidance and recycling, to water and energy efficiencies, sustainable transport and caring for our catchments. Each of the 12 themes drive action by linking with monthly communications, local events, community activities, competitions and grants. The Program also links with local, national and international campaigns and events such as [Clean-Up Australia Day](#), [National Tree Day](#) and [National Recycling Week](#).

You can [subscribe to the monthly Living Sustainably e-newsletter](#) to get involved and check out the Living Sustainably pages on Council's website:

<https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CommunityEvents/Environmental-Sustainability/Living-Sustainably>

## 'Sustainability in Action' Competition

Council's annual 'Sustainability in Action' competition recognises and celebrates sustainability actions in our local schools and community.

Whether its making reusable bags, participating in tree planting, developing solar powered vehicles, installing solar panels, exploring water re-use, learning how to look after creeks, composting, tending to vegetable and food gardens, recycling right, reducing food waste, holding nude food days, implementing litter reduction activities, doing nature craft or taking other sustainability actions, schools are at the forefront of educating the next generation about environmental sustainability.

To enter, all you need to do is capture and submit photos of your students putting sustainability into action at your school, along with a quote from your students. All schools are recognised for their achievements and receive prizes just for entering. Your school administration will receive email notification when the competition is about to open.

For more information, please see:

<https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CommunityEvents/Environmental-Sustainability/Get-involved/Schools-Sustainability-in-Action-Competition>

## Environment and Sustainability Grants

Council's Community Assistance Program provides a number of different grants to support our community. The Environment and Sustainability Grants are designed to support community-led environment and sustainability initiatives, and further the objectives of Council's Sustainability Strategy. The Environment and Sustainability Scheme can provide grants of up to \$1000 per initiative. School P&C / P&F Associations across the Rockhampton Region are eligible to apply for an Environment and Sustainability Grant.

For more information, please see:

<https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CommunityEvents/Environmental-Sustainability/Community-Assistance-Program-Projects>

## Native Plant Program

Council offers a free native plant program for local residents, landholders and schools as part of our local National Tree Day celebrations every July. All schools within the Region will receive a voucher via email, encouraging them to collect up to 20 free native plants from their local Council Customer Service Centre.

For more information on the Native Plant Program see:

<https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CommunityEvents/Environmental-Sustainability/Bringing-Nature-Back/Native-Plant-Program>

## National Tree Day activities

National Tree Day is Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event. It's a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community. Schools are welcome to join a Council-coordinated planting site or to host their own planting at school.

National Tree Day planting sites are promoted in July each year - keep an eye out on [Council's events](#) and [Facebook page](#).

## Nature Play Passports

[Nature Play QLD](#) is a collaborative organisation, working with partner groups to encourage the Queensland community to value nature play, and support families to prioritise it in children's lives. The Rockhampton Region Nature Play Passport is a fun and interactive way for children to explore our local natural environment. Using the Nature Play Passport, children can complete 10 local missions and record and celebrate their nature play adventures. Some teachers have used the Passports to support class excursions, whilst others have used them to inspire creative writing and everything in between!

You can request a class set of the Rockhampton Region Nature Play Passport by contacting Council's Environmental Sustainability Team via email: [sustainability@rrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@rrc.qld.gov.au)

## Clean Up Australia Day activities

Clean Up Australia Day is a great opportunity to get out and take care of our natural environment so that it can continue to take care of us. Getting involved with a local Clean Up Australia Day site each year is a good way to show your appreciation for the natural environment in a practical, hands-on way. Council registers a number of local Clean Up sites each year that you can join. You can also create your own Clean Up as a community group, business or school group.

Find out more here about Clean Up Australia Day here:

<https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CommunityEvents/Environmental-Sustainability/Get-involved/Clean-Up-Australia-Day>

## Citizen Science activities

Citizen science is hands on, volunteer-based research where everyday people collect environmental data to help answer scientific questions. Citizen science projects can be particularly useful to gather local data and statistics to feed into formal monitoring programs. It's also a great way to help your students actively participate and get involved in local community projects.

You'll find a range of different citizen science opportunities on Council's website:

<https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CommunityEvents/Environmental-Sustainability/Get-involved/Citizen-Science>

## Get involved with local environmental partners

There are many individuals and organisations working together to improve environmental sustainability in the Rockhampton Region. Whether you're keen to discover more about caring for our catchments, looking to visit the Fitzroy Basin Association's Flow Centre, become a Reef Guardian School or learn more about our native plants and animals, there are a whole range of opportunities. Find out more about our local environmental partners and groups here:

<https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CommunityEvents/Environmental-Sustainability/Environmental-partners-groups>

## Hire a portable water station for your next event

Council has two portable “Meet Pat” water stations that are available for loan. The water stations are available for indoor or outdoor use for community groups, schools and other not for profit organisations. You can use the water stations at school events to encourage people to bring their own bottle of water, rather than buy bottled water, reducing the amount of event rubbish going to landfill. The water stations are simple to set up and are wheelchair accessible.

You can book a Meet Pat water station for your next event by filling out the booking form and returning it to Council’s Customer Service Centre. A \$200 fully refundable bond is required at the time of booking. See: <https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/AboutCouncil/Custom-Forms#VenuesandEvents> (Portable Water Station Hire Request Form)

## Handy resources

Council’s website is jam-packed with handy sustainability resources. Did you know?

- Council has a [Sustainability Strategy](#) to help guide it’s actions
- Council publishes an annual [Sustainability Strategy - Year in Review](#) report that highlights key local achievements
- The Rockhampton Region has a range of unique [natural assets](#), [flora and fauna](#)
- Council is a member of the [Reef Guardian Council](#) program
- Council partners with [local organisations](#) to deliver to protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment
- Council delivers an on-ground [Natural Resource Management](#) program
- Council provides [Environment and Sustainability grants](#) that can assist you to implement new initiatives at your school!

Find out more at [Council’s website!](#)

### For more information

**Website:**

<https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/EnvironmentalSustainability>

**Phone:** Council’s Customer Service Centre on 1300 22 55 77

**Email:** [sustainability@rrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@rrc.qld.gov.au)