

Community Assistance Program

Environment and Sustainability Scheme

FY2021-22 Grants Report

Rockhampton Regional Council's Environment and Sustainability Scheme supports community-led environment and sustainability initiatives that further the objectives of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Grants provided in FY2021-22:

As at February 2022

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| Number of grants awarded to date | 4 |
| Number of grants acquitted | 1 |
| Total funding awarded to date | \$9,200 |

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Please note:

Rockhampton Regional Council delivers three grant funding rounds each year. Information is correct as at the time of publishing this report.

Gracemere State School P&C Association:

Containers for Change initiative

Gracemere State School's Student Council wanted to reduce waste whilst raising funds to support sustainability projects on the school grounds. So the Student Council established a Containers for Change program at the school, introduced the concept at school assembly and then worked with each of the classes to begin collecting drink containers.

Key outcomes:

- The School's students and teachers were encouraged to divert their bottles, cans and poppers away from general waste and into the school's recycling program (diverting over 700 containers in just a few short months);
- Students learned about the different types of containers that can be accepted by the Containers for Change program;
- The Student Council managed the project, providing opportunities for students to gain experience in developing and implementing local sustainability projects;
- Information about the program was shared with the broader school community through the school newsletter and social media;
- Now established, the program will continue on an ongoing basis;
- Funds raised by the program are being reinvested in school sustainability projects, helping to empower the school community to live and work more sustainably.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in August 2021.



Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$200

Delivery: July to November 2021

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Gracemere State School and broader Gracemere school community

Project completed: December 2021

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Park Avenue

P&F Association: *Interactive Ecozone*

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School P&F Association seeks to develop a dedicated sustainability learning space. The Interactive Ecozone is designed to play an integral role in the future of the school providing a range of teaching opportunities related to biodiversity, growing your own food, composting, water-saving practices and living sustainably.

The EcoZone has been developed as a whole of school project and will support a vegetable garden, water tanks, native beehives, compost bins, worm farms, chicken coop and the school's bin management system. This grant will support the school to install a water tank and construct raised beds for the vegetable garden.

Key expected outcomes:

- The School will create awareness across the school community about the importance of sustaining and improving our environment;
- Students, teachers and parents will participate in a co-design process and have input into the design, construction, management and maintenance of the Ecozone;
- Students will participate in hands-on learning experiences and have an opportunity to connect with nature;
- Information about the program will be shared with the broader school community through the school newsletter, electronic billboard, social media platforms and on-site signage; and
- The Ecozone will directly link with key curriculum areas and be used by the school to help celebrate key events such as World Environment Day, NAIDOC Week, Laudato Si' Week, Earth Day, National Recycling Week, National Tree Day and other sustainability initiatives.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in August 2021.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3,000

Delivery: August 2021 to June 2022

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School P&F Association, the broader St Joseph's school community

Project status: Active

St Peter's Catholic Primary School P&F Association:

Don't waste our environment (part 3)

St Peter's Catholic Primary School is an active participant in both Council's Sustainability in Action program and the Recycling Hero Schools program. As the next stage in their 'don't waste our environment' initiative, the School aims to focus on improving water efficiency related to their sporting grounds, play areas and ovals.

Key expected outcomes for the school are as follows:

- Lawn treatment to improve resilience and water retention properties;
- Improved playing surfaces;
- Reduced soil and water runoff;
- Water efficiency savings of around 30% per annum;
- The broader school community will gain an understanding of the importance of using innovative solutions to more effectively use our natural resources; and
- Council will be recognised via the school's newsletter, social media.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in August 2021.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3,000

Delivery: August 2021 to June 2022

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, St Peter's Catholic Primary School P&F Association and the broader St Peter's school community

Project status: Active

Emmaus College P&F Association: *CQ Sustainability Youth Summit and School Waste Management initiatives*

The Emmaus College Student Sustainability Committee are seeking support to implement two projects in 2022. This includes the CQ Sustainability Youth Summit involving secondary students from across the region and a whole-school waste management initiative.

Key expected outcomes:

- CQ Sustainability Youth Summit - Coordination of guest speakers, a guest panel, student activities and a networking session to further increase awareness of sustainability and build better connections between schools, business and industry.
- School Waste Management - Reduce waste to landfill by implementing new classroom-based waste infrastructure and procedures for collection of recyclable paper, drink containers, soft plastics and general waste.
- General - Build on success from the inaugural Youth Summit held in 2021. Provide students with the skills and knowledge to lead by example and take on sustainability leadership opportunities both on campus, in the community and at home.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in March 2022.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3,000

Delivery: March to October 2022

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council, Emmaus College P&F, Student Sustainability Committee, CQUniversity, local secondary schools

Project status: Active