



Learning and Leadership Initiatives

Supporting nature-based lifelong learning and leadership with teachers, educators and students of all year levels.



About Green Adelaide

We're working towards a cooler, greener, wilder and climate resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

Green Adelaide is one of South Australia's 9 regional landscape boards tasked with managing the state's land, water and biodiversity. What makes Green Adelaide unique is that it's the only urban landscape board. Our area of responsibility spans across Adelaide's 18 metropolitan councils and includes about a third of Gulf St Vincent.

Green Adelaide works to achieve its outcomes through on-ground action, monitoring and data collection, collaborative partnerships, influencing policy and inspiring a diverse movement of nature stewards.

We acknowledge and respect the native title holders and traditional owners of the Green Adelaide region – the Kaurna Miyurna (Kaurna people) – and pay homage to their ancestors who maintained the natural processes of the land we are on and whose spirits still dwell on Yarta (Country).



What do we do?

Sustainable Schools

Sustainable Schools is a free initiative that supports schools and preschools to embed sustainability across their site, culture, curriculum and practices.

We help educators and local communities connect with the natural world, develop the knowledge, skills and capabilities to lead informed action, foster lifelong learning, and enable active citizens.

What we offer

- educator professional learning training and networking events
- resources and programs to create a cooler, greener, wilder school
- student leadership programs and events
- climate action resources and programs to green and cool your school
- youth voice resources and programs
- local information including ID charts, factsheets and games on animals, plants, environments and climate change
- a loan library of books, videos, curriculum resources and equipment
- regular enews
- facilitation and support from Green Adelaide staff.

We can help you to

- develop a shared sustainability vision
- embed sustainability into your culture, curriculum, and practice
- design hands-on learning (for example, building frog ponds, vegetable plots and butterfly gardens)
- investigate wildlife and increase habitat in your school and beyond
- link with other schools/preschools and service providers
- become a hub for sustainability education with your local communities.

Register your site* through the [Department for Education](#) to access support from the Green Adelaide team.

**Available to all government and non-government sites.*



What services and resources can your school access?

We work with **all** educators across all learning stages, no matter your experience, role or level of sustainability knowledge.



Early years and primary schools snapshot

- [Youth Environmental Leaders or Cooler, Greener, Wilder, Youth](#)
- [Climate Ready Schools](#)
- [Stewardship of Endemic Endangered Species](#)
- Working with student environment groups
- Educator professional learning
- [Teaching resources](#)
- Localised environmental information
- Links to local community groups and initiatives
- [Loan library, kits and equipment](#)



High schools snapshot

- [Youth Environment Council of South Australia](#)
- [Youth Environmental Leaders or Cooler, Greener, Wilder, Youth](#)
- [Climate Ready Schools](#)
- [Stewardship of Endemic Endangered Species](#)
- [Coastal Ambassadors](#)
- Working with student environment groups
- Research project topics and ideas
- Educator professional learning
- [Teaching resources](#)
- Localised environmental information
- Links to local community groups and initiatives
- [Loan library, kits and equipment](#)

More detailed information about programs can be found on the following pages.

Youth Leadership and Student Voice Programs

Green Adelaide can support you to meaningfully involve students in a range of ways to:

- increase student's engagement
- foster collaboration between students and their teachers
- build respectful relationships, connections and belonging
- create and maintain a positive environment and culture
- develop personal and social capabilities.

Youth Environmental Leaders (Southern Area)

The Youth Environmental Leaders Program supports students in Years 4–6 to become confident leaders in their schools and community.

Established for over 15 years, this program has helped schools cultivate student agency, environmental stewardship and stronger community connections, proven to enhance local environments and address real conservation issues.

What Students Experience

- **Lead an Environmental Project:** Students design and implement an on-ground project at their school—such as habitat gardens, nest boxes or biodiversity corridors—supported by their teacher and a Green Adelaide Education Officer.
- **Learn with Like-Minded Peers:** Across the year, students attend three interactive forums, collaborating with a network of schools through practical environmental and cultural activities with industry experts. Meeting like-minded students as passionate about the environment as themselves and discover the possibilities of projects to work on.
- **Build Confidence:** Schools have the opportunity to host a forum, giving students a chance to lead, present and share their work.
- **Connect Beyond School:** Students link with environmental groups, local government initiatives and conservation experts, expanding their understanding of real-world environmental action.

What Educators Gain

- Access to a network of schools and professionals
- Support to deliver student-driven, real-world environmental learning
- Professional growth in project-based and industry-connected education.

Why Join?

- Enhances student leadership, teamwork and problem-solving
- Encourages curiosity and learning-through-doing
- Builds wellbeing and belonging through nature connection
- Strengthens school involvement in local environmental action
- Creates visible, lasting improvements to school and community environments.

Please note, to participate schools must have (or establish) an environment or student voice group and provide ongoing teacher/adult mentor support for the full year. Limited places available.

Cooler, Greener, Wilder, Youth (Central and Northern Areas)

A dynamic program designed to inspire and empower students in Years 5-8 to actively engage with and care for local environments. This program offers a unique opportunity for students to cultivate curiosity, develop leadership, and agency and foster a deep appreciation for our natural ecosystems, right here in Adelaide.

Why Cooler, Greener, Wilder Youth?

Student Agency: Cooler, Greener, Wilder Youth will support students to take ownership of their learning and care for local environments. By nominating 4-8 enthusiastic students, your school can participate in an enriching experience that encourages teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving and promotes self-efficacy.

Hands-on Learning: Through mentorship, outdoor activities, and practical projects, students will explore their surroundings, plan initiatives, and be empowered to implement impactful actions. This experiential learning approach doesn't just make education more engaging; it also connects students with real-world environmental issues.

Effective Learners: through development of an ecological perspective, students see the connections within systems, and reflect on their identity as learners, seeing themselves as part of a larger 'community of learning'.

Wellbeing: The program promotes a sense of belonging, builds resilience, and encourages students to contribute to the wellbeing of those around them, our communities and local natural spaces.

Customisable Year-long Experience: The program is designed to be flexible, allowing schools to tailor their participation to fit their specific needs, interests and resources. Whilst we encourage you to attend all events throughout the year, you are free to attend as many or as few as you like.

Cooler, Greener, Wilder, Youth focuses on 3 key themes – greening and biodiversity, coast and marine, and rivers and waterways - encouraging students to explore the interconnectedness of local ecosystems and understand how their actions impact both their community and the wider environment.





Climate Ready Schools

The Climate Ready Schools program helps students investigate climate change adaptation and explore mitigation strategies in their school or local community. The program is designed to teach about climate change through a positive and practical approach while challenging students to investigate local climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

Delivered as a self-guided online program, students learn about the impacts of climate change at a global, national and local level. Using this knowledge, students use a problem-based learning approach through student-led co-design to address an aspect of climate change in their school or local community.

Why join?

- Students investigate real climate issues in their community
- Teachers get support and resources linked to curriculum
- Schools lead local solutions with lasting impact.

Program snapshot

- Year 5+ (customisable for younger years)
- Online, self-guided, flexible pace
- 6 online modules for students with content covering climate change projections, Adelaide heat and flood mapping, biodiversity data, sea level rise and other issues
- Design Thinking tools provided
- Links to experts and organisations
- Tailored teacher support
- Resources for student-led solutions provided.

SEEDS – Stewardship of Endemic Endangered Species

SEEDS creates an opportunity for select schools to contribute to plant conservation by becoming stewards of threatened native plant species.

Why SEEDS?

This hands-on program deepens students' understanding of biodiversity and the ecology of greater Adelaide while cultivating practical skills for meaningful conservation.

What SEEDS involves

Participating schools, working in partnership with the SA Seed Conservation Centre and Green Adelaide, are supported to propagate native plant seeds, raise seedlings and establish genetically diverse seed orchards for onsite seed collection. Schools go on to propagate seedlings for conservation plantings and work with local landholders and land care groups to ensure the threatened plant seedlings are planted in appropriate remnant areas to help build self-sustaining populations in the wild.

This program is currently at capacity but please contact Green Adelaide to express your interest for future selection.





Youth Environment Council of South Australia

The Youth Environment Council of South Australia (YEC) is an annual year-long program for high school students in Years 7-11 from across South Australia.

Since 1997 the YEC has provided a forum for young people to voice their concerns about key environmental issues and it has given them opportunities to take action towards a more environmentally sustainable future for SA.

The program provides students with a community of like-minded peers and supportive mentors to help them develop leadership and advocacy skills. YEC members are expected to undertake a project at home, school, or in their local community on a sustainability or environmental topic of their choice. These projects are showcased at a sharing and celebration event at the end of the year.

Please note, this is a yearly program for individual students via application only.

For more information, please visit the YEC website www.yecsa.net.au



Coastal Ambassadors – youth & adult programs

The Coastal Ambassadors program provides an educational experience to about 50 Adelaidians every year, to encourage conservation and advocacy. A Coastal Ambassador can be any individual who wants to learn as much as they can about our coast and marine environment and are driven to spread the word about and help protect it.

The program offers 2 separate courses – one for Year 8 to 9 students and the other for adults. They offer practical training, resources and interactive field visits to educate and inspire individuals about our coast and marine environments. They are open to anyone living in metropolitan Adelaide but have very limited spaces. For more details and how to apply please visit the [website](#), [subscribe to the Green Adelaide newsletter](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).





Professional Learning for Educators

Green Adelaide provides quality learning opportunities for educators. Professional learning sessions may be in-person or online. For sites registered with Sustainable Schools, we can provide tailored learning for your staff/faculty.

Our sessions aim to provide:

- concise and current information on environmental or sustainability topics
- hands-on activities and take-home resources
- opportunities to connect with nature, hear from experts and network with other educators
- certificates for attendees
- real-world examples from schools in your local area, and much more.



Early Years Educators Networks

This program supports early years educators to build skills and confidence in Education for Sustainability by providing opportunities to connect, share ideas, and take action. The networks are open to educators from kindergartens, preschools, Family Day Care, and childcare centres.

There are three regional networks: Central, Southern and Northern. Each network meets 3–4 times a year, more than one staff member from a site can attend and they are free. Each session focuses on a topic chosen by the network and is held at a different venue, usually an early learning site. Sessions include sharing learning from a guest or hosting educator, time for discussion, and afternoon tea in a friendly, informal setting. To join a network, please contact your local Learning Partnerships Coordinator.



Other opportunities

Citizen Science

Get your students actively involved with monitoring and recording what's going on at your site or in your local area. It's a great way to participate in outdoor learning and connects with maths, literacy and data collection outcomes for many year levels.

To find a citizen science activity or project, browse the [Australian Citizen Science Project Finder](#). We've provided a few below to get you started.

Seeds for Snapper

<https://ozfish.org.au/projects/seeds-for-snapper-south-australia>

Beachcombers and boaters can assist OzFish in collecting and planting seagrass seeds.

Reef Watch SA

www.reefwatchsa.org.au

Recreational divers and other (on shore) volunteers gather data about the health of the ocean.

Bird Life Australia

<https://birdlife.org.au/bird-counts-and-surveys>

Participate in the Beach-nesting Birds Program or the Shorebird Monitoring Program. Training provided.

AUSMap (microplastics)

www.ausmap.org

Join their sampling teams to conduct microplastic surveys.

Mozzie Monitors

www.inaturalist.org/projects/mozzie-monitors-australia

Mozzie Monitors is the first citizen science program in the world which combines mosquito trapping with the community participation.

Birddata

<https://birddata.birdlife.org.au>

Birddata is a digital repository of data about Australian birds spanning over half a century. It tells us where our birds are living, and how their populations have changed over time.

Aussie Bird Count

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

The Aussie Bird Count is an activity for all ages that involves observing and counting the birds that live near you – whether that's in your garden, the local park, a beach or even your town centre.

Fairywren Project

<https://fairywrenproject.org>

You can become a citizen scientist by submitting sightings of fairywrens through eBird.

Echidna CSI

www.adelaide.edu.au/environment/research/diversifying-citizen-science-and-public-engagement/echidna-csi

Contribute data, echidna sightings and even send in scats.



Frogs Watch SA

<https://frogwatchsa.com.au>

Learn about local frogs, participate in easy monitoring using FrogSpotter app.

Fungi

<https://fungimap.org.au/learn-2>

FungiMap is Australia's not for profit citizen science organisation dedicated to conservation and knowledge of Australian fungi.

Great Southern Bioblitz (each year in spring)

www.greatsouthernbioblitz.org

The 'Great Southern Bioblitz', attempts to record all the living species within several designated areas across the Southern Hemisphere in spring. Participants use iNaturalist to submit observations.

iNaturalist app and website

www.inaturalist.org

Connect with nature anytime, anywhere. Explore and share your observations from the natural world. Get suggested IDs for plants and animals.

Insect Investigators

<https://insectinvestigators.com.au/all-teacher-resources>

Schools can utilise resources to bring some six-legged learning into the classroom.

Wildlife Spotter

<https://volunteer.ala.org.au/wildlife-spotter>

Identify and tag images of animals and collection objects to support information discovery and research.

Wild Orchid Watch

www.wildorchidwatch.org

A national citizen science project designed to collect, record and share scientific information about Australian native orchids.

TurtleSAT

www.turtlesat.org.au/turtlesa

TurtleSAT allows communities to map the location of freshwater turtles in waterways and wetlands across the country.

Wild Pollinator Count

<https://wildpollinatorcount.com>

The Wild Pollinator Count gives you an opportunity to contribute to wild pollinator insect conservation in Australia. We invite you to count wild pollinators in your local environment and help us build a database on wild pollinator activity.

Funding and Grant Opportunities

Green Adelaide's Grassroots Grants are available each year to help individuals, community groups, sporting groups, recreational clubs, religious organisations, schools and more, transform their local environments. Grants from \$2,000 to \$200,000 will be available for local projects that contribute to a cooler, greener, and wilder Adelaide.

To apply, all projects must contribute to one of the Green Adelaide Board's regional priorities and focus areas.

Project examples include, but are not limited to:

- creating a locally native garden
e.g. butterfly garden, bush tucker garden
- installing nest boxes or bee hotels
- hosting a workshop or field day
- engaging with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Organisations
- development of educational or promotional materials.

[Subscribe Sustainable Schools enews](#) to ensure you get all the information about Grassroots Grants and other available funding opportunities for education sites.





Bringing Curriculum to Life

We work innovatively with educators to bring the curriculum to life by providing authentic, hands-on and industry connected learning experiences that cover countless learning areas. We ensure our resources and support are aligned with the Australian and South Australian curriculum as well as current teaching pedagogies and the Strategy for Public Education in South Australia.

This can look different for every site, depending on their priorities and goals and may include:

- providing tailored sustainability know-how so you can connect any curriculum area (particularly science and HASS) to the local environment on your school's doorstep.
- supporting you to link inquiry and problem-based units of work to genuine real-world issues, tapping into various integrated curriculum areas.
- providing the equipment you need to teach a curriculum area in the local environment in a hands-on way.
- providing new avenues for the development of learner dispositions (i.e. curiosity, Environmental Responsibility, Open Minded) as outlined in the SA curriculum.
- providing opportunities that allow for the development of Learner agency, including leadership programs and student-centred pedagogies.
- supporting you to strengthen connections to community, including First Nations communities.

Green Adelaide's initiatives provide opportunities to address cross-curriculum priorities in addition to addressing subject curricula. The services and resources offered provide teachers with the knowledge and resources to address sustainability within their teaching and learning.

Sustainability in the Australian Curriculum

We support the concept of Education for Sustainability (EfS). EfS develops the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for people to contribute to more sustainable patterns of living. The Australian Curriculum identifies sustainability as a cross-curriculum priority embedded in all learning areas. The priority is futures-oriented and encourages students to reflect on how they interpret and engage with the world. It is designed to raise student awareness about informed action to create a more environmentally and socially just world.

The initiatives offered by Green Adelaide provide educators with the knowledge and resources to address sustainability within their programs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures priority provides opportunities for students to deepen their knowledge of Australia by engaging with the world's oldest continuous living cultures. This cross-curriculum priority is inextricably linked to the cross-curriculum priority of sustainability.

Some of Green Adelaide's initiatives also present opportunities to address the cross-curriculum priority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures.

Key Environmental Awareness Days for 2026

Environmental awareness days are designed to highlight specific environmental challenges, encourage education, positive action, advocacy, and promotion of sustainable practices to help protect the planet. Below are some examples of local, national and international awareness days. Many have teaching and learning resources to support their theme. We've provided some to get you started, however it is not an exhaustive list.

World Wetlands Day – 2 Feb

www.worldwetlandsday.org

Schools Clean Up Day – 27 Feb

www.cleanup.org.au/schools

Clean up Australia Day – 1 Mar

www.cleanup.org.au

World Wildlife Day – 3 Mar

<https://wildlifeday.org/en>

Global Recycling Day – 18 Mar

www.globalrecyclingday.com

International Day of Forests – 21 Mar

www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests/en

World Water Day – 22 Mar

www.un.org/en/observances/water-day

Compost Awareness Week – 3-9 May

www.compostweek.com.au

World Migratory Bird Day – 10 May

www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

International Day of Plant Health – 12 May

<https://sdgresources.relx.com/events/international-day-plant-health>

World Bee Day – 20 May

www.worldbeeday.org.au

International Day for Biological Biodiversity – 22 May

www.un.org/en/observances/biological-diversity-day

World Turtle Day – 23 May

<https://www.worldturtleday.org/wtd>

World Environment Day – 5 June

www.worldenvironmentday.global

World Oceans Day – 8 June

<https://unworldoceansday.org>

Sustainable Gastronomy Day – 18 June

www.fao.org/sustainable-gastronomy-day/en

World day to Combat Desertification and Drought – 26 June

www.un.org/en/observances/desertification-day

World Microbiome Day – 27 June

<https://worldmicrobiomeday.com/about>

Schools Tree Day – 24 Jul

<https://nationaltreeday.org.au/get-involved/schools>

National Tree Day – 26 Jul

<https://nationaltreeday.org.au>

World Ranger Day – 31 Jul

www.internationalrangers.org/world-ranger-day

Keep Australia Beautiful Week – 3-9 Aug

<https://kab.org.au/keep-australia-beautiful-week>



National Science Week – 15-23 Aug

www.scienceweek.net.au

Biodiversity Month – Sep

www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/biodiversity-month

Save the Koala Month – Sep

<https://savethekoala.com/how-to-help/save-the-koala-month>

National Wattle Day – 1 Sep

<https://wattleday.asn.au>

Threatened Species Day – 7 Sep

<https://wwf.org.au/what-we-do/species/national-threatened-species-day>

National Bilby Day – 13 Sep

<https://savethebilbyfund.org.au/national-bilby-day/>

World Water Monitoring Day – 18 Sep

www.monitorwater.org

World Zero Emissions Day – 21 Sep

www.careourearth.com/zero-emissions-day

World Car Free Day – 22 Sep

www.worldcarfree.net/wcfd

World Animal Day – 4 Oct

www.worldanimalday.org.uk

World Habitat Day – 5 Oct

<https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/whd>

National Water Week – 19-25 Oct

www.nationalwaterweek.org

National Bird Week – 19-25 Oct

www.abc.net.au/kidslisten/ideas/earlylearning/get-counting-its-national-bird-week/11623370

Aussie Bird Count – 19-25 Oct

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

Turtle Month – Nov

www.secondnature.org.au/natures-news-strathalbyn-adelaide-south-australia/turtle-month-2024

National Recycling Week – 9-16 Nov

<https://planetark.com/programs/national-recycling-week>

National Ag Day – 20 Nov

<https://agday.org.au>

World Soil Day – 5 December

www.fao.org/world-soil-day/en

Resources to borrow

Access a range of teaching resources, kits and equipment for loan to education sites and community groups.

The loan library catalogue can be browsed online (www.greenadelaide.sa.gov.au/get-involved/sustainable-schools/loan-library) with all resources grouped by theme. We have a wide range of themed books, educator resources, games and reference materials.

Loan kits and equipment are user-friendly and add value to teaching and learning. Examples of loan kits include:

- Aquatic macroinvertebrate monitoring kit
- Binoculars
- Drain stencilling kits
- Nest box cameras
- Observation cameras
- Freshwater quality and coastal monitoring kits
- Fungi kits
- AUSMAP (Australian Microplastic Assessment Project) kit
- Infrared thermometers

The loan period is four weeks and is provided at no cost. Equipment kits must be collected in person from KESAB (214 Grange Rd, Flinders Park). Other items can be delivered via the Department for Education Courier. The Green Adelaide team may be able to assist you with collection and/or delivery if the DfE courier does not come to your site.



Learning with Others

Contact these local organisations for a range of programs, experiences and resources for preschools and schools that support nature-based lifelong learning.

Other government and non-government organisations

[Arbury Park Outdoor School](#)

[Australian Association for Environmental Education SA Chapter](#)

[Botanic Gardens](#)

[Cleland Wildlife Park](#)

[Christies Walk](#) (Urban Ecology)

[Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries](#)

[Faunature](#)

[Forest School SA](#)

[Great Southern Reef Foundation](#)

[Habitat Connection Co.](#)

[Investigators Garden Club](#) (Hunter Gatherings)

[Junior Landcare](#)

[KESAB environmental solutions](#)

[Marine Discovery Centre](#)

[Nature Education Centre](#)

[National Parks and Wildlife](#)

[Service SA](#)

[Nature Play SA](#)

[Play Naturally OT](#)

[Reef Watch SA](#)

[SA Museum](#)

[SA Water](#)

[Sea Star Rock](#)

[Woodhouse Adventure Park](#) (Scouts SA)

[Zoos SA](#)

Local Aboriginal organisations

[Kanyanyapilla](#)

[Kuma Karru](#)

[Southern Cultural Immersion](#)

[Third Camp](#)

[Walking Together with Kurna](#)





greenadelaide.sa.gov.au

Get in Touch!

Reach out to our team to learn more.

Northern Adelaide

Melissa Steele
Learning Partnerships
Coordinator
0403 150 980
msteele@salisbury.sa.gov.au

Southern Adelaide

Alex Lea
Learning Partnerships
Coordinator
0409 034 457
alexandra.lea@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au

Central Adelaide

Elisia Banks
Learning Partnerships
Coordinator
0417 497 628
elisia@kesab.asn.au

Youth Environment Council of South Australia

Cally Malone-Faulds
Youth Environment Council
Coordinator
0488 660 699
cally@kesab.asn.au



Subscribe to Sustainable Schools enews

Jam-packed with teaching resources, events and information to help support your school and local communities. The enews is sent fortnightly during school terms.

