Sustainability and Science Showcase

PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES

Here are seven **optional** activities designed to get students and teachers thinking about sustainability and citizen science in their school and how to make the most of the opportunities that will be available at the showcase.

You may have done some of these activities before or some of these activities won't be relevant. **All activities are optional.** Choose the ones that you believe will benefit your school to do before or after the event.

#32631 | 0623

Queensland Government

ACTIVITY 1

dream BIG

Brainstorm what sustainability problems the students would like to tackle and how. These problems can encapsulate the school or the community. Don't let limitations stop you. Some ideas may not be feasible, but make this activity an opportunity for innovation.

Perhaps your students will come up with something you otherwise would not have explored. If you get stuck, look at the UN Sustainable Development Goals for prompts.

ACTIVITY 2

BIG questions

Ask the students if they have questions they would like to have answered, especially any questions about the school environment. Some might ask how hot the playground can get each day. Maybe they want to know what time everyone gets tired the most. Can you design experiments that can answer these questions? Can you repeat this experiment over time to see if results change over the week, the year, or even the decade?

Next explore what existing tools can help you answer these questions. Explore who else has asked these questions before and see if your school would be interested in joining an existing citizen science project. We will have experts from the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Citizen Science Association so you can ask them for ideas if you've never considered bringing citizen science into the classroom.

ACTIVITY 3

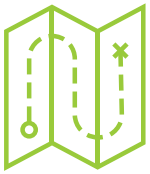
CONDUCT a waste, litter and water audit

If you haven't already or haven't in a while, performing a waste or litter audit is a great way to determine where your school's sustainability journey can start or go next. In the pre-event pack, a couple versions of waste and litter audit tools have been provided. Your audit can track waste production down to each classroom or it can look at the school overall. Not only can the audits help you determine which sustainability and recycling programs should be introduced, but it can give you information about where bins should be placed for the most impact.

The water audit activity was created for individual homes, but many parts of the audit can be used for schools. What other ways can the water audit be changed to better suit a school environment?

ACTIVITY 4

school ATLAS



Create an atlas for your school. The atlas can contain maps or charts and graphs documenting a variety of features (e.g. location of bins, student traffic at different times of the day, the layout of the school garden, where the most litter gathers, where all the puddles form).

Have the atlas show things that would be important when thinking about implementing a sustainability program. Use tools like Google Earth to take an aerial picture of your school or use a drone if you have access to one. Look at the 'Big questions' you asked (if you did that activity) and start a graph or chart displaying that information.

ACTIVITY 5

LIFE history of ...

Have the students choose an object in the school or at home, preferably one that is no longer in use, is set to be thrown away, or collecting dust in storage. Older students can choose something more complex like a whole computer.

Have the student think: How the object was made? Where did the materials come from? What resources were used to get the materials? Are their more sustainable versions of that object now? Are versions of that object made out of recycled material? Can this object be reused or repurposed, as a whole or in parts? Can this object or its components be recycled? Does your local area have the capacity to recycle the object? Are there easily accessible collection points? Can your school become a collection point?

ACTIVITY 6

TRACK it!

Create a fun tool to track your progress. Suggestions could include a journal, a scrapbook, a poster, a graphical barometer, or mural. Track the progress of your short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals. Make the tracker something that can be passed on so that the projects will outlast the people who began them.

ACTIVITY 7

CHECK out the experts ...

Look at the list of speakers and experts who will be attending the event. You will have the opportunity to meet them, get their contact details, and ask them for help with your sustainability and citizen science projects after the showcase.

Who are the students interested in meeting and talking to? Who has expertise in something you hadn't even thought of? What questions do you want to ask them? What additional information do you think would be good to gather before meeting some of these mentors?

Sustainability and Science Schools Showcase

Wednesday 14 June 2023 | See you at 8:30 am
Edge Auditorium | State Library of Queensland