

# Mildura Eco Village - Mildura Rural City Council

# Free Environmental Education Programs

Mildura Rural City Council offers FREE Environmental Education Programs for schools. Discover the urban oasis of the Mildura Eco Village and learn about the journey toward sustainability. Activities can be mixed and matched to suit your needs and time requirements. Content is adjusted to suit various age levels.

#### Worms and mini beasts

#### Prep to Grade 5 45 minutes

Investigate the Mildura Eco Village worm farm and garden area hunting for worms. Handle a real worm (carefully) and learn about its role in the composting cycle. Hunt for mini beasts and better understand why some insects are better for our gardens than others.

#### **Healthy Habitats**

#### Grades 2-10 1 hour

Group discussion on healthy habitats and what is required for habitats to remain healthy. As an introduction to healthy habitats, students can play the habitat game or easy as ABC biodiversity. Students can then investigate the Mildura Eco Village or Etiwanda Wetlands, complete a biodiversity audit, and calculate a healthy habitat score.

#### **Urban Heat Islands**

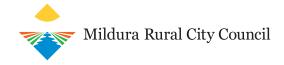
#### Grades 3-8 30 minutes

Investigate what causes urban heat islands, and discuss the value of trees, urban diversity, and green spaces. Students will use an infrared thermometer to test different locations at the Mildura Eco Village to understand how various materials hold heat.

#### **Plant Buddies**

#### Grades 3-6 1 hour

The Mildura Eco Village is considered a chemical-free area. The plant buddies activity investigates companion planting to deter unwanted pests and diseases. Play the plant buddies companion game and finish off with getting your hands dirty working in the on-ground bed or schools gardens





#### **Etiwanda Wetlands Site Tour**

#### Prep to Year 12 1 hour

Etiwanda wetlands play a significant role in our stormwater drainage system. Being one of 3 constructed wetlands in Mildura, students will learn why the Etiwanda wetlands were built and why the area plays a vital role in protecting the Murray River. The tour includes a nature walk, Gross pollutant traps (GPT) and a discussion on threats to the local ecosystem.

#### **Landfill and Waste Education**

#### Prep to Grade 6 1 hour

Tour of the Mildura Landfill includes rubbish sorting, the transfer station, and discussions on other ways to dispose of waste. Other inclusion: Visit the Mildura Eco Village worm farm and compost station and play the recycle relay game using the three-bin system.

#### Plant detectives

#### Grades 3-6 45 minutes

Become a plant detective at the Mildura Eco Village. Students will investigate the adaptations and features of their local species. Plants come in many different shapes and sizes and are critical for the health of our environment.

Examples of features include:

- Leaf shape size and texture
- Flower colour
- Fruit and seeds
- Bark type and texture
- Plant structure (ground cover, grasses, shrubs, and trees)
- Scent

Observe if the plant provides habitat, food, and shelter buffer for a native animal. Is the plant native or considered a weed.





#### Where does my food come from?

#### Prep to Grade 6 45 minutes

Get amongst the community gardens, investigate what is growing, and identify and locate flowers, fruits, herbs, and vegetables. Gain an understanding of seasonal growing. Group discussions on where your food comes from, food milage, how far some foods must travel to get to your plate, and the consequences on our environment.

#### **Energy Efficient Housing**

#### Grades 3-8 1 hour

Explore the Eco House, designed as a fully functional example of an energy efficient house. Participate in various hands-on activities such as insulation, appliance power and standby power use, double glazing, efficient lighting, water use, heating, and cooling.

## Tour of the Mildura Eco Village

#### Grade 1 to Year 12 1 hour

Discover the urban oasis of the Mildura Eco Village and learn about our journey towards sustainability. Tour includes:

- History of the Mildura Eco Village
- A detailed breakdown of what makes the Education Centre a 9-star building.
- Use of different materials
- Building design
- Sustainable Play area
- Community gardens
- The retrofitted Eco House
- Urban diversity and green spaces

## **Composting**

#### Prep to Grade 6 30 minutes

Check out the composting stations at the Mildura Eco Village, and learn what makes a healthy compost.

#### For more information

Nardia Baker on 03 5018 8455 or nardia.baker@mildura.vic.gov.au

#### Locations:

#### Mildura Eco Village, 15 Scherger Drive

Turn into the main entrance at the Mildura Landfill, continue past AroundAgain, turn right just before the weighbridge.

#### Etiwanda Wetlands, 211 Etiwanda Ave, Mildura

All activities to start from the Etiwanda Wetlands. Carpark located approximatley 500 metres from the traffic lights on Seventh street.