

Guide to conducting your organic waste survey

To achieve improved waste outcomes, you will need to understand your school's attitudes and behaviours towards waste. Using a survey to collect data will help you to identify the barriers and opportunities for waste reduction activities in your school. Surveys are also a great way your get teachers, parents and students engaged in waste reduction strategies and initiatives.

It is not mandatory to complete a waste survey before you apply for an Organic Waste Smart Schools Program grant.

Planning and conducting your survey can be made simple by following this five-step process. You're encouraged to adapt each step to best suit your school.



Step 1: Define your goal. What do you hope to accomplish by conducting a waste-related attitudes and behaviours survey?

Example: To gather baseline information on overall waste-related attitudes and behaviours of staff, parents and students at school. Data collected will be used to target the biggest waste behavioural barrier to avoiding or reducing organic waste.

Step 2: Identify your information needs. What information do you need to achieve your goal and who do you need this information from?

Example: What do people think specifically about organic waste and disposal? What organic waste management behaviours do people practice, or not?

Step 3: Plan your data collection. How will data be collected?

Example: You may collect data through online, printed or verbal surveys or in class activities.

Step 4: Create your survey/s. What do you need to ask each group?

Example: Create a list of survey questions and prioritise the most important questions that will help you to achieve your goal/s. Try limit the number of questions you ask to 10 so data collation is not overly onerous.

Step 5: Collect, analyse and interpret your data. What does the data tell us and what do we do next?

Example: If your data showed that people didn't think waste was something to be concerned about at school, you could plan an organic waste project that increases staff and students' awareness of your school's waste challenge and what they can do to reduce that challenge.

If the results show that people are very concerned about waste in your school, but they thought behaviours are too difficult to change, your project might then focus on achievable behaviour change activities.

