

TAKE ME OUTSIDE NSW

Have you ever wanted to raise awareness about an environmental or sustainability issue in your school and community, and deliver some great activities that have long-lasting impact for students...but are not sure where to start?

Take Me Outside NSW is here to help guide you!

What is Take Me Outside NSW?

Take Me Outside NSW will offer a 'one-stop-shop' for teachers, educators, agency/council staff and community groups to link with programs and activities in NSW which supports the Take Me Outside philosophy – getting outdoors and reconnecting with nature.

The Australian Association of Environmental Education NSW Chapter (AAEE NSW) has developed an easy to use '*Right from the Start: A Guide to Planning Best Practice Sustainability Education and Engagement Projects*' (BPSEE) to help educators deliver better projects which will have longer lasting educational value than just a single one-off activity, and improve sustainability in schools.

Take Me Outside NSW will provide resources and guidance for educators to develop more effective, hands-on projects which maximise quantifiable on-the-ground environmental benefits, whilst reconnecting children and adults with nature and see them becoming guardians of natural places.

Take Me Outside NSW launches in Term 2 2019. This flagship project is made possible thanks to the NSW Government's Environmental Trust program, and permission from Take Me Outside in Canada, where the program originates, for being able to utilise their model.

What's on offer?

A range of online tools and resources via a website, social media channels, BPSEE project guide, and advisory support through Take Me Outside NSW. We'll also offer:

- Links to connect schools to existing programs and services such as citizen science projects, Landcare, Sustainable Schools NSW Network and other programs or organisations that offer funding and support.
- Connections to your local Environmental and Zoo Education Centre staff who are experts in linking curriculum and outdoor and sustainability-focused activities.
- Case study examples of projects which might help to provide inspiration and information sharing.
- Annual competitions in telling us your project story through photos and video.



#takemeoutsidensw



Why get involved?

Starting a project can seem overwhelming, particularly if you're not sure how to get started. Where can you ask for help, and make sure all the bases are covered before you begin? And, of course, how do you review and evaluate the effectiveness of your activity or project along the way – *Was it all worth it? Did it make a change – environmentally and for those who were involved?*

Take Me Outside NSW can help to outline many of these questions right from the start, making your planned activity or project have longer-lasting benefits for students, teachers and community, and also provide more structure and detail when connecting with possible partners or sponsors.

Local councils, agencies, and community groups can also take the lead to work with their community and schools on projects as part of Take Me Outsides NSW. Get on board to pledge how your organisation can develop projects to take students outside.



What is the process to be involved?

1. Take Me Outside NSW will be collecting registrations via their website of proposed projects across NSW each school year, from Term 2 2019.

You'll be asked to provide information in your online registration about what your project intends to achieve, including details such as:

- i. What do you want to achieve through your project?
- ii. The number of students and community to be involved?
- iii. What will the on-ground outcomes be? - for example, the number of trees to be planted; a target of kilograms of litter to collect; area of habitat created/regenerated.
- iv. What partners or other organisations could help support the project?
- v. How project evaluation will be carried out?

Your completed registration form online will turn into your project plan and be emailed to you.

2. Take Me Outside NSW will be there to offer of advice, and updates via e-newsletters and social media. You can also share your stories and experiences with others by participating in the annual video competitions to showcase your amazing project! Everyone likes a little fame and glory for their hard work!
3. Finally, Take Me Outside NSW project coordinators will be asked to complete an evaluation survey at the end of each year, to record how successful your project has been with achieving on-the-ground environmental outcomes, as well as any behavioural/social outcomes of the projects.

Projects can also be repeated annually, or have ongoing student and community involvement over years to come. Be a part of involving future students and generations from the work you do. Have a greater and more meaningful impact!

Any questions, please contact Take Me Outside NSW Coordinator, Ingrid Garland at hello@takemeoutsidensw.org.au

#takemeoutsidensw

