**Organic Waste Smart Schools**

Example attitudes and behaviours survey

**What is organic waste?**

Organic waste is derived from material that was once living, including food, garden, biosolids, food processing wastes and agricultural by-products.

**Why do we want to reduce organic waste at school?**

Schools produce a large quantity of organic waste (e.g. food scraps from lunches, tuckshops or events). Although organic waste is often seen as a naturally produced waste, when disposed to landfill it releases methane, a greenhouse gas with a global warming potential of at least 28 times that of carbon dioxide.

Organic waste is also a valuable material. Through actions such as composting, organic waste can add nutrients back into soils and positively impact our environment. By taking actions to avoid, reduce, and better manage organic waste at school and at home, students can reduce the amount of organic waste produced and ending up in landfill.

**Survey**

As you complete this survey, please keep in mind that there are no wrong answers. We want to hear from you and will use this survey to inform how our school manages organic waste.

This survey will take approximately five minutes to complete. Details of respondents will remain private.

**Organic waste at school.**

1. Do you think organic waste is a problem at our school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Serious problem | Major problem | Moderate problem | Minor problem | Not at all a problem | Don’t know |

1. How **easy or difficult** is it for you to **reduce** the overall amount of organic waste that you create at school? (e.g. by finishing all of your lunch so nothing goes in the bin)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very easy | Easy | Not easy, but not difficult | Difficult  | Very difficult | Don’t know |

1. How **easy or difficult** is it for you to **recycle** organic waste at school? (e.g. placing organic waste in a compost bin or worm farm)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very easy | Easy | Not easy, but not difficult | Difficult  | Very difficult | Don’t know |

1. How **important or unimportant** is it to you personally to **reduce** or **recycle** organic waste at **school**?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very important | Important | Not important, but not unimportant | Unimportant | Very unimportant |

1. How often do you do these activities at your school?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I do this at school…. |
|  | Almost always | Often | Sometimes | Almost Never |
| Bring lunch in reusable containers, bags or wrappers rather than disposable containers or wrappers |  |  |  |  |
| Eat all the food in my lunchbox |  |  |  |  |
| Buy only the food I will eat from the tuckshop |  |  |  |  |
| Take home uneaten food |  |  |  |  |
| Put food or food scraps in a general waste bin |  |  |  |  |
| Put food or scraps in a compost bin or worm farm  |  |  |  |  |

1. Is there anything else you would like us consider in relation to managing organic waste at school?

**Organic waste at home.**

1. Do you think organic waste is a problem in your **home**?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Serious problem | Major problem | Moderate problem | Minor problem | Not at all a problem | Don’t know |

1. How **important or unimportant** is it to you personally to avoid or reduce the amount of organic waste that you create at **home**?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very important | Important | Not important, but not unimportant | Unimportant | Very unimportant | Don’t know |

1. How **easy or difficult** is it for you to recycle organic waste at **home**? (placing organic waste in a compost bin or worm farm)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very easy | Easy | Not easy, but not difficult | Difficult  | Very difficult | Don’t know |

Thank you for taking the time to complete our Organic Waste Smart Schools survey.