



Wipe out Waste (WOW) Teacher Guide

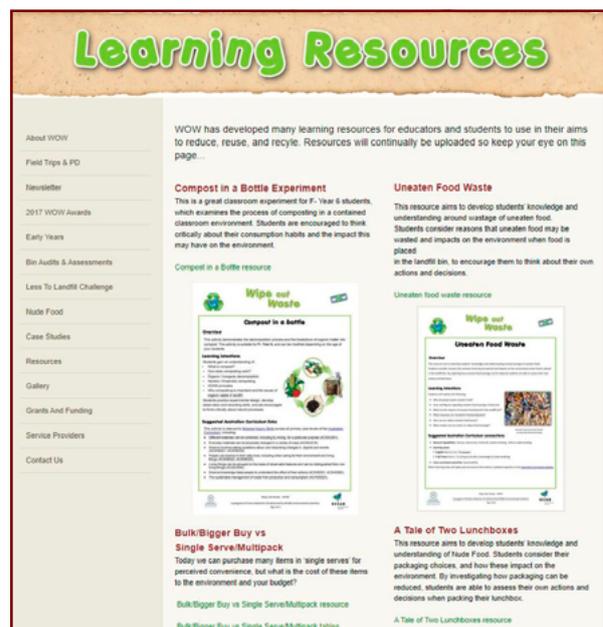
Wipe out Waste (WOW) is a South Australian initiative, funded by Green Industries SA and delivered by KESAB *environmental solutions*, that encourages a whole school community approach to waste reduction. WOW supports schools, from pre-school to year 12, to:

- ▶ reduce waste/materials to landfill
- ▶ increase opportunities to learn about waste reduction and resource recovery processes
- ▶ improve systems to reduce waste and recover resources
- ▶ adopt and promote sustainable behaviours.

Introducing waste reduction education in your classroom is easy using free resources on the WOW website www.wow.sa.gov.au/resources

These resources include:

- ▶ WOW learning activities
- ▶ WOW printable resources
- ▶ Australian Curriculum links for many WOW resources, including the 'Less to Landfill Challenge'
- ▶ Movies and video clips related to waste reduction



Let's work together to Wipe out Waste

To get started, here are four areas of inquiry to explore in the context of your site.

1 ~ What kind of waste do we have?

Before you can wipe out your waste, it is useful to know what sort of waste, and how much, you have.

This activity can be done just in your classroom or as a whole school. Student waste auditors monitor waste disposal from lunches and snacks (perhaps daily for a week) assisting students to place materials in clearly labelled containers.

The amount of material in each container (in volume and weight) is recorded daily by students. Then discuss how to reduce the amount of material in each category. The audit can be repeated regularly to see how much waste has been wiped out, and the results communicated to the school community!

- ▶ www.wow.sa.gov.au/diy-audit-kit has instructions for conducting your audit, and post-audit activities that fit into a learning program.
- ▶ For inspiration to get started, check out Golden Grove High School, Highbury Primary School or Encounter Lutheran College case studies www.wow.sa.gov.au/video-case-studies and www.wow.sa.gov.au/case-studies. These sites do an amazing job reducing the amount of waste and diverting resources from landfill.
- ▶ Early years educators can use 'Big Books' to find out what happens to waste from each type of bin: www.wow.sa.gov.au/early-years-big-books---the-journey-of-my-bins
- ▶ There are movies and clips at www.wow.sa.gov.au

2 ~ What about uneaten food?

Uneaten food waste is a big issue and school bins usually contain uneaten sandwiches, fruit and packaged snacks.

In the WOW '**Uneaten Food Waste**' inquiry, students consider food waste generated in Australia, how and why this can occur, and then explore the impact of uneaten food going to landfill.





This resource includes links with more information on Australia's food wastage and the environmental footprint of some popular foods.

- ▶ Classroom resources: www.wow.sa.gov.au/wow-learning-resources
- ▶ Recipes for nude food snacks: www.wow.sa.gov.au/nude-food
- ▶ ABC's War on Waste has videos on food waste: www.abc.net.au/ourfocus/waronwaste/

3 ~ What about lunch box packaging?

WOW's '**Tale of two lunch boxes**' www.wow.sa.gov.au/wow-learning-resources increases students' knowledge and understanding of 'nude food', packaging choices, and how food packaging impacts the environment.

Lunch boxes often contain single-use, 'convenience' items such as yoghurt pouches, potato chips, fruit straps etc. This enquiry encourages thinking about the financial and environmental costs of 'convenience' items and how they can be reduced by buying in bulk and using reusable containers.

By investigating how packaging can be reduced, students can assess actions and decisions that affect their lunchbox.

- ▶ Other 'Nude Food' resources www.wow.sa.gov.au/nude-food include:
 - quick, nut-free recipes for lunchboxes
 - letters to parents, recipes, stickers, a PowerPoint presentation and more to help your class/school start a regular 'Nude Food' day.
- ▶ Curriculum links can include English (the persuasive power of advertising), Geography (sustainability and waste), Science or Design and Technology (the properties of packaging materials), and Health and Physical Education (serving sizes and healthy eating).
- ▶ Video clips and movies www.wow.sa.gov.au/online-movies-and-clips support students' learning about the problems associated with plastic and excess packaging. 'Bag It' is a movie that covers a wide range of plastics topics.



4 ~ What about food scraps?

Even with 'nude food' lunch boxes, there will be some scraps (fruit peels, crusts, apple cores). So, what can we do with these items? Turn them into compost!

- ▶ **'Compost in a bottle'** www.wow.sa.gov.au/wow-learning-resources is a science-based activity that looks at the decomposition process. Students create their own compost in a clear, plastic bottle and watch the decomposition process over several weeks. This will teach the importance of decomposition (nature's recycling) and how composting works.
- ▶ **'How compost is made'** and **'Composting for kids'** at www.wow.sa.gov.au/online-movies-and-clips are great resources.

Are there more WOW initiatives to help reduce waste?

Yes! WOW also offers the 'Less to Landfill' challenge and encourages 'Nude Food'.

'Less to Landfill' challenge

The 'Less to Landfill' challenge encourages classes to reduce the amount of material they send to landfill to one 300ml mini wheelie bin (or less) each day!

Are you up for the Challenge? Information and registration: www.wow.sa.gov.au/less-to-landfill-challenge





'Nude Food'

Nude food is food that isn't wrapped in excess packaging. Buying and eating Nude Food reduces the amount of material that needs to go into bins.

'Nude Food' resources www.wow.sa.gov.au/nude-food include:

- ▶ a seven-step guide to implementing Nude Food in your class/school
- ▶ lunchbox tips and recipes
- ▶ stickers to remind families of Nude Food Day (free for sites in South Australia with registration for the Less to Landfill challenge)
- ▶ surveys, parent letters and classroom activities.

Can the whole school have a Bin Materials Audit?

Yes, if staff from your site have attended a WOW Professional Learning event in the last five years.

Trained KESAB *environmental solutions*, WOW staff can visit your school to conduct a Bin Materials Audit (BMA) or a Bin Systems Assessment (BSA).

- ▶ A BMA involves working with staff and students to audit a days' worth of material from your school. www.wow.sa.gov.au/bin-materials-audit-bma
- ▶ A BSA provides advice for improving resource management systems and reducing waste to landfill at your school. www.wow.sa.gov.au/bin-systems-assessment-bsa

What about the free WOW Professional Learning sessions?

WOW Professional Learning sessions provide information about WOW, and visits to resource recovery and recycling sites offer an enhanced understanding of resource management in SA. They allow your site to access follow-up activities.

For more information visit: www.wow.sa.gov.au/field-trips--pd



Other KESAB Education services

KESAB's waste team also delivers school and community education for several councils and regions. This may include subsidised incursions or visits to KESAB's two education centres.

Download the 'Waste and Recycling Education' brochure from the KESAB website.

Go to: www.kesab.asn.au/schools/classroom-sessions

