



Eco-Schools Grant Program 2026



northern
beaches
council

Eco-Schools Grant Program 2026

Supporting small, practical environmental and sustainability projects in Northern Beaches schools

In 2026, the Northern Beaches Council's Eco-Schools Grant Program provides funding for simple, hands-on environmental and sustainability initiatives that can be delivered within one school term.

This year's program focuses on quick-win projects under \$500 that help schools reduce environmental impact, improve biodiversity or strengthen sustainability learning.

Who can apply

- Primary or high schools within the Northern Beaches LGA
- Incorporated P&C associations linked to eligible schools

Schools may submit multiple applications but can only receive funding for one project per year.

Projects that have already commenced are not eligible.

What you can apply for

- The 2026 Eco-Schools grants fund small, practical projects
- Wicking beds and small garden setups
- Composting kits, worm farms, bokashi systems
- Recycling and waste-sorting kits
- Native plant packs, bush-tucker starters
- Pollinator or biodiversity mini-projects
- Simple water-saving or energy-saving tools
- Hands-on sustainability learning equipment

If your idea supports environmental benefits at your school, it's likely to be eligible.

Funding available

- Up to \$500 per project
- Total program funding: \$10,000

Funds can be used for materials, equipment, plants, tools or small resources directly related to project delivery.

Priority areas

Projects should support one or more of Council's environmental and sustainability priorities.

- Protection of the natural environment
- Climate change mitigation (e.g. carbon emission reduction) and adaptation
- A reduction in resource consumption such as water or energy or a reduction in waste generation
- An increase in sustainable behaviours through sustainability education and behaviour change programs
- Alignment with the commitments and aspirations in Councils Protect Create Live – Northern Beaches Environment & Climate Change Strategy

Application process

Applications must be submitted online through the Smarty Grants platform

Applications open - 1 March 2026

Applications close - 21 March 2026

Review and approval by Council
- April to May 2026

Successful applicants advised - May 2026

If assistance is required, contact the Environment Centres team on 1300 000 232

Application assessment criteria

- Environmental benefit, such as positive impact on waste, water, carbon, biodiversity or learning
- Feasibility - project can be delivered within one term and within budget
- Longevity - how the project will continue to provide benefits after establishment
- Additional educational or community benefits, such as student engagement, leadership, curriculum links and community value
- Realistic budget

Assessment process

Eligibility checks and assessment are completed by the Environment Centres team.

Recommendations are submitted to Council for approval.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome in writing.

Successful applicants will receive a simple funding confirmation email with next steps and will be required to sign a funding agreement (see template funding agreement in Appendix 1).

Support from Council

Successful applicants will receive:

- funding
- one support visit per project
- troubleshooting and advice
- optional teaching resources.

Environment Centres staff are available to help you get your project up and running quickly.

Owners consent

For projects involving works on a Council owned asset, such as the installation of solar panels on a Council owned building, require owner's consent from Council prior to the release of grant funding.

For works on any other building, written owner's consent must be provided by the building owner (refer to the Owner's consent for works section in the Environmental Grants Guidelines).

Reporting requirements

Reporting has been simplified for 2026. At project completion, schools will provide:

- short summary on completion
- 1–3 photos
- key learnings.

More information

For assistance with your application or to discuss your project idea, contact:

Environment Centres Team
1300 000 232
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