

Go For Green Gala Day teaches local students about renewable energy and sustainable living practices

12 March 2009

More than 120 local primary and high school students will come to Sydney Olympic Park on Thursday 12 March to learn about renewable energy and sustainable living practices.

The *Go For Green Gala Day* is an initiative of Strathfield Council and is hosted by Sydney Olympic Park Authority and supported by EnergyAustralia.

The innovative program, now in its second year, is curriculum based and has been developed in consultation with primary and high school teachers from participating schools to ensure it is relevant to the needs of the attending children.

'Strathfield Council is committed to providing environmental educational opportunities and this initiative gives local students an opportunity to learn more about sustainability in an interactive and natural environment,' Strathfield Mayor Keith Kwon said.

'The *Go For Green Gala Day* also compliments the NSW Department of Education and Training and NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change's program Sustainable Schools NSW, which aims to assist schools across the State teach sustainability,' Mayor Kwon said.

The *Go For Green Gala Day* requires participating schools to develop a *School Environment Management Plan*, which integrates environmental learning into all aspects of the school's activities and operations.

The *Go For Green Gala Day* will be delivered by Sydney Olympic Park Authority's Education Unit and will include a range of activities to improve students' understanding of renewable energy and the natural environment,' said Sydney Olympic Park Authority CEO Alan Marsh.

'Students will learn about how to create a bush tucker garden, how to make art from natural and recycled materials, ways to reduce waste at home and at school, and take a bike discovery tour of Sydney Olympic Park's wetlands to learn about the interconnectivity of our urban and natural environments,' Mr Marsh said.

'Each year Sydney Olympic Park Authority provides environmental education programs to more than 21,000 students that combine classroom-based learning with opportunities to explore our diverse parklands and natural environments,' Mr Marsh said.

EnergyAustralia energy efficiency expert Paul Myors will deliver a program on how to reduce energy at home and at school at the EnergyAustralia Education Centre in the Newington Armory.

'Eliminating energy waste is often simply about developing good habits at home,' Mr Myors said.

'By teaching kids about the importance of energy efficiency, we can hopefully stop the bad habits from forming in the first place.

'Whether it's switching off lights in unoccupied rooms, closing the fridge door, or switching off computers and games consoles when not in use, using energy wisely can result in big reductions in our energy bills and greenhouse emissions.

'We may even find that the kids will be passing on some of these tips to mums and dads.'

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Where: Newington Armory, Sydney Olympic Park

When: Thursday 12 March

Time: 10.00am-2.00pm

What: Kids engaged in a range of interactive learning activities in classrooms and Sydney Olympic Park natural spaces.

MEDIA CONTACT

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