

10 SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME

1. KEEP A WEATHER JOURNAL

Get your children outside at the start of every day by using our Weather Journal curriculum activity. Children can complete the journal daily or weekly, over one week, a month or over the school term. Students link their daily weather observations to the way we modify our behaviour, including our use of energy for heating and cooling and how we dress for different conditions. Access our online teaching notes and activity sheet [here](#).

2. COMPLETE A HOME GARDEN BIODIVERSITY AUDIT

Look at all the plants, animals and insects that visit your backyard, before you start, watch what [these kids](#) found in their yard. You can use **the attached biodiversity audit worksheet** to collect your audit information. Think about ways you can bring more biodiversity into your own home and garden and work together with your class or family to create an action plan.

3. MAKE UPCYCLED ART

Find things around your house that you can use to make something into a work of art. Children can rummage through the recycling, old clothes or the shed (with help!) to find inspiration. [Watch these](#) ABC kids visit a reverse garbage for some inspiration. Find some more ideas [here](#) or for secondary students, use the Cool Australia [Upcycling Art lesson plan](#).

4. CHOOSE A TYPE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ACT OUT HOW IT'S MADE

Research one type of renewable energy (e.g sun, water, wind) and make a 5 minute play about how it's made! Try and use items around your house as props - you can even film your play and share it with your family and friends online.

Think about how these renewable sources of energy can help tackle [climate change](#) and take Victoria's [climate change pledge](#).

5. WRITE A LETTER ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR LOCAL MP

Doing persuasive writing? This activity allows students to explore ways to help tackle environmental problems from their own home. Students choose an environmental topic they feel strongly about (climate change, biodiversity loss, bushfires, logging, waste and recycling etc.) and write or draw to their local MP. Secondary students should clearly outline their opinion and include at least three reasons using persuasive devices. [Click here](#) to learn how to write an effective letter to your PM (for secondary students).

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6. RESEARCH AND PLANT LOCAL INDIGENOUS PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN

Research the local plants in your area, using your local council website to help you. Draw a design for your indigenous plant garden and write about how it might help local wildlife or how it might help tackle climate change. [This video](#) shows you how to carefully and correctly [plant a tree](#).

7. COMPLETE A HOME BIN AUDIT

How much waste does your house produce every day? Do a waste audit of the bins in your home, you can use **the attached bin audit worksheet** to record what you find in the bins. (Remember to use gloves and wash your hands) Bonus: You can make a pie graph from your results! Do any of [these](#) common items appear in your rubbish? Sustainability Victoria has some alternatives you might like to use. You can also watch [this](#) Behind the News clip from the War on Waste. Write up answers to these [focus questions](#) and think about how you can reduce waste in your own home

Other bonus waste videos to watch before your audit:

[Composting](#)

[Recycling](#)

8. CALCULATE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT AND THINK OF WAYS TO REDUCE THIS

Think about your carbon emissions at home, brainstorm what daily activities contribute to your footprint then calculate using this [tool](#). After calculating your footprint, discuss one thing that surprised you and one area that you think you could improve. For extension, check out [this](#) “What’s my Footprint” activity from Cool Australia. Secondary Students can use [this](#) CERES “Electricity Use At Home” activity to think more deeply about how we use energy in our homes

9. START A VEGETABLE OR HERB GARDEN

You can plant vegetables and herbs just about anywhere (you can even grow some indoors!) [Draw and design](#) your own vegetable garden. Research what’s in season, you could use [this list](#) to help you. For secondary students, you could try some [veggie garden maths](#). Check out [this growing](#) chart from Sustainability Victoria

10. ADD UP YOUR WATER USE - ARE YOU MEETING THE 155 TARGET?

The [Water Use at Home activity](#) investigates the amount of water that we use on a daily basis through a variety of household water uses. Students brainstorm all of the ways that water is used in the home and match them with the amount of water they consume. The Water Use at Home activity can be used as a water audit tool to help students (both primary and [secondary](#)) think about how they might save water.

EDUCATION

CERES

AT HOME BIN AUDIT

How much waste does your house produce every day? Let's complete an audit of your bins at home and find out! Ensure you are wearing gloves and or wash your hands! Start by tipping your rubbish bin onto some newspaper or a tarp and sort into the following categories then tally your results

	FOOD WASTE	PAPER/ CARDBOARD	MIXED RECYCLING	SOFT PLASTICS	LANDFILL
NUMBER OF ITEMS					

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON ITEMS IN YOUR BIN?

WHAT ARE SOME ALTERNATIVES TO THESE ITEMS?

EDUCATION

CHERES

AT HOME BIODIVERSITY AUDIT

ITEM	QUANTITY YOU HAVE FOUND	TOTAL POINTS
Tree (taller than a power pole) (1 point)		
A bush or shrub (1 point)		
Mulch or tan bark in garden bed (1 point)		
A rock that requires two people to lift it (2 points)		
A log that requires two people to lift it (2 points)		
A fruit tree (2 points)		
Chickens (3 points)		
Compost bin or worm farm (3 points)		
A bird box, insect hotel or bat tube (3 points)		
A water tank (3 points)		
A pond (3 points)		
	TOTAL SCORE:	

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