



**Robyn Parker MP**  
**Minister for the Environment**  
**Minister for Heritage**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday, 21 March 2013

**SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS INVITED TO APPLY FOR  
\$1.7M ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GRANTS**

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today urged schools and community groups to apply for funding for environmental projects like energy efficiency, food gardens and bush care out of \$1.7 million in Environmental Trust grants.

Speaking on a visit to Kingswood High School in Sydney's west, Ms Parker said applications for Eco Schools and Food Gardens in Schools grants are now open with \$220,000 available for primary and high schools in this round.

Schools have until 17 May to apply.

Ms Parker announced a further \$1.5 million in Environmental Trust grants for Environmental Education projects for the broader community and Protecting our Places grants to support Aboriginal people in environmental projects.

Applications for these two types of grants are due by 26 April and 31 May respectively.

Ms Parker and the Member for Penrith Stuart Ayres said Kingswood High School's innovative energy efficiency program had made great use of their recent \$2,500 Eco Schools grant.

"I am impressed at the way Kingswood students and teachers transformed themselves from consumers of vast amounts of electricity to very mindful and efficient energy users," Ms Parker said.

"They used their Eco Schools grant to buy six Power-Mate devices to record and compare how much energy the appliances at school used, then computed and analysed this data to evaluate their behaviour.

"Changing people's mindset about energy use and the impact that wasting electricity has on the environment is extremely difficult but Kingswood High School has achieved this."

Mr Ayres said Kingswood High School could take great pride in the success of its environmental education program.

"In addition to their Eco Schools project, students worked on another Environmental Trust project with Greening Australia planting trees, measuring carbon, and testing water at South Creek," Mr Ayres said.

“The Penrith electorate has secured more than \$3 million in Environmental Trust grants since 2006 to fund important projects. We have been able to rehabilitate sections of Jamison Creek, achieve a sustainable sports field in Western Sydney and support Aboriginal bush care.”

Ms Parker encouraged all schools to apply for both Eco Schools and Food Gardens grants before the 17 May deadline.

“When students create, tend and harvest a food garden they form a lasting appreciation of the environment and learn about food production, nutrition and waste management such as composting,” Ms Parker said.

Last year the NSW Government invested over \$200,000 in grants to schools and offered around \$15.5 million in contestable Environmental Trust grants.

Ms Parker said the investment paid direct dividends each year.

“Any student, teacher or parent with an innovative idea about how to help their community learn about and embrace the environment should visit the Environmental Trust’s website and consider these grants.

“Environmental Trust grant ideas for schools are only bound by our imagination so I encourage people to get creative, consider their local environments and submit a grant application before 17 May.

“As well, people with educational ideas for protecting their environment or project ideas to protect land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply for this round of Environmental Trust grant funding.”

**For more information about Environmental Trust grants visit:**

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>