



28 Days for Climate Campaign 2024

Planning document

(Monday 5th August – Friday 30th August).

What is the 28 Days For Climate Campaign?

The ERA For Change 28 Days for Climate Campaign aims to engage our students, staff and wider community in sustainability initiatives that reduce waste and energy use.

The waste element focuses on student waste reduction at school and at home, while the energy element is focused on supporting schools to reduce their energy consumption. Both elements aim to instill long-term strategies that can be engaged with by students, staff, and the wider community.

ERA For Change wants to ensure that greater action and accountability is taken by the community and government to reduce our waste and energy use.

The campaign is separated into three components: school-based activities, the national campaign, and the social media campaign. Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) schools are invited to participate in one or all parts of the campaign components.

The campaign is guided by the [ERA For Change Manifesto](#), the EREA Climate Crisis Report and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference [Social Justice Statement 2021-2022](#). The campaign supports the [Australian Religious Response to Climate Change](#) which encourages advocating for climate justice through advocacy-based initiatives.

Goals

- To educate others about the importance of climate action and sustainability.
- To call on the government to act on climate change.
- To re-evaluate our own actions to see how we can take better care of our Earth.

Dates

- The campaign will run from Monday 5th August – Friday 30th September 2024.
- The ERA for Change National Earth Hour will be on Friday 30th September at 2pm AEST
 - Information about the purpose of Earth Hour can be found [HERE](#)
 - Please take a video of your school turning the lights off, feel free to post it to your story with the tag @eraforchange

Organisations to get involved with:

- Australian Religious Response to Climate Change
 - Information booklet on activities [HERE](#)
 - General information on contacting your [MP HERE](#) and specific guide [HERE](#)
- Schools in WA and QLD may like to get involved with [Containers for Change](#)
- Schools may also like to get involved with [Tread Lightly](#)
- See if there any local organisations near your school focused on climate/sustainability!

Registration

We ask that participating EREA schools registers their involvement in the campaign [HERE](#)

Our Key Messages

Our politicians of the future must:

- Achieve a carbon neutral Australia by 2030.
- Include climate justice in the national curriculum more explicitly and extensively.
- Dedicate resources to upskill workers to nurture a carbon neutral workforce.
- Encourage Federal, State and local Governments to take further action to reduce waste, provide effective recycling and provide education for the community on sustainable practices.
- Introduce legislation to drastically limit unnecessary single use plastics.
- Research alternative energy solutions and shift towards existing renewable energy solutions.
- Commit to cleaner waterways.
- Meaningfully engage with the public on climate justice issues and commit to acting on their concerns.

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Pope Francis,

Laudato Si'

School-Based Activities

ERA For Change invites schools to organise a weekly activity that aims to educate students on how to be a sustainability advocate and to create tangible change in the community. Below are some examples of school-based activities that schools can participate in as part of the campaign.

Waste

- Host an assembly about waste reduction.
- Include facts about waste in the school newsletter.
- Share the daily social media posts from @eraforchange.
- Participate in the sustainability/zero-waste presentation hosted by ARRCC.
- Visit the [Plastic Free July website](#) for tips on how to reduce single-use plastics, particularly the [school section](#).
- Sign-up for the [Plastic Free July School's Challenge](#) for resources on how to go plastic-free.
- Read books, listen to podcasts or watch documentaries about waste reduction.
- Visit a local recycling facility.
- Organize Waste-Free Wednesdays.
- Create a points system for limiting single-use plastics.
- Host a rubbish clean up at your local school, beach, park or waterway.
- Create a waste reduction or environment group at your school to promote waste reduction.
- Organize a bin audit and put up signs that demonstrate what can/cannot be recycled.
- Invite a guest speaker to talk about waste reduction, recycling and/or sustainability.
- Implement a compost system for food scraps.
- Download the 'End Poverty' app and read the ethical fashion guide.
- Get involved with your school's urban farm or consider establishing one.

Energy

- Host an assembly about energy reduction.
- Include facts about energy in the school newsletter.
- Participate in the ERA For Change National Earth Hour Campaign.
- Participate in ARRCC's [Living the Change](#) Campaign or Workshops on Divestment.
- Reduce air pollution and car-Idling by turning off your car engine when your car is stationary
- Participate in ARRCC's [Switch to Sunshine Campaign](#).
- Ask your school principal to install solar panels and water tanks.
- Ask your school to commit to achieving certain targets of energy reduction.
- Print out and put an 'Energy Checklist' in each room.
- Create an 'energy reduction' or environmental group to monitor and implement energy-saving ideas at your school.
- Create a ranking/rewards system for classes to rank who reduces the highest level of energy.

- Hold a petition signing at lunchtime asking for renewable energy.
- Reduce your personal energy consumption at home and at school.
- Organize a ride or walk to school day.
- Use internet tools to compare energy consumption for different devices.
- Go to [Nem Watch | RenewEconomy](#) to view the live energy consumption (and source) of every state.

Energy Checklist

- Use natural light by opening curtains or blinds in the morning instead of using the lights
- Turn off or set to sleep mode all computers, computer monitors, smartboards, projectors or printers when not in use
- Turn off Classroom lights
- Turn off fans, heating or cooling
- Close windows, curtains or blinds at the end of the day
- Turn off printers at the end of the day
- Switch off any power bars when not in use
- Tell someone if there is a leak in the taps/toilets
- Turn off outdoor lighting during the day
- Turn off lights in unoccupied areas
- Have after school activities in fewer rooms and buildings and turn off systems in other rooms.

Find Your Electorate and Federal State/Territory MPs

You can find your electorate [here](#). You can search for senators and members [here](#).

Click on the links below to find the MPs in your state/territory:

[Federal MPs](#)

[Victorian MPs](#)

[New South Wales MPs](#)

[Western Australia MPs](#)

[South Australia MPs](#)

[Queensland MPs](#)

[Tasmania MPs](#)

[ACT MPs](#)

[Northern Territory MPs](#)

The ARRCC has example of a personal letter to an MP [HERE](#)

They also have shared the key messages that we want to get across to our politicians:

“Please ask your MP to support one or more of the things that were listed in the open letter

You may wish to emphasise one or more of these in particular. The first two are probably the most crucial, but there are good reasons to emphasise others too.

- Stop approving new coal and gas projects (for tips on this point, see https://www.arrcc.org.au/epbc_act)
- End public subsidies for coal and gas projects
- Actively participate in creating a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to phase out fossil fuels and support a just transition.
- Fully respect First Nations peoples' rights to protect Country
- Re-start contributions to the United Nations Green Climate Fund
- Help workers in extractive industries prosper with more sustainable jobs

Let them know the faith community you’re part of

Let your MP know your faith (Christian, Buddhist etc) and if you’re involved with a specific place of worship please mention that you go there.

Say why action on the climate is important to you and your faith

In one or two sentences you could tell them why this matters to you in terms of your faith. Is it loving your neighbour? Protecting Creation? Restoring God’s balance? Acting with compassion for all sentient beings?”

Social Media Campaign

Social media is an incredibly powerful force in advocacy. The aim of the social media campaign is to gain traction and spread the message of ERA For Change and our 28 Days For Climate campaign.

ERA For Change will share a post on our social media platforms during each day of the 28 Days For Climate campaign. Each post will contain a fact, tip or statistic related to climate change. We will also share your school’s social media posts related to the campaign on the ERA For Change social media platforms.

ERA For Change has a website and a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account. You can find our accounts here:

- Website: <http://www.eraforchange.org/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/eraforchange/>
- Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/ERAforChange>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eraforchange/>

We want you to:

- Share your school's 28 Days For Climate activities on social media and please tag @eraforchange
- Reshare our posts so we can spread our message.
- It would be great if registered schools could either email in suggestions for posts or make a post themselves!

Website

The ERA For Change website will be updated regularly throughout the campaign with articles and photos from school's activities and involvement in the national campaign. We would love to have as many schools involved in this activity as possible.

Please have students write up short (or long) articles about the activities completed at your schools for the campaign. Send me photos/articles/reflections to the email: emma.elliott@erea.edu.au

We are still in the planning stages of our campaign, please do contact me with any ideas or suggestions at emma.elliott@erea.edu.au. We hope to get as many schools involved as possible!