



# Championing student participation in sustainability

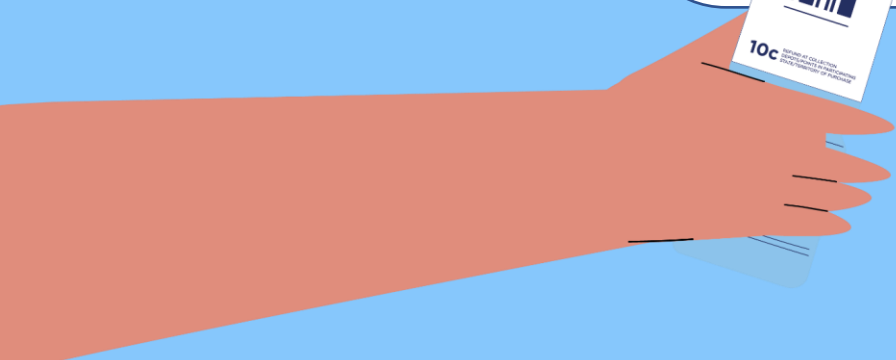
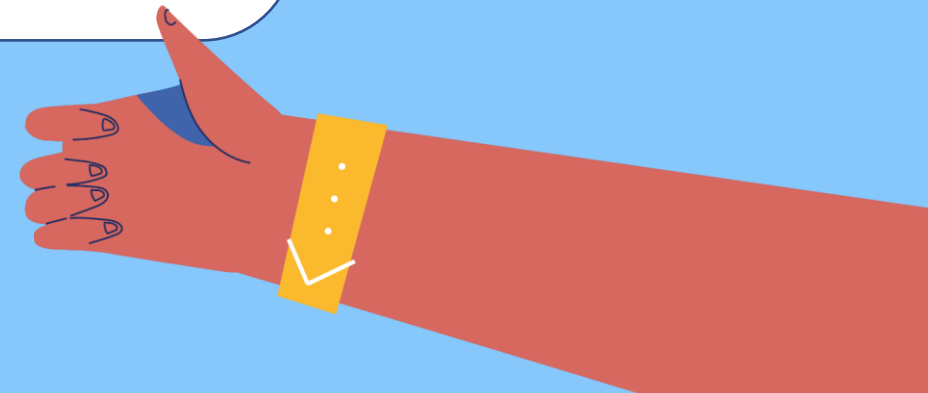
Marta Scuccuglia, Exchange for Change

# Public and private partnership

**NSW Government (NSW EPA)**

**Exchange for Change  
(scheme coordinator)**

**TOMRA Cleanaway  
(network operator)**





# How it works

- Example of extended producer responsibility, funded by the beverage industry.
- 10c refund for every eligible bottle, can or carton returned
- 620+ return points across NSW
- Similar schemes operate in ACT, WA, QLD, NT, SA and Vic (from 1 Nov)



**10 BILLION**  
containers returned in NSW



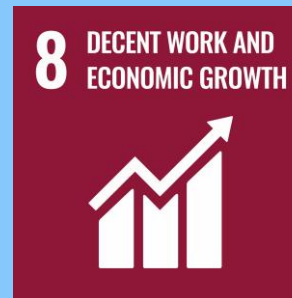
Equates to:

- **\$1 billion** in container refunds back in people's pockets
- **\$47 million** raised for charities, schools and community groups through donations and return point hosting fees
- **67% redemption rate** – or 2 in 3 containers supplied are redeemed
- **923,542 tonnes** of material recycled

# United Nation Sustainable Development Goals

Alignment to 8 of the UN SDGs

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>







# What happens to the containers?



- All glass recycled in Australia (in NSW, Qld and SA) – mostly into new bottles and glass jars. Back on the shelf in as little as 4 weeks!
- All aluminium exported for recycling to South Korea and The Netherlands.
- All plastic bottles recycled into new plastic bottles and food-grade packaging in Albury NSW. Back on the shelf in as little as six weeks!

How bottles and cans are recycled videos:

<https://returnandearn.org.au/container-recycling/>

# Return and Earn in schools



**66% of NSW schools surveyed have participated in Return and Earn**

**In August 2022, 80% of participating schools had implemented onsite collection system**

**79% of participating schools doing so to engage students in recycling and litter reduction; 80% to fundraise**

**In June 2023, 92% of participating schools had onsite collection system**

**20% of schools surveyed had used Return and Earn in classroom lessons**

**10% collected containers at school events during the year.**





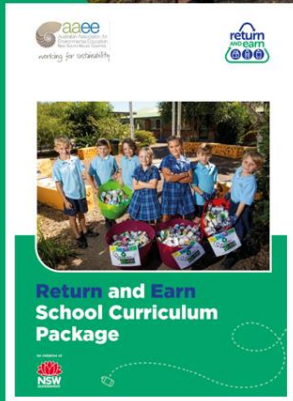


# Return and Earn school resources

FREE curriculum-linked resources with practical ideas for Early Learning to Stage 5

Developed in partnership with the Australian Association of Environmental Educators (NSW Chapter)

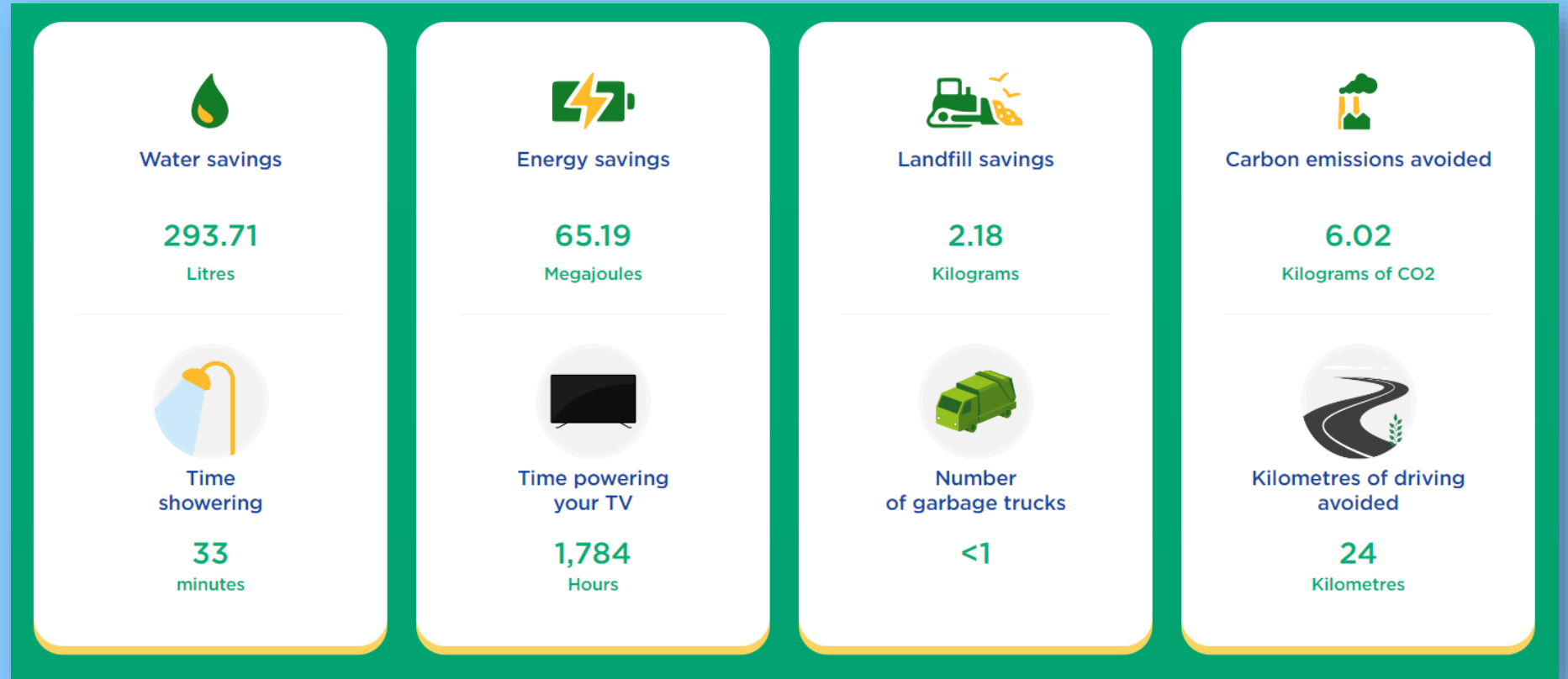
<https://returnandearn.org.au/get-your-school-involved/>



**Download your free copy today**



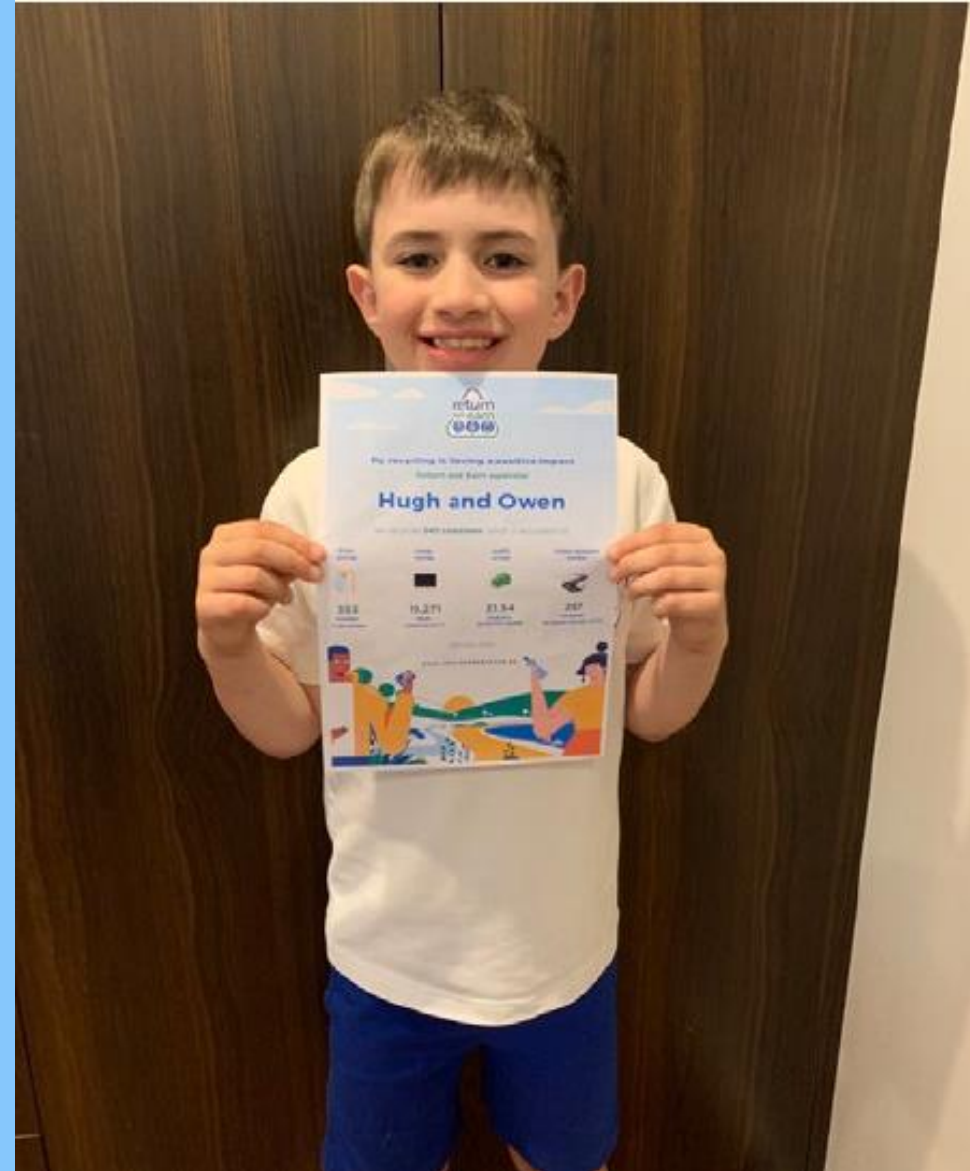
# Return and Earn Impact Calculator



Calculate your environmental impact and share your results on social media

<https://returnandearn.org.au/impact-calculator/>

# Communicating your Impact



# Steps to school fundraising

- Become a **Donation Partner** on the Return and Earn app
- **Partner** with your local automated depot
- **Mobilise** your local community
- **Collect** containers
- **Celebrate** your achievements!





# Return and Earn in schools: what works?



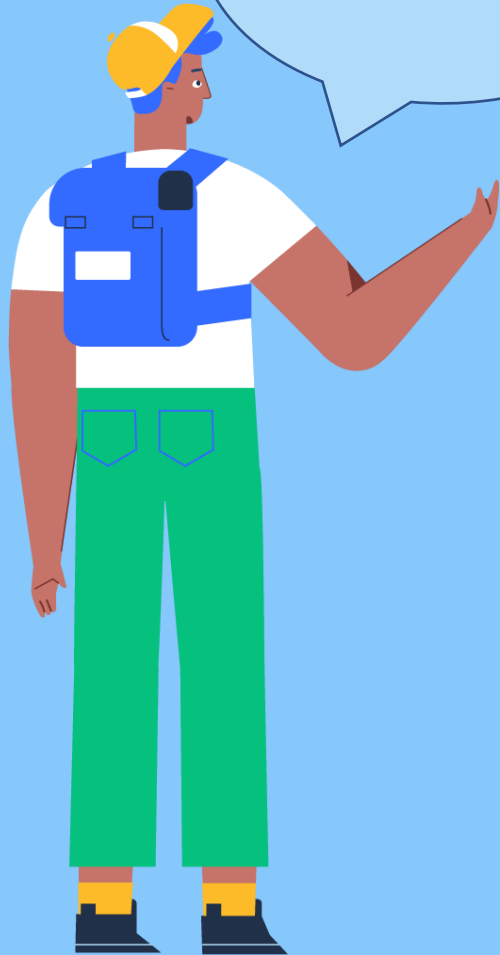
Student  
leadership

Bin  
placement

Whole  
community

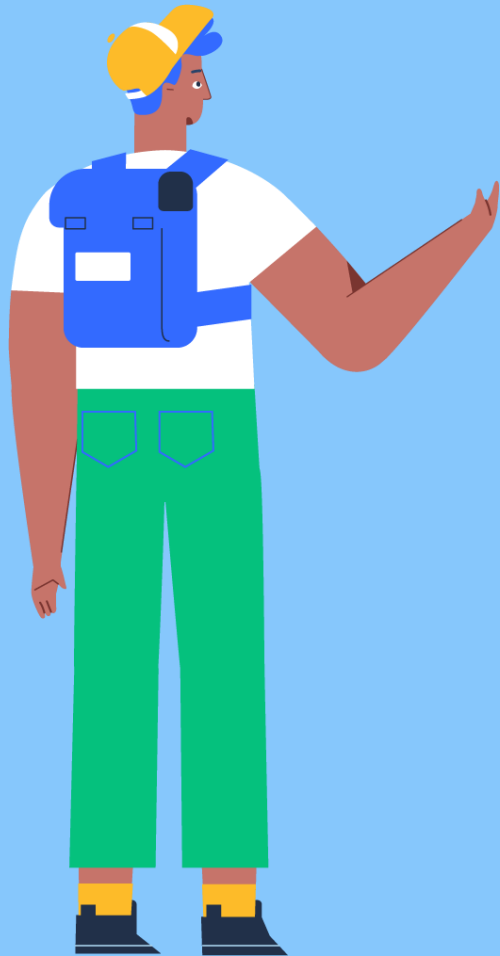
Communication

Transport





# Return and Earn in schools: what are the barriers?



- Logistics
- Infrastructure (bins/collection system)
- Time/People
- Contamination
- **Feedback** – keen to hear from you and schools interested in being involved in a pilot project

Tell us your  
story!



Submit your story

<https://returnandearn.org.au/our-local-recycling-hero/>



**We'd love to hear from you!**

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