

AS14 - Community Pollution Survey

In this activity you will design, conduct analyse and report on a survey of community attitudes, knowledge and practices in relation to stormwater pollution.

Syllabus references

Content: 5.11.2(a) relate pollution to contamination by unwanted substances.

Skills: 5.13.1 identify data sources

5.13.2 plan first hand experiences

Time: 120 minutes

Refer to the EPA “Who Cares About The Environment?” survey for further ideas about survey questions.

Develop and conduct a survey (knowledge, attitudes, behaviour)

Analyse results of survey and report to the school community, parents, local media, local government,

What to do

1. Brainstorm a list of different types of landuse in the catchment. (eg industry, commercial, residential, sporting fields, market gardens, public gardens and parks, schools etc)
2. Brainstorm a list of issues that are impacting on the water quality of your local waterway.
3. Brainstorm a list of behaviours that would contribute to this pollution.
4. Suggest reasons for these environmental behaviours.
5. Suggest alternative environmentally appropriate behaviours.
6. From the above information, have students develop potential questions that could be asked to investigate:
 7. knowledge (what people know about the local environment)
 8. attitudes (what people think about different environmental issues)
 9. behaviours (what people are actually doing to damage or protect the environment)
 10. Question types could be closed (eg yes/no, true/false) or open (invite comment).
 11. As a class, decide who will be surveyed and the most appropriate questions for your survey.
12. Conduct the survey
13. Compile and report on survey results by analysing the results and reporting on key findings:
 14. For closed questions, have students tally the responses for each category and show their results as % (table &/or graph)
 15. For open response questions, categorise key words responses and collate survey responses.
 16. Ask students to analyse the results. (eg describe and summarise results; suggest reasons for the findings)

(On the following pages is an example of a community survey. This survey is used by school students to investigate stormwater pollution issues in local industrial areas as part of Oz GREEN’s “kids, companies and creeks” project).

Sample Community Survey

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Interviewee name: _____

What do you do in the catchment? _ (Circle appropriate responses)

1. Resident 2. Industry 3. Auto services 4. Food/catering 5. Warehouse
 6. Building supplies 7. Retail 8. Engineering/manufacturing
 9. Chemical 10. Printing 11. Commercial
 12. Other _____

| 2. Are the following statements true or false? | True/False |
|--|------------|
| (a) The stormwater drain in the street runs into the local creek. | |
| (b) The best way to clean up an oil spill is to scrub it with detergent and hose it off to the gutter. | |
| (c) Stormwater from the gutters goes to the sewage treatment plant for treatment. | |
| (d) When it rains the sewage system leaks and overflows into our local creek. | |
| (e) It is safe to swim at the beach after rain. | |

| 3. What do you see as the underlying causes of pollution in our local waterways? | Agree | Don't agree |
|--|-------|-------------|
| (a) Lack of education – people don't know how to protect local waterways. | | |
| (b) Pollution prevention practices cost too much for businesses to afford. | | |
| (c) People don't really care what happens to the local environment. | | |
| (d) Environmental protection laws are not enforced by the government or council. | | |
| (e) Other? | | |

4. Do you know where the stormwater drain from your place goes? Yes / No

5. How does your company clean equipment and work areas? _____

6. How does your company manage spills and accidental pollution on site? _____

7. How does your company prepare staff to ensure they know how to prevent pollution? _____

8. Does your company have any pollution management plans or methods? Yes / No

9. How does your company currently dispose of waste?

Glass _____ Food _____ Paper _____ Metal _____

Waste oil _____ Chemicals _____ Waste water _____

Garden waste _____ Other (specify) _____

10. Are any of the following materials used as part of your business?

Oil / grease De-greaser Paint / thinner / resin Dyes / inks

Sand / earth / gravel Detergent / soap / cleaning fluids Acids / alkalis / chemicals

Cement Photographic chemicals Food products Fertiliser

Packaging Other _____

| 11. In the past two years has your company- | Yes or no |
|---|-----------|
| - been visited by staff from Council or NSW EPA offering help on pollution prevention ? | |
| - decided for environmental reasons to re-use or recycle wastes instead of throwing them away ? | |
| - stopped cleaning up by hosing out factory floor ? | |
| - installed stormwater pollution prevention signs in the workplace (eg drain stencils) ? | |
| - conducted on site training for staff in pollution prevention ? | |
| - involved staff in preparing pollution prevention plans for our business | |
| - installed pollution prevention devices such as bunding drains, waste water collection pit ? | |

12. Are you aware of current environmental legislation relating to water pollution?

Yes / No _____

13. Are you aware that it is illegal to allow any materials to enter the stormwater?

Yes / No

14. Are you aware that your company can be fined by Council and EPA officers if you cause water pollution?

Yes / No How much can these fines be? _____

15. Comment:
