



**Media Release**  
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## **Public schools and TAFEs – apply now to fund environmental projects**

Public schools and TAFEs keen to establish a sustainability or environmental project with clear educational value can apply to the Teachers Environment Fund to make their plan a reality.

Applications are now open, and local schools and TAFEs have until 16 September to apply for grants of up to \$5000 from the Teachers Environment Fund, an initiative of Teachers Credit Union.

Steve James, CEO of Teachers Credit Union, said: "We know that many schools would like to establish projects to teach environmental values, but sometimes need a boost in resources to create real-life experiences of sustainability to engage students.

"Through our Teachers Environment Fund, the Credit Union aims to help teachers bring to life their sustainability projects. We want to support projects which provide a resource for the school, as well as practical teaching examples that embed sustainability into students' thinking," he said.

"Teachers Credit Union believes success cannot be measured only in terms of profits and growth, but also in how we relate to the community and the ways in which we minimise our environmental impact.

"These grants help make lessons about the environment more hands-on and fun, whether it's an outdoor classroom, or technology to enhance a project."

Teachers Credit Union awards grants to schools that submit environmental proposals demonstrating:

- Viable long-term projects
- Links to a broader environmental education strategy
- Support from the school community
- Effective monitoring

"We're proud that these grants don't just make more interesting lessons for students and teachers – the information learned can have a positive impact on the environment when those involved make small changes in their daily lives as a result," Mr James said.

### **Teachers Environment Fund**

Since 2008, the Teachers Environment Fund has distributed just over \$200,000 to 57 schools and two TAFEs across NSW, ACT, NT and WA.

Recipients have used the grants for sustainable gardens, native tree planting, indigenous creeks and worm farms, to name a few. These projects have provided teachers with the opportunity to promote sustainability through practical learning experiences that embed sustainability in students' thinking.

The Teachers Environment Fund earned the Credit Union the 2010 Sustainability Award from mutual financial services sector industry body Abacus. The Awards celebrate excellence within the industry and are judged across 131 credit unions and building societies.

Applications for Round 2 of the 2011 Teachers Environment Fund grants close Friday 16 September 2011. To apply for a Teachers Environment Fund grant, go to [www.teacherscreditunion.com.au](http://www.teacherscreditunion.com.au)

**About Teachers Credit Union**

Teachers Credit Union is one of the largest credit unions in Australia, with more than 155,000 members nationally and assets of over \$3.4 billion. For further enquiries on how to become a member, please visit the website on [www.teacherscreditunion.com.au](http://www.teacherscreditunion.com.au)

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