

# THINK.ACT.GREEN

## CASE STUDY: PILOT PROGRAM



### BACKGROUND & CHALLENGE

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In recent years, climate change has come to the forefront of international issues that require urgent and global address. However, many of our youth today don't feel as if they have the ability or opportunity to make a positive significant impact to address the issue. As tomorrow's leaders, students not only need an understanding of environmental issues, but the tools to help them address them.

The Think.Act.Green (T.A.G) project was created in 2008 as a means to equip secondary school students with environmental and business knowledge as well as skills to generate real change within their school communities. T.A.G aimed to address the lack of focus on sustainability in the Victorian curriculum whilst giving students an opportunity to take ownership of their ideas and develop a tangible proposal. The proposal aims to outline the ways in which their school can reduce its environmental impact. They can then take their proposal to their school board or local council.

### ACTION TAKEN

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In 2009 T.A.G ran its pilot project with three schools in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Students participated in a four-stage program that included:

1. Lunchtime seminars with corporate partners speak to students about the environmental sustainability initiatives at their organisations.
2. Skills-based workshops to help student groups develop their proposal.
3. An environmental awareness event thrown by the students at their school.
4. The Competition Ceremony where students present their ideas to a panel of judges from the non-for-profit, corporate, environmental and academic sector.

These stages were designed to develop student's awareness of environmental issues facing their local and global communities, and equip students with necessary leadership and business skills to effectively address them.

Our corporate partners who helped conduct the seminars include Shell, Yarra Valley Water and Origin Energy. T.A.G also formed ties with Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability and Sustainability Victoria to help us align our program with the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

## RESULTS

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At the end of the pilot program the winning school, Presbyterian Ladies' College received \$2500 to implement their grey water system and have since completed their proposal. Another school has also been able to gain support on their reusable drinking bottle proposal and have been working on its implementation in 2010.

Since the pilot year, Think.Act.Green has achieved the following:

- Expanded to 9 participating schools.
- Increased our Shell sponsorship and monetary prize from \$2500 to \$5000.
- New partnerships formed with South East Water, SSMI Group, Earth Systems, Long Life Lighting and Fitzroy Nursery to conduct seminars for the students. This allowed greater diversity of the range of businesses which students can learn from.
- An Environmental Conference was added as a new phases to enhance the program. Students who participated in the conference thoroughly enjoyed the chance to meet others with similar interests to their own. The conference was successful in motivating students about what they could do.
- A new workshop on presentation skills has been included to equip students with the necessary skills to best pitch their proposals.

## LOOKING FORWARD

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In 2011, Think.Act.Green is aiming to reach even more schools with preparations in place to hold a two day event with secondary school students at the University of Melbourne to engage in interactive learning sessions with environmental leaders, corporations and members from the non-profit sector.

There are also aims to incorporate a digital program to reach schools in rural areas.

## PHOTOS

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Think.Act.Green members with students at Bialik College.



Michael Magelakis of SSMI group addressing students at Balwyn High School.

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Think.Act.Green's  
Environmental  
Conference 2010.

## CASE VIDEO



Ewan from Balwyn High School talks about what he has learnt from participating in Think.Act.Green's environmental program.

NOTE: Adobe Reader 9 is required to ensure the video loads correctly. You can download the latest version of Adobe Reader free from the Adobe website. You can also view the video online by pasting the following into your internet browser: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAekzpxRZ3k>