

2026 Leadership for Eco Action Program

Youth-led action for a sustainable future.

Skills workshops
Real-world projects
Community collaboration

2026 Leadership for Eco Action Program (LEAP)

Empowering young environmental leaders in the City of Melville

Program Starts: 2026 | Apply: Monday, 3 November to Friday, 21 November 2025 | Free program

What is LEAP?

The Leadership for Eco Action Program (LEAP) is a **free, two-year environmental leadership program** offered to eight (8) high school students **entering Year 10 or 11 in 2026**, who live or study in the City of Melville. Participants will meet weekly after school to explore local environment and sustainability issues, develop leadership skills, and co-create real-world environmental projects.

Why should I join?

By participating in LEAP, you will:

- Build leadership, communication, teamwork and project management skills
- Learn about local sustainability and environmental issues
- Plan and deliver youth-led community projects
- Connect with inspiring peers, mentors, and experts
- Discover study and career pathways

What's involved?

- **Weekly sessions** (1.5–2 hrs), during school terms
 - Workshops with City of Melville staff and guest speakers
 - **Location:** City of Melville EcoHub, 555 Leach Hwy, Winthrop WA 6150
 - **Day and time:** Wednesdays, 4.00pm to 6.00pm
- **Youth-led initiatives**, including:
 - One major group project.
 - Smaller engagement activities (e.g. events, social media, or community outreach).
 - Contribution to the City of Melville's annual Eco Action Expo.

Flexibility is built into the program, and accommodations can be made for school, exam, or personal commitments. We aim to keep all core program work within the weekly sessions. Any additional involvement — such as project tasks or events — is optional. If the group chooses to organise activities outside of regular sessions, they will be planned collaboratively based on everyone's availability.

Light afternoon snacks will be provided during weekly sessions.

Program Structure

- **Number of participants:** Eight new students will be selected each year
- **Length of program:** Two years (with flexibility if needed)
- **Total cohort size:** Up to sixteen participants at a time — eight in their first year and eight in their second. (In 2026, only the first group of eight will be involved.)
- **Eligibility:**
 - New applicants must be in Year 10 or Year 11 at the start of their first program year
 - Live or go to school in the City of Melville

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Safety & Supervision

All sessions and activities will be supervised by City of Melville staff who hold current Working with Children Checks. We follow established safety protocols to ensure a welcoming, respectful, and supportive environment for all participants. The physical and mental wellbeing of every participant is a priority of the program.

Accessibility & Inclusion

We are committed to making LEAP accessible and inclusive for all participants. If you have any specific needs or require accommodations (e.g., mobility, learning, sensory), please let us know during the application or induction process so we can support you fully. If you have questions before applying, feel free to contact us for more information.

Application, Selection, and Induction process

1. To apply: Complete and submit the **Expression of Interest Form**
 - a. Applications open: **9.00AM on Monday, 3 November 2025**
 - b. Applications close: **5.00PM on Friday, 21 November 2025**
2. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to a brief interview with their parent or guardian before final selection.
3. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by mid-December 2025
4. Successful applicants will be invited to an induction session with their parent or guardian during the last two weeks of January 2026. This will involve going through a Code of Conduct and medical and consent forms.
 - a. If a selected participant withdraws before the program starts, their place will be offered to the next eligible applicant on the waiting list.
5. The 2026 program will officially start in Week 1 of Term 1, 2026.

Selection is based on:

- Eligibility
- Responses to the expression of interest form
- Our commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive group

Please note: Existing skills or prior experience will not influence selection — we value passion and genuine interest.

More Info / Contact Us

Bonnie Lacey (she/her)

Environmental Education Officer

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Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 4.30pm

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

About the Program:

Q: Is it really free?

Yes! The program is fully funded by the City of Melville. There is no cost to participate, and all materials and activities are included.

Q: Where will the sessions be held?

Weekly sessions will take place at the City of Melville EcoHub, 555 Leach Hwy, Winthrop. Any changes or off-site activities will be communicated in advance.

Q: What happens during school holidays?

There are no regular sessions during school holidays. Any optional activities will be planned with the group.

Q: Will I get a certificate or recognition for completing the program?

This program is not accredited and will not lead to a formal qualification. However, participants will receive a certificate of completion and may be acknowledged at City of Melville events.

Eligibility & Applying:

Q: Who can apply?

Students entering Year 10 or Year 11 in the year they start the program (e.g., 2026), who live or go to school in the City of Melville.

Q: Do I need specific skills or experience to be selected?

No. Selection is based on eligibility, your responses to the expression of interest form, and our goal of creating a diverse and inclusive group. Passion and interest matter more than past experience.

Time Commitment & Flexibility:

Q: What if I'm busy during exams or have other commitments?

We know school and personal commitments come first. The program is designed to be flexible, especially during busy times like exam periods. Core work happens during weekly sessions, and any additional activities are optional.

Q: Do I need to stay for 2 years?

We encourage a two-year commitment so participants can grow and help mentor others in their second year. However, we understand that circumstances can change — we'll work with you if you need to adjust your involvement.

Q: What if I can't commit to two years or attend weekly sessions; if I'm currently too young to apply; or if I'm not selected? Can I still be involved?

If you can't join the full program, you can ask to be added to our LEAP Supporter List to hear about one-off opportunities to help with events, campaigns, or youth-led projects throughout the year.

Q: I'm nervous about public speaking or leading projects — is that a problem?

Not at all. The program is designed to support you in building confidence and skills over time. You'll learn and grow in a safe, supportive space.

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Draft Program Schedule (EXAMPLE ONLY)

Term	Wk#	Wk starting	Topic
Term 1	1	2/02/2026	Introduction, icebreakers and program overview Environment and climate justice, resilience and adaptation Connection to Country Development of Group Charter
	2	9/02/2026	Climate change + emissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency and emissions reduction Sustainable transport and infrastructure
	3	16/02/2026	Nature and biodiversity (including water) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water management, quality and conservation Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and enhancement
	4	23/02/2026	Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular economy and waste management Food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmentally sensitive food (climate, emissions, waste, biodiversity, water)
	5	2/03/2026	Leadership: Leadership styles, effective leadership, and emotional intelligence
	6	9/03/2026	Communication: Effective communication, active listening, persuasive communication, public speaking
	7	16/03/2026	Interpersonal skills: Team building, collaboration, decision-making, problem-solving, conflict resolution, inclusivity (diversity, accessibility, cultural awareness)
	8	23/03/2026	Strategy: Strategic thinking & planning, time management & organisation, research & reliable sources
	9	30/03/2026	Driving change: Community engagement, mobilisation, advocacy, behaviour change and social psychology, understanding policy, local government, lobbying
Term 2	1	20/04/2026	Project brainstorming and key roles - effective team meetings, smaller event planning
	2	27/04/2026	Project management basics – goals, objectives, KPIs, target audience, time management and Gantt charts
	3	4/05/2026	Budgeting and funding
	4	11/05/2026	Stakeholder engagement – data collection, surveying
	5	18/05/2026	Risk management
	6	25/05/2026	Marketing and comms and outreach/events – best practice social media, posters, branding, voice etc. inclusivity and accessibility
	7	1/06/2026	Evaluation

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	8	8/06/2026	Finalise project plan and event plans
	9	15/06/2026	Finalise project plan and event plans
	10	22/06/2026	Finalise project plan and event plans
	11	29/06/2026	Present plan to key stakeholders
Term 3	1	20/07/2026	Initiate project and events Promotion of submission of expressions of interest
	2	27/07/2026	Project work & group meetings
	3	3/08/2026	Project work & group meetings
	4	10/08/2026	Project work & group meetings
	5	17/08/2026	Project work & group meetings
	6	24/08/2026	Project work & group meetings
	7	31/08/2026	Project work & group meetings
	8	7/09/2026	Project work & group meetings
	9	14/09/2026	Midway project check-in
	10	21/09/2026	Project work & group meetings
Term 4	1	12/10/2026	Project work & group meetings
	2	19/10/2026	Project work & group meetings
	3	26/10/2026	Project work & group meetings Eco Action Expo – event
	4	2/11/2026	Project work & group meetings
	5	9/11/2026	Project work & group meetings
	6	16/11/2026	Project work & group meetings
	7	23/11/2026	Project work & group meetings
	8	30/11/2026	Project work & group meetings
	9	7/12/2026	Program completion and wrap up, planning of presentation night
	10	14/12/2026	Program completion and wrap up, planning of presentation night