



Axel - Supporting the community to recycle difficult items

What is your goal?

By the 2019 YEC Sharing Forum, I hope to have developed a way of communicating to people where and how to recycle their waste and surplus goods locally, through a website, app or social media page. For this year's goal I researched 20 different sources to find out where household waste and surplus goods can be recycled, other than Council waste bins.

This is a 3-4 year plan. In YEC 2017 I did a survey of about 15 households to find out how they recycled. Most households already recycled most of their waste, however they all wanted to know how to do it better. I then helped with a waste audit at my primary school, and we found that most of the waste was soft plastics and food wrappers. The school didn't know how they could educate children or encourage them to recycle their food wrappers and waste. We already had a school garden, so quite a bit of fresh food waste went to the compost bins. But recycling wasn't really an option and the only recycling option for 10c deposit containers was to return them to the canteen but not everyone did this.

How could I help people recycle? Either at school or at home? I realised I probably couldn't help at school, but that I could help individuals and families in their homes.

My 2018 project developed from a need for people to know how to recycle or dispose of their waste, or household goods, in a way that was environmentally sustainable and didn't cost anything.

Who has been working with you?

I worked with a lady who works for Ecoversity called Phil Schliebs. I interviewed her about her opinions on sustainability in South Australia, in Australia, and in the world. It really did make a good insight to the problems that we're facing at the moment.

Your advice to other students?

Get it all done really quickly, make sure you collect lots of information and take lots of notes.

Your biggest success so far?

Probably being able to complete the whole thing in time.

What did you enjoy most?

Being able to talk with someone who knows what they're talking about and has a like-mind.

This case study was transcribed from an interview and poster display. These are Axel's words and opinions.