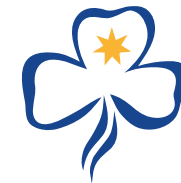




# ADVOCACY ACTION PLAN

2020/21 Girl Guides Victoria Youth Forum

**ENVIRONMENT TEAM**



welcome

# WELCOME *from* GIRL GUIDES VICTORIA

As the peak organisation for girls aged 5-17, the Girl Guide mission is to empower all girls to become confident, engaged and responsible community members through a unique program that has been alive for over 100 years. Girls are encouraged to develop their sense of self, experience a sense of belonging and connection within their community, paving the way for a better world, *Girl-Led*.

Girl Guides are part of a bigger family, a global friendship, a worldwide movement, where girls contribute to our community through service. We value relationships to build understanding of others, to extend our knowledge of the world, to communicate on matters important to our cause and to provide opportunities for our members to grow.

When taking action, Girl Guides are informed, collaborative and engaged with their community and the world. Learning through action, learning through play, learning through teamwork, and learning by leading. Girls are mentored and gain skills to tackle life head on and express who they truly are. Treated as an individual, each and every girl is encouraged to do their personal best.

Girl Guides seek to contribute to the wider world around them to improve it for their friends, their family and community, whether at home or abroad. Girl Guides are alive to the issues of our times and want to have a say in their future, as global citizens. Through learning, our girls and young women create a foundation to harness their individual potential to make a difference. *Making sure that we are alive to the emerging needs of girls and young women is vital to our future.*



# DELEGATES

*With special thanks to mentor, Rachel Law*



**LILA-KELLY**



**ASHLEE**



**EVE**



**KATIE**

## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT ISSUES?

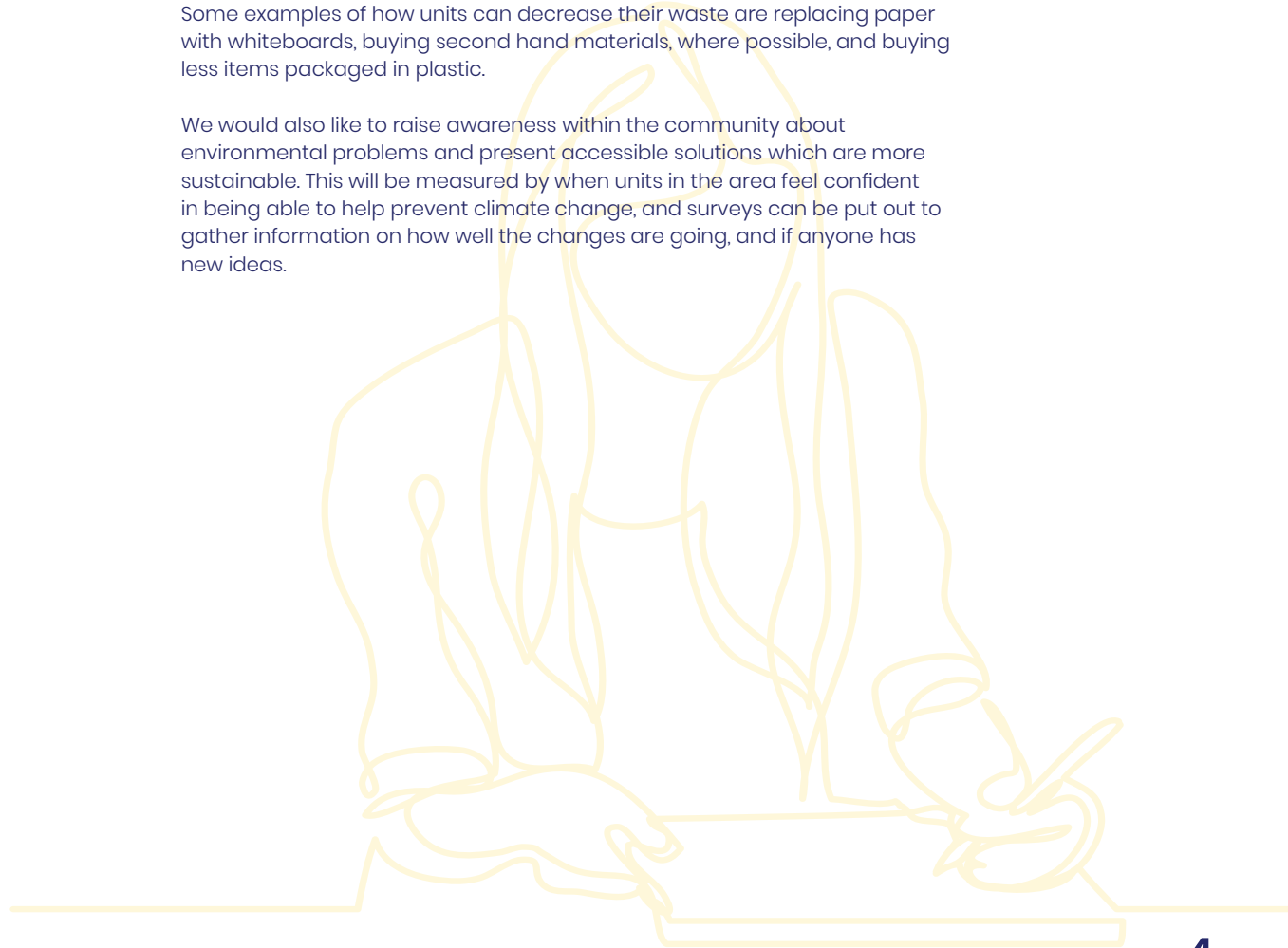
Climate change is an important issue because there is only one planet, one home and it needs to be protected. This issue affects everyone, plants, humans and animals negatively. For example, a major increase in temperature, which causes many events such as bushfires and drought, which Australia has already suffered from. Climate change can be broken down into smaller issues, which makes it easier for individuals to tackle if they are aware of their responsibility.

We as Guides are able to make an impact, and break out of the destructive cycle that has been created.

## WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE?

Our goals are to reduce the amount of waste being created within Guide meetings and to help Guides and Leaders be more conscious of the waste produced. To measure this, units will track the amount of waste that their meetings produce to see how they can improve and make achievable goals. Some examples of how units can decrease their waste are replacing paper with whiteboards, buying second hand materials, where possible, and buying less items packaged in plastic.

We would also like to raise awareness within the community about environmental problems and present accessible solutions which are more sustainable. This will be measured by when units in the area feel confident in being able to help prevent climate change, and surveys can be put out to gather information on how well the changes are going, and if anyone has new ideas.



## WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL YOU UNDERTAKE TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE? WHAT RESOURCES ARE NEEDED?

We are interested in undertaking multiple activities to combat waste production in Guide meetings. We would like to:

Help units implement whiteboard use rather than paper;

Encourage the 'Recycle' program, which is used to recycle soft plastics.

Promote the use of second hand/non-packaged materials for Guiding activities at camps and in meetings, and;

Encourage Guide's families to make changes too.

We would also like to create an Environmental Committee. This committee would be in charge of raising awareness through the Guiding community, promoting and creating environmental activities and environmental days, creating an Environmental badge, which would be very similar to the Action Guide badge, and helping units to achieve their no-waste goals.

Some of the activities we would like to do to raise awareness include:

Creating a newsletter, which would encompass suggestions, inspiring people and messages, climate change facts, encouragement etc.

Creating educational resources for units to distribute to individual Guides and their families.

It is really important that we get GGV and unit leaders across Victoria to be on board with this issue. It's also important to tell older Girl Guides who are making more of their own decisions about this so that they can make an impact.

We can make sure that people listen to us by providing a clear, reasonable and simple plan of action for units to follow. We can email ideas to GGV and unit leaders to help them understand our ideas.

Resources we will need to complete our goals and actions include:

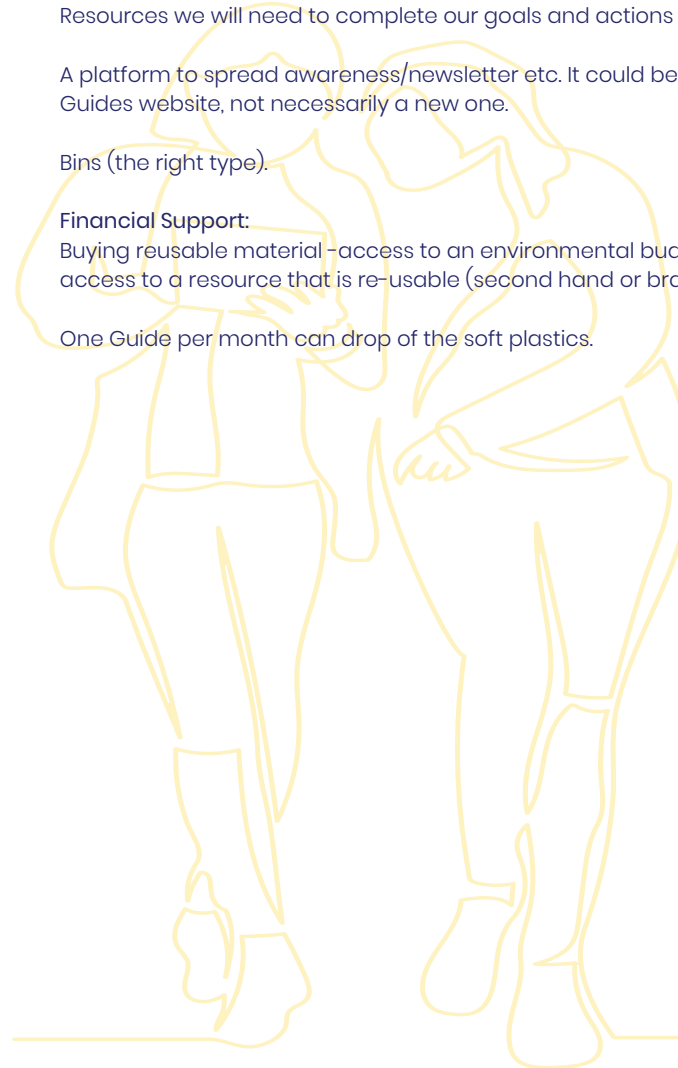
A platform to spread awareness/newsletter etc. It could be present on the Girl Guides website, not necessarily a new one.

Bins (the right type).

**Financial Support:**

Buying reusable material – access to an environmental budget, encourage access to a resource that is re-usable (second hand or brand new).

One Guide per month can drop off the soft plastics.



## WHAT IS YOUR TIMELINE TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS?

**Half year** - To have units set up with low waste alternatives, such as whiteboards, and disposing of soft plastics properly.

To have started an environmental committee of around 10 members, and create a partnership with Redcycle.

**Year:** To have a significant drop in the waste being produced by units. To have the Environmental Committee produce their first newsletter.



