



Sustainable practise in Early Childhood Settings

How sustainable is your service? Does your service.....

Practise	Yes	No	Sometimes
Use recycled materials within the children's program i.e. art			
Have a water tank			
Have water saving taps installed			
Encourage the children to use water wisely i.e. tip unwanted water onto garden, turn off taps etc			
Only use the washing machine /dryer when they have full loads			
Hang washing on the clothes line as much as possible			
Print & photocopy on both sides of paper			
Have water resistant, drought tolerant plants in the garden			
Have a compost or bokashi bin for food scraps			
Have solar panels			
Have computer monitors set to sleep mode			
Have energy saving globes installed			
Have half flush toilets			
Furnish rooms with used and repaired furniture			
Recycle printer cartridges			
Use minimal chemicals for cleaning			
Have sensors and timers on some lights/items			
Purchase natural and recycled equipment			
Recycle waste carefully – paper, plastic, food			
Discuss environmental practise with the children			
Belong to an Environmental Association			
Switch off lights and using natural light			
Use green bags instead of plastic			
Offer cloth nappies to families			
Encourage professional development in sustainability			
Have room temperatures set at 18-20C in winter and 24-26C in summer			
Close external doors and windows when heating and cooling is operating			
Close blinds to keep out the heat in summer			
Open windows & doors in summer for air circulation rather than using air conditioners			
Use recycled batteries			
Use toilet paper made from recycled paper			
Encourage parents to walk, ride or car pool to the service			
Have an area where parents can leave prams or bikes			



Now it's your turn!

Make a commitment to reduce your service's energy and water use and waste production.

1. Create an Environmental Action Plan

Work with the staff at your service to determine what actions you can take to reduce your environmental footprint. Set goals and create an Environmental Action Plan to start working towards improving the sustainability of your children's service.

2. Learn more about how to reduce your environmental impacts

Participate in education and training on sustainability. Utilise Environmental Associations and useful websites for support. Visit other children's services who are working on sustainability and share ideas.

3. Track your energy and water use

Set up a spreadsheet to record and monitor your energy and water costs and use. See the effects of your sustainable behaviour changes on your bills. Remember to take into account seasonal fluctuations. Participate in an energy audit to see where you are utilising the most energy.

4. Talk to your local Council's Environmental team

Receive advice and support on reducing the environmental impacts on your service. Spread the word and get parents involved. Make "Environmental News" a regular item in your service newsletter. Use every opportunity to teach children about sustainability.



Sustainability Goals

- ✓ Take some time today to be inspired!
- ✓ Develop your own set of three simple goals for your service or home
- ✓ Place them somewhere prominent and keep working towards them.

Goal 1 - Short term:

Over the next few weeks I will _____

Goal 2 – Medium term:

Over the next few months I will _____

Goal 3 – Long term:

This year I will _____

Remember to choose SMART actions:

Specific – state exactly what you will do

Measurable – a target with numbers that will let you know you have achieved your goal

Achievable – you have the authority and capability to achieve your goals

Realistic – you are prepared to spend the time & necessary effort to make your goal happen

Timeframe – create a timeline or due date



Sustainable practice

Helpful Links and Resources

- Environmental Education Early Childhood.
www.eeec.org.au
- Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.
www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/index.html
- CERES (Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies)
www.ceres.org.au
- Hobsons Bay City Council Environment Department
www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/enviornmentandwaste
- Sustainability Victoria
www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households
- Safer Solutions (Bridget Gardner)
<http://www.tec.org.au/safersolutions/your-stories/48/286-bridget-gardner--professional-green-and-safe-cleaner>
- Tanya Ha – author and campaigner
www.tanayha.com
- Royal Botanical Gardens Melbourne
<http://www.rbq.vic.gov.au/>
- Yates Australia
<http://www.yates.com.au/>
- Resource Smart
<http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au>
- Reverse Art Truck Inc.
17 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood
Ph; 9879 1264