

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Related Policy/policies	Educational Program and Practice, Promoting Children’s Wellbeing and Resilience, Training, Nutritional Food and Beverage.
Regulation/s/ Standards	National Quality Standard: Quality Area 3 & 6 3.2.1, 3.2.3, 6.1.1, 6.2.3
Related procedures	Workplace Health and Safety
References:	Kinsella, R. (2007). <i>Greening services: Practical Sustainability</i> . Early Childhood Australia. Volume 14 No 3 ACECQA
Date effective	July 2021
Date for review	July 2023
Purpose	To guide Educators and Staff in effective sustainable practice and education, within individual services and the coordination unit.
Responsibility	Board of Directors, Management, Coordinators, Educators and Educator Assistants.

Key Information:

We aim to focus on environmental sustainability as a holistic approach in all aspects of Armidale and District Family Day Care. We aim to develop Staff, Educator, Parent and Child awareness of environmental sustainability so they can think and act in ways to meet their immediate needs, without jeopardising future generations being able to meet *their* own needs.

As educators of future environmental caretakers, it is our responsibility to instil ideals and knowledge relating to environmental sustainability in ways that will ensure our environment is valued now, and well into the future. Educators have a responsibility to make education for sustainability part of everyday practise using a holistic approach that integrates all aspects of sustainability into our service. *Children need to feel a part of the natural world for them to appreciate and take joy from it.*

Procedure:

Coordination unit will:

- Appliances are to be turned off when not in use.
- Lights are to be turned off when not in use.
- Computers are to be put into lower power state when not in use.
- When purchasing new appliances, consideration is given to energy rating, and where affordable, choose the appliance with the higher environmental performance.

- Heating is limited to necessary areas only and heaters are switched off when no longer necessary.
- Where possible correspondence is to be emailed to educators and families, rather than copying onto paper.
- Notes and newsletters are to be photocopied double sided.
- Old documents are to be shredded and recycled or composted.
- Recycling bins are to be provided in offices.
- Cardboard boxes are to be squashed down and recycled or reused where applicable.
- Recycling of garbage is to be sorted and placed into Council recycling bins.
- All efforts are made to conserve water.

Educators are encouraged too:

- Conservation and recycling to be incorporated into the program for the children.
- Use recycled materials to up-cycle and re-use in play.
- Natural play spaces to be provided and experiences involving natural materials are part of the program.
- Involve Children in all safe aspects of gardening and composting.
- There is to be a balance between indoor and outdoor experiences.
- Children are to be involved in all aspects of conservation within the service.
- Turn off lights, heating/cooling and all other electrical appliances when not in use.
- Role model sustainable practice e.g. allowing washed laundry to air dry. Involve children in hanging out washing (bibs, clothes, blankets).
- Reduce the use of chemicals where applicable.
- Coordination unit and Educators are to engage in mutual support in promoting environmental sustainability.
- Encourage children to save water e.g. half flush toilet or turning tap off after hand washing.
- Turn lights off, electronics, heating and cooling when not in use.
- Involve children in sorting waste and recycling appropriately.

Families are encouraged too:

- Families are encouraged to provide environmentally sustainable lunchboxes e.g. limit convenience, pre-packaged foods, instead reusable containers are used, with fresh fruit and healthy lunches provided.
- Families are to provide a re-usable drink bottle for children.
- Contribute to sustainable practices in care e.g. provide recycled or natural materials for craft (if Educator desires).