

ARMIDALE OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

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
Date effective	November 2023
Date for review	November 2025
Purpose	To guide Armidale Out of School Hours Care Management and staff in effective sustainable practices.
Responsibility	Board of Directors, Management, Nominated Supervisor and Educators.

Key Information:

We aim to focus on environmental sustainability as a holistic approach in all aspects of Armidale Out of School Hours Care. We will use our best endeavours to develop Management, 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:

Our management will:

- Ensure appliances are to be turned off when not in use.
- Turn off lights when they are not required.
- Ensure that Computers are put into lower power state when not in use.
- When purchasing new appliances, give consideration to energy rating, and where affordable, choose the appliance with the higher environmental performance.

- Ensure that heating is limited to necessary areas only and heaters are switched off when no longer necessary.
- Where possible, ensure that correspondence is emailed to families, rather than copying onto paper.
- Double sided photocopy Notes and Newsletters.
- Shred, recycle or compost old documents.
- Ensure that Recycling bins are available in offices.
- Cardboard boxes are to be squashed down and recycled or reused where applicable.
- Ensure that efforts are made to conserve water.

Our Educational team will:

- Use recycled materials to up-cycle and re-use in play.
- Include natural materials where possible when programming activities.
- Involve children in gardening activities as far as the venue permits.
- Ensure that children have access to a balance of indoor and outdoor experiences.
- Turn off lights, heating/cooling and all other electrical appliances when not in use.
- Reduce the use of chemicals where applicable.
- Encourage children to save water e.g. half flush toilet or turning tap off after hand washing.
- Involve children in sorting waste and recycling appropriately when the opportunity arises.

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.
- Provide a re-usable drink bottle for children.