



Environmental Sustainability Procedure

Purpose and Scope

Maribyrnong Preschool is committed to fostering an awareness of, and sensitivity to, our environment in children, families and staff. We aim to create patterns of behaviour at the preschool which support environmentally friendly and sustainable practices for now and for the future.

This procedure was developed to provide a framework to support environmental sustainability in practice for the children at the preschool and the communities they belong to.

Definitions

Sustainability: The concept of living within our limits and understanding the interconnections between people and the natural environment.

Carbon Footprint: The amount of greenhouse gas emissions caused by an organisation, event, product or person.

Conservation: the careful preservation and protection of something and planned management of natural resources to prevent exploitation, destruction or neglect.

Recycle: To convert waste into reusable material or to return material to a previous stage in a cyclic process.

Natural Environment: Encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally on Earth.

Procedures to Support Environmental Sustainability

- Responsible recycling
 - minimising waste production going to landfill and increase the percentage of material that is reused and recycled through the use of a specific recycling station
 - encouraging children to participate in all activities and strategies to assist with litter reduction, water, paper and energy conservation
- Conserve water
 - minimising the consumption of mains water at the preschool and to utilise other sources such as a rainwater tank to assist in this reduction
 - ensure water used in play experiences is redirected to garden beds or grass areas rather than treating as waste
- Conserve energy
 - decreasing the amount of energy the preschool uses through greater efficiency and better practices, and to maximise the use of energy from carbon neutral sources
- Efficient use of natural resources
 - increasing the use of resources collected from the natural environment
- Native plants
 - increasing the biodiversity of the preschool by planting native species where possible and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife

- including indigenous knowledge and understanding related to native plants and incorporate in preschool outdoor learning environment
- Vegetable gardens
 - Increasing understanding related to vegetable growing and responsible water usage

Procedures to embed Sustainable Practices in the Program and Community

- consulting and working collaboratively with families, recognising cultural practices and lifestyle choices
- educating families and the community about sustainable practices through the provision of information, role-modelling and discussions/consultation while acknowledging the diversity of families
- providing children opportunities to learn about our environment and incorporate sustainable practices
- providing a safe, supportive and social environment in which children can enjoy sustainable practices
- supporting this procedure when organising excursions and preschool events
- encouraging children to become more environmentally aware and actively involved in sustainable activities