

<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Sustainability Strategy Policy</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	March 2014
<b>Review Date:</b>	As necessary by the Policy and Procedure Development Policy

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

As an education and care community, we can encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children can be supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. Environmentally sustainable practices should be embedded into the operations of our education and care service and involve educators, children and families in order to be successful.

## **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

This policy has been implemented based on the recommendations of Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) 2012.

This policy was reviewed by the families and educators in February 2014.

## **SCOPE AND PURPOSE**

Inner City Care will ensure the environment is safe, clean and well-maintained. Children's awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged within the Centre. Educators, children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

## **POLICY DETAIL/ BUSINESS RULES**

Educators will:

- Make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include; recycling, gardening, energy conservation, water conservation and sustainable equipment purchases.
- Include recycling as part of everyday practice. Recycling containers will be available in each room and in the Centre Office.
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the programs for care and learning.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the Centre and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment where possible.
- Share ideas between other educators, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This will be done in parent meetings, through emails, newsletters and conversations.
- Use a worm farm to reduce food waste in the Centre. Educators will discuss with children and families which scraps worms can eat. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices of turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas.
- Aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.

- Seek to embed sustainable practices in our service. The concepts of “reduce, re-use and recycle” will become part of everyday practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes to towards sustainable practices.
- Use local Council and Government departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community. They will liaise with the Council and Government departments for possible grants available to put in place water and energy conservation practices in the Centre. These may include water tanks, grey water systems, converting toilet cisterns to dual flush and converting to water saving taps.

## AUTHORITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

The Centre Director is responsible for ensuring all ICC educators and staff have training in this policy.

All ICC educators and staff are accountable for the implementation of this policy.

Education and Care Services National Regulations  
 Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011)  
 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999  
 Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006

## SOURCES

- Community Childcare Co-operative sample policies
- NSW Department of Environment and Heritage [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities - [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)
- Early Childhood Environmental Education Network [www.eceen.org.au](http://www.eceen.org.au)

## OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION

Cleaning and Maintaining the Environment Policy  
 Interactions with Children Policy

Approved by Management Committee	
<p><b>Signature:</b>  <b>Title:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Date:</b></span></p>	
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