



Sustainability Policy

Policy Number: 33

Date Updated: 5/2017

Policy Statement:

Merino Court Childcare Centre and its stakeholders are committed to being responsible members of the community in which it belongs.

Sustainability means that we seek to improve our social, economic and environmental performance without harming the ability of future generations to enjoy the same social, economic and environmental conditions that we do today.

Purpose:

To establish clear guidelines for children, families and staff to follow in order to meet the sustainability targets of Merino Court Childcare Centre.

Objectives:

- To incorporate sustainability principles into the daily routines of Merino Court Childcare Centre.
- To educate children, staff and families in sustainability principles and their importance.
- To reduce Merino Court Childcare Centre's ecological footprint through application of the Sustainability Strategy.
- Meet and comply with all local and national environmental legislation.
- Support our families to become more socially and environmentally responsible and sustainable
- To continuously improve our sustainability performance and conduct our business in a socially responsible manner that will make us a strong force in early years learning in Australia.

Scope:

This policy applies to the Managers and employees of Merino Court Childcare Centre and the children and families who use the service.

Policy Principles:

- We will endeavor to reduce our carbon footprint and commit to continuous improvement of our sustainability performance by incorporating the principles of the green office program - Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and Turn it off.
 - Reduce - the amount of waste we produce through;
 - Closer monitoring of children's meals and servings.

- Water recycling buckets for drinking water scraps - to be used on garden.
- Tighter limits on use and abuse of resources so that they don't need to be replaced as often.
- Communicating with families through email, website and in person rather than printed notes.
- Storing child records digitally and electronically
- Replacing taps with water saving options
- Re-use - using resources for multiple purposes
 - Records to be discarded are shredded and used for mice, compost and worms.
 - Children draw on the backs of unwanted letters etc.
 - Food scraps are put in the compost
- Recycle - reducing landfill waste by separating items that can be used again
 - Kitchen recycling bin.
 - Bins in the foyer for educating children and families on things to recycle
 - Recycling included in children's programs.
- Turn it off - reducing wastage of electricity
 - Computers turned off each night
 - Air conditioners turned off when not needed
 - The use of natural light whenever possible
- The children's learning program will reflect our commitment to providing opportunities for children to develop skills and knowledge in sustainability and to foster an appreciation of our environment and the responsibility we have to protect it.
- Sustainability will be included in the recruitment process so that suitable staff are found who will support and extend MCCC's goals and objectives.
- All programming and documentation of children's learning and experiences will be stored digitally and families will have access to their children's files on demand.

Current Sustainability SWOT Analysis:

Strengths

- The team are motivated to implement sustainable changes
- Management support ideas and implementation to achieve best practice
- The premises allows space for establishing gardens, worms and compost

Weaknesses

- Children waste a lot of water through not turning off taps and overfilling drinking cups
- Monitoring of resources is not consistent so that things get broken
- Finances are not stable to support many of the ideas presented

Opportunities

- Greater family involvement and education

- Reduction in costs as implemented ideas bear fruit
- To foster a greater appreciation of the environment in children
- The culture of MCCC will motivate new staff to comply and embrace sustainability.

Threats

- New staff coming in who may not share the same passion
- That initial enthusiasm wanes
- A drop in enrolments results in less funds for implementing strategies

Related Documents

- Environmental Protection Act (WA)1986
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) Cth

Definitions

Ecological Footprint - the demand that MCCC places on the earth's ecosystem, that is, the amount of land and sea area needed to sustain the population based on their usage. Measured in terms of the number of planets needed to sustain current usage.

Green Office Program - a program based on the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle and turn it off.

Sustainability - meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Sustainability Strategy - A document outlining the future plans and actions

Document History

| Version | Date updated |
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| Sustainability | 1/6/15 |
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