



## Sustainability Policy

**Policy Number:** 33

**Date Updated:** 24/2/20

### **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 meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

### **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 keep families informed of what we are doing to promote sustainable practices with their children through OWNA, displays and daily communication.
- 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.
- Using containers with lids rather than cling wrap.
- Reduce packaging by buying in bulk, growing our own, buying fresh.
- Tighter supervision on the use and abuse of resources.
- Communicating with families through email, website and in person rather than printed notes.
- Using draft quality when printing is required.
- Storing child records digitally and electronically.
- Re-use - using resources for multiple purposes
  - Children draw on the backs of unwanted letters etc.
  - Food scraps are put in the compost or given to worms.
- Recycle - reducing landfill waste by separating items that can be used again
  - Kitchen and room recycling bins.
  - Bins in the foyer for educating children and families on things to recycle
  - Recycling included in children's programs.
  - Using recycled products such as toilet paper.
- Turn it off - reducing wastage of electricity
  - Air conditioners turned off when not needed.
  - The use of natural light whenever possible.
  - Solar panels installed to provide sustainable energy.
- 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. Basic concepts of saving water and reducing waste will be reinforced from a young age and built upon as children grow.
- 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
- The premises allows space for establishing gardens, worms and compost

#### Weaknesses

- Age of children and number of enrolments make it difficult to pursue large sustainable concepts
- Finances are not stable to support many of the ideas presented

#### Opportunities

- Greater family involvement and education
- To foster a greater appreciation of the environment in children

#### Threats

- New staff coming in who may not share the same passion

- 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**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date updated</b>
Sustainability	1/6/15
Sustainability	5/2017
Sustainability	18/3/19