

Coonabarabran High School
School Environmental Management Policy – 2008 – 2011

Introduction:

Coonabarabran High School Environmental Management Plan will be implemented in stages with a time frame of three years. It is a comprehensive approach that will enable students to participate actively in improving the school environment.

The SEMP plan addresses the three focus areas as set down by the Department of Education Environmental Policy.

- Curriculum
- Management of resources
- Management of school grounds

Rationale:

With the implementation of the SEMP, environmental education will be further incorporated into the school curriculum, where students will:

- Learn about the environment.
- Develop investigative skills and solve issues around the environment.
- Acquire attitudes of care and concern for the environment.
- Adopt behaviours and practices which protect the environment.
- Understand the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Aims and Objectives:

1) Curriculum:

Focus in the curriculum will involve student and teacher participation across a number of Key Learning Areas.

Students will develop

- **Knowledge and understanding about**

- The nature and function of ecosystems and how they are interrelated.
- The impact of people on environments.
- The role of the community, politics and market forces in environmental decision making.
- The principles of ecological sustainable development.

- **Skills in**

- Applying technical expertise within an environmental context.
- Identify and assessing environmental problems.
- Communicating environmental problems to others.

- Resolving environmental problems
- Adopting behaviours and practices that protect the environment.
- Evaluating the success of their actions
 - **Values and attitudes relating to**
- A respect for life on Earth
- An appreciation of their cultural heritage.
- A commitment to act for the environment by supporting long term solutions to environmental problems.

2) Management Resources:

Management resources will be under a whole school approach to include environmental aspects as:

- Energy monitoring
- Water consumption
- Waste recycling
- Employing best practice
- Identifying learning opportunities for students in the management of resources, with a greater emphasis where applicable, to a more practicable hand on learning.

3) Management Of School Grounds:

Management of school grounds will involve the principle of ecologically sustainable development as part of the overall school plan. Learning opportunities for students from the management of school grounds will include:

- The importance of biodiversity
- The use of grounds and buildings as learning areas

Focus Areas:

1) Curriculum:

Implementation:

- The school will identify, address and integrate environmental education topics to support the outcomes of K-12 syllabus.
- Student learning outcomes will be enhanced by providing opportunities for special events and school community actions related to environmental education.

Learning Opportunities will occur:

- Through the studying of mandatory syllabuses which contain specific environmental outcomes.

- By integrating environmental analysis and monitoring of the Schools resource use into educational programs.
- By teachers supporting environmental education through the curriculum by developing student awareness and appreciation of the environment, at a local, national and global levels. Teachers will provide opportunities for students to develop into effective and committed environmental citizen's and advocates.

2) Management Of Resource:

Implementation of action plans to:

- Address the management of energy, waste and water.
- Employ best practice in the sustainable management of resources.
- Maximise learning opportunities created, linking with curriculum.

Benefits of better management of resources include:

- Improvements to the school environment.
- Cost saving.
- A sense of community and pride in the school.
- A positive holistic management approach.
- Involvement of the local community and businesses.

Other issues including to the management of resources include:

- Safety in term of chemicals used within the school.
- Strategies for gaining the commitment of students.
- Sustainable management of resources during the construction and demolition.
- Watering systems – include the installation of water tanks and maintenance.

3) Management of School Grounds:

Strategies developed that will contribute to a sustainable practice within the school.

- Ground and buildings will be used to enhance and achieve the objectives of environmental education and syllabus outcomes.
- The ground and buildings will be learning areas.
- Encourage a long term approach to students and community to interact with their environment, i.e. active participation by students, teachers, ancillary staff, parents and the wider community.

Issue/Area of Action	Timeframe	Curriculum	Management of Resources	Management of School Grounds	Evaluation Responsibility	Measurable Outcome
<p><u>Environmentally Friendly Purchasing- Use of Recycled Paper.</u></p> <p>Current Status Audit</p> <p>Train SAS staff in Environmentally Friendly Purchasing (E.P.P.)</p> <p>Increase Purchase of Recycled Content Paper</p> <p>Catering for School Functions.</p>	<p>Term 3/4 2008</p> <p>2009 Onwards</p> <p>2009 Onwards</p>		<p>Training by EFP Facilitator – Brenda Grant</p> <p>Purchase of paper with high recycled content, e.g. 50% - Product Survey</p> <p>Replace use of polystyrene (single use cups) with crockery, cardboard or Bamboo.</p>		<p>SAS</p> <p>SAS</p> <p>SAS / P&C</p>	<p>Change in the number of trained staff.</p> <p>Analysis of change in purchasing habits.</p> <p>Change in percentage of events using Polystyrene</p>

Issue/Area of Action	Timeframe	Curriculum	Management of Resources	Management of School Grounds	Responsibility	Measurable Outcome/ Timeframe
<p>Recycling</p> <p>Waste and Audit</p> <p>Paper Recycling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classroom - Collections <p>Recycling of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bottles/ containers - Food Waste - Canteen Waste 	<p>Semester 2, 2008</p> <p>Semester 1, 2008</p> <p>Semester 2, 2008</p> <p>2009</p> <p>Semester 2, 2008</p>	<p>Year 8 Geography</p> <p>Agriculture Department Compost established and functional</p>	<p>Environment Committee. Classroom boxes/ Blue bins (6) placed around school.</p> <p>Special Unit IS/IO students collect.</p> <p>Education of whole school. Location of Bins.</p> <p>Establishment of Bins – Colour coding slogan to educate</p> <p>Bio-waste to Agriculture Bottles/Plastic/c ardboard etc As part of School daily collections</p>		<p>HSIE Department</p> <p>Environment Committee</p> <p>Special Ed Unit</p> <p>SRC Members and environment Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canteen Manager - Special Ed Unit 	

Issue/Area of Action	Timeframe	Curriculum	Management of Resources	Management of School Grounds	Responsibility	Measurable Outcome
<p><u>Water Usage</u></p> <p>Water Audit</p> <p>Implementation of Water Saving devices/ modifications</p> <p>Watering of School grounds</p> <p>Harvest/ Cultivation of Surplus Water</p>		<p>Year 8 Geography</p> <p>Year 8 Geography</p>	<p>Follow up water audit 2008. Compare 2007 audit.</p> <p>Short term - placement of bottles in system to reduce water quantity.</p> <p>Long term – half flush toilets Timers on bubblers</p> <p>School oval timer to allow night watering.</p> <p>Repair of existing gutters/blockages</p> <p>Apply water grants to harvest water. Storage tank/pump to distribute water</p>		<p>HSIE Department</p> <p>Environment Committee</p>	

Issue/Area of Action	Timeframe	Curriculum	Management of Resources	Management of School Grounds	Responsibility	Measurable Outcome
Plant Native Trees/ Mulching			Native trees/bed in high runoff areas eg, North Wall. Use of mulching to retain water.			

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<p><u>Development of Native Gardens</u> to promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity - Safety - Aesthetics • Plant More Trees • Landscape North Wall • Plant Natives outside Demountables. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student Survey where. - Native beds, Improve Safety. - Promote biodiversity 		