



ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE POLICY

SUNBEAMS encourages the awareness of environmental responsibility and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. We practice and promote sustainability through reducing waste, minimising consumption, and protecting and conserving wildlife and natural habitats.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD	OTHER SERVICE POLICIES/ DOCUMENTATION	OTHER
	3.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Educational Program Policy</i> - <i>Physical Environment Policy</i> - <i>Health and Safety Policy</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>My Time, Our Place. (Version 2)</i> - <i>ACECQA.</i> - <i>Australian Association for Environmental Education</i> - <i>ECEEN</i> -

PURPOSE

We believe in educating children about being environmentally responsible which is promoted and supported through daily practices, resource and interactions. Sustainable practice is encouraged within Sunbeams and community, assisting children and families to become advocates for a sustainable future creating and promoting sustainable communities. (MTOPI 2.0, p17)

WHO THE POLICY AFFECTS?

Management
 Staff
 Students
 Parents



IMPLEMENTATION

Teaching and learning about being environmentally responsible starts with everyday practice. We believe being environmentally responsible should be embedded into the operations of the OSHC Service, rather than being a tokenistic 'theme' that is investigated every now and then. Our Service is committed to protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children. This involves educators, children and families working together to protect our environment as we educate children about the importance of being environmentally responsible within our everyday practice.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER OR NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- Ensure the principles of the approved learning framework (My Time Our Place – Version 2) underpins our educational program at Sunbeams including the principal Sustainability.
- Engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander elders, where possible, to explore and share their own history, culture and rich sustainable practices. network with the local community to keep up to date with current practices and ideas for being environmentally responsible. This may include installing water tanks, grey water system, converting toilet cisterns to dual flush, and converting to water saving taps.
- encourage educators, families and children to engage in sustainable practices and appreciate the natural environment, understand our impact on the natural world and the interdependence between people, animals, plants, lands and waters.
- provide professional development opportunities for educators to learn about integrating environmentally sustainable education into all areas of their program and engage in ongoing critical reflection for better outcomes.
- Reflect on environmental, economic and social impacts on the world in all aspects of Sunbeams operations which will support the review of a sustainable Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) development using environmentally principles
- where relevant, review policies and procedures within Sunbeams with educators, children and families to achieve more sustainable outcomes and practices.
- use electronic communication where possible to reduce paper use within the office and in each room for newsletters, billing, and other communication needs.
- conduct environmentally responsible audits to ensure consistency and continuous improvement



- source resources and materials from Reverse Garbage or second-hand stores to use within Sunbeams
- ensure sustainable practices are incorporated into the daily routine
- collaborate with families and the community for involvement in potential quality practice for Sunbeams.
- provide colour coded bins for Landfill only, Organic waste, Paper recycling, Mixed recyclables.

EDUCATORS, STAFF MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS WILL:

- encourage children and young people to engage with concepts of sustainability and their capacity to advocate and act for positive change (MTOPI, V2.0)
- support children and young people's understanding of their citizenship, rights and responsibilities as members of local and global communities through meaningful and relevant educational experiences (MTOPI, p.17)
- support children and young people's commitment to social justice through curriculum decision making
- role model environmental sustainability practices during play
- incorporate recycling as part of everyday practice at Sunbeams
- role model environmentally responsible practices
- discuss environmentally responsible practices with the children and families as part of the curriculum
- provide information to families on environmentally responsible practices that are implemented at the OSHC Service and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment
- share ideas between educators, children, and families about environmentally responsible ideas, implementation, and resources. This will be supported through our communication strategies, including parent meetings, emails, newsletters, and informal conversations
- use a worm farm/composting bin/ to reduce food waste in the Service. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm or composting bin. Educators will provide visual guides and discuss with the children and families which scraps worms can eat, which foods can be composted, and which food scraps must go in the bin. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm and compost bin.



SUNBEAMS OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS – POLICY DOCUMENT

- role model energy and water conservation practices: For example, turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room/space is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas
- seek to purchase equipment that is environmentally friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials.
- use the concept of '*reduce, re-use and recycle*', which will become part of everyday practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards environmentally responsible practices.
- use 'green cleaning' products to replace chemicals where possible.

Sustainable Practices may include:

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE	IDEAS
RECYCLING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide bins and signage for waste and recycled materials • Recycle paper and all other recyclable rubbish • Use recycled water (e.g. for watering gardens)
GARDENING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees • Establish a worm farm • Give food scraps to worms or Service pets, or to a staff member to take home for their pet/s • Provide education to children about activities such as '<i>garden to plate</i>' activities • Provide opportunities for children to participate in experiences such as seed sprouting, vegetable gardening, cooking with what is grown, and provide education about weeds
ENERGY CONSERVATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install LED lighting where possible • Turn off non-LED lights when not in use • Turn off electrical appliances at the outlet when not in use • Use natural ventilation and insulated blinds/drapes rather than air conditioning when temperatures are not extreme
WATER CONSERVATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using half flush on the toilet • Turn off the taps and ensure leaking taps are fixed immediately • Encourage shorter showers • Teach children to turn off tap when brushing teeth • Collect rainwater and use in the garden and for water/sand play • Use water play water on the garden rather than tipping out at the end of the day



<p>NATURE AND WILDLIFE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use natural materials – trees, blocks, boxes etc. in arts and crafts and play• Educate children about the natural decomposition cycle through exposure and participation in worm farms and composting food scraps• Educate children in how to care for pets, letting them actively participate in caring for the Service pets.• Plant 'bird attracting' plants and install a birdbath• Plant 'butterfly attracting' plants• Create a lizard lounge• Collaborate with wildlife educators to assist in educating children
<p>COMMUNICATE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Display the Service's sustainability journey in the foyer area for families and visitors to view, provide feedback and offer suggestions• Provide families with hints and tips in newsletters about how they can become sustainable at home• Use scrap paper for art and craft• Use both sides of paper for drawing

ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:

The policy will be reviewed as required. The review will be conducted by management, staff, children, families and the wider community.

Last reviewed: August 2024

Date of next review: February 2026

APPROVAL DATE: _____

DATE FOR REVIEW: _____