

ENVIRONMENT POLICY Version 1.8

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre is committed to becoming energy efficient, reducing carbon emissions and reducing our financial expenses in regard to waste management. As a staff team, we will actively seek out alternatives to materials used throughout the Centre and incorporate any that may be more sustainable than those currently used. All staff will ensure sustainable practices are embedded in service operations. This will result in a reduction in the overall waste on a daily basis due to appropriate recycling techniques by staff, children and the contract cleaners. Children will learn about sustainable practices through the curriculum and the importance of learning how to protect the environment. Food waste is given to our chickens, Harriet, Pixie and Minnie and their eggs are used by our Cook for meals here.

Implementation

Worm Farm

Educators will assist children to maintain the worm farm by feeding vegetable scraps to the worms. We will use the Vermicast (Worm waste product) to enrich the soil and improve the health of plants in our garden beds. The Smartboard and books will be used by Educators to teach children about the benefits of worm farming.

Compost bins

When possible, compost bins will be used for fruit and vegetable waste and chicken poop, then layered with sand and /or straw. Autumn leaves may be collected and saved in plastic bags to create compost.

Paper

We purchase photocopying and computer paper which is made from 100% post-consumer recycled waste paper. Staff are encouraged to use both sides of paper when printing, and to avoid printing if possible.

Recycling

Educators will introduce children to the concepts of recycling, re-using and reducing our overall waste by using games, books and the Smartboard. Recycling bins will be used throughout the Centre for paper, card and other recyclable items and families will be asked to donate materials for the collage and woodwork tables, rather than the Centre purchasing new materials for these experiences. Used printer and toner cartridges are recycled at Officeworks.

Water Use

Where possible, Educators and children will use water saving taps to wash their hands. Other taps should not run while children soap their hands. Children will be encouraged to water the garden using water in jugs left over from snack times and emptying the water trough on the garden after play. Water in the sandpit will be monitored by Educators to ensure that it is not wasted.

Energy Use

Fluorescent lights throughout the Centre have been replaced with energy efficient lights that are 30% brighter and 30% cheaper to operate. Switches have been adjusted so that fewer lights need to be on at a time, and areas can be isolated for lighting as necessary. Natural light is used as much as possible. We use an outside clothes line whenever possible to avoid using the clothes drier. Solar panels have been installed to reduce our total energy usage.

CREATED: September 2013
REVIEWED: April 2014, April 2015, April 2016, April 2017, April 2018, April 2019, January 2020
TO BE REVIEWED: January 2021
SOURCED: "Sustainable Directions" Small Green Steps program 2012
Jaki Bokashi booklet 2013
Reflex Copy Paper * Post-consumer recycled waste paper as defined under
AS / NZS ISO 14021:2000 Environmental Labels and Declarations