

## **ENVIRONMENT POLICY NQS 3.3.1, 3.3.2 Version 1.5**

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 lifelong learning in regard to protection of the environment.

### **Implementation**

#### **Worm Farm**

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

#### **Compost bins**

When possible, compost bins will be used for fruit and vegetable waste, 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. For laundry, we use an outside clothes line whenever possible to avoid using the clothes drier. Plans are currently underway for Solar panels to be installed to reduce our total energy usage.

**CREATED: September 2013**

**REVIEWED: April 2014, April 2015, April 2016, April 2017**

**TO BE REVIEWED: April 2018**

**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**