



BDC
BISHOP DRUITT COLLEGE
COFFS HARBOUR

*Firm
Foundations
Bright
Futures*

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BISHOP DRUITT COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

SITUATION

Bishop Druit College is an independent, co-educational Kindergarten to Year 12 Anglican school situated on one campus at Coffs Harbour on the North Coast of New South Wales. The college's aim is to transform lives through the provision of an excellent education.

Established in 1994, Bishop Druit College is a young school that has experienced phenomenal academic success and growth within a short time frame. With strong community support and an enviable record in numeracy and literacy in primary and its HSC results in secondary, the college has developed an outstanding reputation for balanced academic excellence and pastoral care of the individual.

Following the initial phase of high growth, the college is now entering a phase of maturation and consolidation. For this reason, the Bishop Druit College Council has undertaken a sweeping strategic planning process. Part of this process will focus on a '**road to a sustainable future**'.

BROAD PRIORITIES

Throughout Bishop Druit College's rich history, staff and students have been engaging in activities that not only meet curriculum outcomes but have a positive impact on the school's environment. The purpose of this strategic plan is to consolidate previous and existing programs and develop a long-term approach to achieving sustainability targets that are closely aligned with the Bishop Druit College Strategic Plan 2014 including:

- Foster an active environmental awareness in the community
- Reduce our impact on the environment and ensure buildings and grounds maintain and promote an environmental awareness amongst the entire college community
- Develop a school environmental management plan
- Develop an understanding of the mechanisms and processes that foster sustainability.

AIMS

- We hope to make our school environment a more pleasant place to live, work and play through ongoing programs that develop cleaner and more sustainable ways of doing everyday activities.
- Students, staff, parents and the broader community will work together in a spirit of mutual acceptance and understanding towards the commonly set goals of cleaner and more efficient use of water, air, land and energy, and reducing and recycling waste.
- Bishop Druit College will implement our environmental management plan through the curriculum, the management of the school grounds and the management of resources.



FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE

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RATIONALE

Through the development of a sustainability policy the college community will:

- Develop a greater understanding of the impact of people on the environment
- Gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the principles of sustainable development
- Use their knowledge of environmental management practices to apply strategies within the school environment and local community
- Be able to identify the areas of the school environment that they can manage more effectively
- Acquire knowledge and skills to manage these key elements of the school environment
- Design and implement ways of monitoring, evaluating, reviewing and reporting the policy
- Try to encourage stakeholders to improve their environmental performance and gain an understanding of their place in the whole community
- Develop an understanding of the benefits of communicating our performance with our environmental work to the community
- Make a lifetime commitment to environmental management practices at both the individual and community level.

This covers the following four key areas:

Curriculum

- Audit and evaluate the school curriculum, identifying related outcomes and content from each KLA for teaching and learning
- Identify and develop strategies to address student values and attitudes towards the environment
- Support student-led environmental initiatives with curriculum links
- Participate in special environmental events, days, programs and excursions (for example Clean Up Australia Day and National Water Week).

Resource Management

- Measure and monitor the use of resources and utilities
- Develop and institute a list of strategies for improving the management and use of resources:
 - **Energy** – electric, off peak, solar, alternate energy source (e.g. Green Star rating)
 - **Products and materials** – refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle (e.g. paper)
 - **Water** – quality, efficiency of use, drainage
 - **Waste** – reduce, reuse, recycle, composting, worm farms
- Employ best practice in the sustainable management of resources and comply with government regulations (e.g. waste reduction and purchasing policy, stormwater legislation, litter prevention program).



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Grounds Management

- Identify main aspects in the school grounds for environmental improvement
- Establish adequate measures to avoid domestic and native animal problems
- Develop and institute a list of strategies for improving the management and use of the school grounds (biodiversity, soil, noise, litter, shade, human traffic, dust, visual amenity, stormwater, who uses the school grounds, watering regimes, weed control and buildings)
- Establish native animal friendly areas e.g. frog habitats, trees for native birds
- Plant native species, which are endemic/suited to the local environment
- Consider health and safety issues (landscaping, hay fever, falling branches, thorns, location, longevity, root systems, compatibility with lawns, etc.).

Community Participation

- Engage the local community in school sustainability initiatives
- Educate the wider community about sustainable practices and activities
- Foster school-community partnerships that promote environmental awareness and sustainability
- Encourage the continued support and involvement of the BDC Parents & Friends Association.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Audits will be conducted and targets established on a regular basis. Progress will be monitored through regular meetings of the Sustainability Committee.

Reporting

Reporting will occur on an ongoing basis via the *BDC Environmental Sustainability Plan* portal.

Future Directions

The college will continue to monitor progress. Environmental concerns identified during monitoring will be addressed as they arise.

Celebrating Progress

The college will recognise students who participate in environmental activities through an awards program and share college successes through media outlets.