



## Sustainability Policy

**Policy Number:** 33  
**Date Updated:** 1/8/18

### **Policy Statement:**

Lifestreamers Childcare and its stakeholders are committed to being responsible members of the community in which it belongs.

Sustainability means that we seek to improve our social, economic and environmental performance without harming the ability of future generations to enjoy the same social, economic and environmental conditions that we do today.

Young children are in a time of rapid brain development and their experiences should have a positive impact on the way they think and develop. It is important that children are taught to appreciate the issues surrounding sustainability. Reference should be made regularly to everyday items in the room and how the wastage of resources has an affect on the environment.

### **Purpose:**

To establish clear guidelines for children, families and the team to follow in order to meet the sustainability targets of Lifestreamers Childcare.

### **Objectives:**

- To incorporate sustainability principles into the daily routines of Lifestreamers Childcare.
- To educate children in sustainability principles and their importance.
- To reduce Lifestreamers Childcare's ecological footprint through application of the Sustainability Strategy.
- Meet and comply with all local and national environmental legislation.
- Support our families to become more socially and environmentally responsible and sustainable.
- To continuously improve our sustainability performance and conduct our business in a socially responsible manner that will make us a strong force in early years learning in Australia.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all employees of Lifestreamers Childcare and the children and families who use the service.

### **Policy Principles:**

- We will endeavor to reduce our carbon footprint and commit to continuous improvement of our sustainability performance by incorporating the principles of the green office program - Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and Turn it off.
  - Reduce - the amount of waste we produce through;
    - Tight limits on use and abuse of resources so that they don't need to be replaced as often
    - Communicating with families through email, website and in person rather than printed notes
    - Storing child records digitally and electronically
  - Re-use - using resources for multiple purposes

- Children draw on the backs of scrap paper
  - Recycle - reducing landfill waste by separating items that can be used again
    - Recycling bins in the room for educating children and families on things to recycle
    - Recycling included in children's programs
  - Turn it off - reducing wastage of electricity
    - Computers turned off each night
    - Air conditioners/heaters turned off when not needed
    - The use of natural light whenever possible
- The children's learning program will reflect our commitment to providing opportunities for children to develop skills and knowledge in sustainability and to foster an appreciation of our environment and the responsibility we have to protect it.
- Sustainability will be included in the recruitment process so that suitable staff are found who will support and extend Lifestreamers Childcare goals and objectives.
- All programming and documentation of children's learning and experiences will be stored digitally and families will have access to their children's files on demand.

#### **Current Sustainability SWOT Analysis:**

##### **Strengths**

- The team are motivated to implement sustainable changes
- Management support ideas and implementation to achieve best practice
- The premises allows space for establishing gardens, worms and compost

##### **Weaknesses**

- Finances are not stable to support many of the ideas presented
- Limited time to implement ideas

##### **Opportunities**

- Greater family involvement and education
- Reduction in costs as implemented ideas bear fruit
- To foster a greater appreciation of the environment in children

##### **Threats**

- New staff coming in who may not share the same passion
- That initial enthusiasm wanes
- A drop in enrolments results in less funds for implementing strategies

##### **Related Documents**

- Environmental Protection Act (WA)1986
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) Cth

##### **Definitions**

Ecological Footprint - the demand that Lifestreamers Childcare places on the earth's ecosystem, that is, the amount of land and sea area needed to sustain the population based on their usage. Measured in terms of the number of planets needed to sustain current usage.

Green Office Program - a program based on the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle and turn it off.

Sustainability - meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Sustainability Strategy - A document outlining the future plans and actions

## Document History

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Sustainability Policy	23/5/14
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