

Northern Rivers Sustainability Education Plan

Developed by Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educator (NRGee) **2017-2020**

Background

This plan has been written by NRGEE Partners to increase opportunities for Environmental Sustainability Education Programs in pre-schools, Schools, TAFE, Community Colleges, Universities and the Communities of the Northern Rivers. It identifies a common vision for a more sustainable future and aims to improve communication between NRGEE Partners and stakeholders. Through collaboration and the sharing of resources NRGEE Partners can provide a greater number of quality programs and reach more participants.

Vision

Our vision is to create a more sustainable Community. Education Providers (Early Childhood to Adult Learners) will be supported by NRGEE Partners to implement and integrate Environmental Sustainability into their management plans, curriculum outcomes and learning communities.

NRGee Region

NSW North Coast including the local government areas of Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Kyogle and Clarence.

NRGee Partners

Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre, Primary and Secondary DEC representatives, Rous Water, North East Waste, Richmond Landcare Inc., EnviTE, Local Council Sustainability/Environment Water and Waste Educators, Lismore City Council, Southern Cross University, North Coast TAFE, Byron Community College, WetlandCare Australia, Solo Resource Recovery and Lismore Rainforest Botanical Gardens.

Stakeholders

Early Childhood Education (Preschool and Long Day Care: Children, Staff and Parent Community), Primary and Secondary Schools (State, Catholic and Independent): Students, Staff and School Communities (P&C and Parents), NSW TAFE, Southern Cross University (Staff and Pre-service Teachers), Community Groups and Organisations, Local Government and Community Education Providers (Staff and Learners of all ages).

NB: This plan will be reviewed every three years by NRGEE. It has been guided by several key documents i.e. 'Public Schools NSW Strategic Directions; School Excellence Framework Overview & 'Critical Attributes of 21st Century Education' and NSW AEE Framework: MAKE THE CHANGE: A framework for education and engagement for sustainability 2014-2021.



Excellence in learning

NRGEE Partners engage participants in rich learning experiences, developing skills and supporting them to achieve their full potential as a learner, a leader and a responsible and active citizen.



Guiding Principals	Actions & Indicators of Success	Time Line
<p>Develop innovative programs and resources to support teaching sustainability through the new syllabuses & AAEE Framework from early learning years through to tertiary & life long learning by:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding collaboration and participatory engagement and promoting critical thinking, problem solving and action, through lifelong learning. • Offering programs that are relevant to our local environment; engage communities of schools Preschool to Tertiary and encourage community Partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Youth category in Sustainable House Day design competition. LCC, BSC, DEEC, RW ⇒ Building Landholder Capacity for Ecosystems Services. 10 champions & ABCD Scorecard. LCC & SCU. ⇒ 'Climate Change and me' - Students as researchers program. SCU. ⇒ Using community/social research for Program design and implementation. Love Food Hate Waste, Who Cares about the Environment. ⇒ Local Threatened Species Program (Koalas & Frogs) - DEEC, RW, Envite. ⇒ Wilsons River Catchment Schools Education and Restoration Project – Rous Water, EnviTE and NRGEE Partners. ⇒ Landcare and Dunecare planting activities with students. DEEC, Landcare. ⇒ Providing Projects to SCU Live Ideas. NRGEE Partners. ⇒ Arts vs Science Festival – organised by the Northern Rivers Science Hub with many of the NRGEE Partners ⇒ Dorrroughby EEC Environmental Arts Camp to Support Art v's Science with NRGEE partners. ⇒ World Environment Day Celebration, Lismore. LCC, RW, NEW, LRBG. ⇒ Big Scrub Day - Landcare, DEEC, RW, Envite 	<p>October each year September each year</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including use of ICT and smart technologies, social and digital media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ DEEC iPad and IBook technologies in their Environment programs in conjunction with NRGEE Partners. ⇒ Program websites for booking, pledging and resources eg Love food hate waste NEW or Hands on H2O Water Lab DEEC, RW. ⇒ Campaign promotion through digital and social media. Second-hand Saturday NEW. 	<p>Ongoing Ongoing</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting existing local programs and resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Calendar and website for all NRGEE Partners on the Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre (DEEC) website. ⇒ Promotion of good resources via email and newsletters eg Permablizt & Greenhouse around the corner. ⇒ Lismore Rainforest Botanical Gardens walks and programs for young children, school groups and the community. ⇒ Showcase of programs at Environmental Sustainability Forum. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating new programs to meet the new NSW Australian Curriculum and/or AAEE Framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Hands on H₂O Water Lab. DEEC, RW, SCU. ⇒ The Green House & Litter Education NEW. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing sustainability related careers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ NRGEE partner attendance at Careers Expos eg Lismore City Council Careers Expo. 	Ongoing

Excellence in teaching

NRGEE Partners and Northern Rivers teachers are well equipped, effectively trained and resourced to develop, deliver and evaluate best practice education for sustainability. Programs will include analysis of participants engagement, learning growth and outcomes.



Guiding Principals	Actions & Indicators of Success	Time Line
Work in Partnerships to offer programs that ensure high participant engagement by:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking opportunities to offer Professional Development Forums for NRGEE Partners and Stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ NSW EPA & OEH training opportunities. ⇒ State and National Professional Association Conferences. ⇒ Education for Sustainability Workshops. Les Robinson organised by NEW & member councils. ⇒ Accreditor Teacher Professional Learning organised by NRGEE Partners. ⇒ Environmental Sustainability Forum every 2 years. ⇒ Technology and nature Professional Development - prelude to Arts vs Science. ⇒ Working Scientifically Professional Development at Hands on H2O Water Lab 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and promoting early years Education for Sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ TAFE Children's Services workshops. RW, Landcare, LCC. ⇒ Lismore City Council providing EC support through the Dirt Girl on line resources and a Staff training day. LCC, RW. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Feb 2015</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding links between University, TAFE and Schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Field Work Competition developed through TAFE & DEEC. ⇒ Support Southern Cross University Pre Service teachers in sustainability education. Primary Science & Technology teachers partnership with Rous Water DEEC and local schools. 	<p>Ongoing</p>

Excellence in leading

NRGEE Partners have a commitment to fostering a community wide culture of high expectations and a shared sense of responsibility for participant engagement, learning, development and success.



Guiding Principals	Actions & Indicators of Success	Time Line
<p>Provide inclusive and appropriate programs that are researched and evaluated to ensure best practice, high organisational effectiveness and ongoing improvement by:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring engagement, connection and guidance with local Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG). Seeking opportunities to include Aboriginal perspectives in all Education for Sustainability Programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Lismore City Council NAIDOC Celebrations. NRGEE Partners. ⇒ Involvement in 'Cultural & Language Nest' program through engagement with State and Local AECG. ⇒ Lismore Rainforest Botanical Gardens Elders involvement, bush foods walk and chef and basket weaving group. ⇒ Involvement of Indigenous Community and Artists. Local Government Service Provision. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluating all educational programs for effectiveness in behaviour change after participation in Programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ SCU Sustainability Research Unit - Masters Students invited to evaluate Programs from NRGEE. ⇒ Look for AAEE Framework opportunities. ⇒ Online pledges and surveys. NEW, RW, DEEC. ⇒ Evaluation and monitoring reporting for Funding bodies. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving effectiveness at a regional level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ NRGEE meeting once per term. ⇒ Regular communication through Google NRGEE Group. ⇒ Develop a list by NRGEE Partners of what Schools and Community groups we have worked with to find the gaps. ⇒ Involvement and communication with AAEE Framework. NEW ⇒ Register regional network with OEH Sustainable Schools 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Student Leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Developing a list of potential local student environmental groups and citizenship activities. ⇒ Our Voice' A sustainability conference for young people by young people. SCU, RW, DEEC, NEW. 	