

**BRAHMA LODGE KINDERGARTEN**  
**SUSTAINABILITY POLICY – SEPTEMBER 2020**

*At Brahma Lodge Kindergarten we believe that action for sustainability is vital to our children's future.*

**Statement of Intent:**

Educators and children at Brahma Lodge Kindergarten, work together to learn about and promote the sustainable use of resources and to develop and implement sustainable practices.

Through this policy our goals are to

- Take an active role in caring for our environment and contribute to the sustainable future whereby sustainable practices are embedded in our service operations.
- Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment.
- Promote sustainable practices within our kindergarten community with children, parents, Governing Council, cleaners and gardeners.

As Educators we will provide learning opportunities that

- Foster children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.
- Provide places that promote the development of life skills, such as growing and preparing food, waste reduction and recycling.

**Procedures used to Achieve these Goals**

Whilst recognising the interconnections of sustainable practices, we will embed the following procedures in our daily routines.

**Reducing Waste Procedures**

**1. Purchasing and Packaging**

The kindergarten purchases a significant amount of material each year including educational resources, art materials, furniture and food stuffs. When making purchasing decisions the following will be considered

- Need for the item – consider the rationale for having the item, how can it be sourced, can it be borrowed?
- Recycling content of item and it's potential for recycling or end use/disposability
- Bulk Buying items to minimise cost and packaging
- In catalogues look for "Greener options"
- Sharing resources with other centres
- Community involvement – families are encouraged to donate resources eg. Boxes for construction
- Purchasing recycled paper eg. Newsprint for painting
- Ongoing reflective practice

**2. Recycling**

- Rubbish bins are colour coded green, yellow and red to match the kerbside bins to make it easier for children and adults to successfully manage recycling materials.
- Explicit teaching for children occurs on a regular basis to manage the bins eg. Beginning of each term and as required throughout the year.
- A range of recycled materials and resources are collected and used on a daily basis eg. Boxes and small loose parts for construction, buckets and plastic containers for sandpit and water play, telephones and clothing for dress ups and dramatic play.
- Collage trolley contains recycled items.
- Toner and printer cartridges recycled.

### **3. Organics**

- Green bins are used to collect food scraps.
- Food scraps are used to feed the worms.
- Vegetable garden established to promote food production.
- Ongoing learning may include the importance of life cycles (butterflies) and the importance of insects and worms in and around the garden.

### **4. Litter**

- Smaller Red bins than Yellow recycling bins to encourage more use of Recyclable products.
- Children are encouraged to tidy up after themselves and ensure the environment is litter free.

### **5. Conservation of Energy**

- Water conservation through installation of rain water tanks, timer taps in children's bathroom, promotion of half/full flush in the toilets, water the plants in cooler times of the day to maximise absorption, automatic timed watering system watering gardens and grass area at night.
- Energy Efficiency – Turning off lights, fans and heaters when not in use.
- Insulation is installed in ceiling to minimise heating and cooling costs.