**Environmental Awareness Policy**

Quality Area 3 Physical Environment 3.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2.

**Aim**

St Peter’s Preschool promotes environmental awareness and sound practices.

**Implementation**

**Reduce**

St Peter’s Preschool will minimise its impact on the environment and conserve scarce resources wherever possible. In particular:

* Staff will educate the children, supervise hand washing, and encourage children to reduce water wastage.
* All appliances will be turned off where possible, when not in use, to minimise the waste of electricity.
* When new appliances are being purchased, preference will be given to those which have a high energy efficiency rating.
* Wherever possible, preference will be given to recycled paper products.
* Preference will be given to low toxicity cleaning products.
* The use of pesticides will be minimised, and preference will be given to low toxicity products.

**Re-use**

St Peter’s Preschool will re-use materials that might otherwise be wasted. In particular:

* Families and community partners will be encouraged to donate craft materials such as cardboard boxes and paper.
* Where possible, printer paper will be used on both sides.
* Craft activities will include “found objects” regularly.
* Children will be encouraged in their resourcefulness, to substitute used and found materials for new materials in craft activities.
* children will be encouraged to re-use, reconstruct and be purposeful with equipment.
* Educators will re-use any materials that they can, that are clean and safe.

**Recycle**

St Peter’s Preschool will recycle materials wherever possible. In particular:

* The Preschool will support council recycling projects and recycle all recyclable materials and green waste (City to Soil).
* Staff will educate children on recycling methods and incorporate these methods within the centre.
* Green waste, such as food scraps, will be composted or used for chickens/worm farm or other pet feed, wherever practical.

**Other strategies**

St Peter’s Preschool aims for best practices in all aspects of its environmental management. In particular:

* When planting new trees and shrubs, preference will be given to bird attracting native species that do not pose irritation or danger to children.
* Preference will be shown when purchasing new resources for products that use lead free paint and plantation or recycled timber.
* Solar Panels will be installed, and children will learn about harvesting the suns energy.
* Harvesting rainwater will be used for watering the garden, children’s play, and toilet flushing.
* Children will be educated to use water wisely and conserve water to the best of their ability.
* We will encourage the use of our vegetable garden to grow food for cooking and eating.
* We will learn about the life cycle of animals and respect the creature’s rights to live in our playground.
* We will care for our chooks, feed them our food scraps, and collect their eggs and use them within the preschool program.
* We will encourage ‘nude’ lunch boxes and provide information to families about reducing waste and cost.

St Peter’s Preschool will use the Eco Smart Audit from NSW Early Childhood Education Network (ECEEN) as a guide to maintain sustainable practices at the preschool.

Review

**The policy will be reviewed annually.**

The review was conducted and approved by the:

Board of Management President on behalf of Committee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Staff Nominated Supervisor on behalf of Staff: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

March 2017