

SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE



Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority – Element 3.2.3 Environmentally responsible
– The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.



Waste

Action	Yes	Todo
• Ensure centre has co-mingled recycling – see commercial services form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Source green waste bin service for garden and food waste – see commercial services form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Use less paper, convert to electronic journals, email newsletters and re-use one-sided paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Re-use materials such as cardboard boxes, shredded paper, items for craft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Set up green trays in the craft area for children to use one-sided paper as scrap paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Set up a worm farm and or compost bin for food waste. Worm farm verimcast and compost can also produce seedlings when used on the garden – see worm farming and composting guides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Promote waste-free lunch days – see low waste lunch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Purchase sustainable items like recycled paper towels and toilet paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sign up to electronic subscriptions to reduce mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Conduct a waste audit, use our how to do a waste audit sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Collect soft plastics for recycling. Drop-off points available at redcycle.net.au	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Collect items such as toothpaste tubes and bread tags though TerraCycle and receive funding for your school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Use reusable plastic bags ie bread bags and freezer bags	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Dispose of your household problem waste at our Community Recycling Centre, lakemac.com.au/waste/other-household-waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Recycle mobile phones, CDs and DVDs, smoke alarms, light globes and household batteries at Council's admin building and various Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• NSW EPA provide free Chemical Clean Out-drop-off days across the region	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Water

Action	Yes	To do
• Purchase water efficient appliances. Install tap aerators (\$5) or water efficient shower heads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Educate children and staff how to save water (turning taps off, using half flush) etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Ensure washing machines and dishwashers are full before cycles are run	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Wash clothes in cold water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Install a rainwater tank for gardening and sand play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Install sensor, mechanical or push timers on taps suitable for children to use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Add mulch to gardens to reduce water needs – see tips for making mulch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Repair water leaks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• See Hunter Water for more ideas on saving water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Energy

Action	Yes	To do
• Use a washing line to dry clothes rather than a dryer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Ensure all computers, printers, photocopiers, air conditioners and lights are switched off at the end of the day and turn lights off at night and during outdoor play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Replace old light globes to efficient globes such as LED's.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Install movement sensor lighting, ensure external security lights are on a sensor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Install solar panels and solar hot water or a heat pump – see guide for solar panels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Use a programmable timer to switch emptied fridges off out of hours over the weekends, and during holidays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Ensure staff and children dress appropriately for each season to save on heating and cooling costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Only use an air conditioner when natural ventilation is inadequate, and ensure doors and windows are closed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Use a thermometer to ensure your air conditioner is efficient. The temperature should be 18-21°C in winter and 23-26°C in summer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Use door snakes and window seals to reduce draughts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Visit energysavings.gov.au for more energy saving ideas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Check Ausgrid for energy saving material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



General

Action	Yes	To do
• Switch to environmentally friendly products and colour-coded reusable micro-fibre cloths to reduce cross contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Check out solar passive ideas for building at yourhome.gov.au/passive-design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Ensure any painting of the building is done with low or no VOC paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Utilise sustainable organic gardening practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Improve biodiversity by joining our Backyard Habitat for Wildlife program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Apply for a Community environment grants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Review our Sustainable Living Guide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sign up to the Ecoadvocate newsletter for information on local events, competitions, giveaways, workshops, rebates and much more	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Use natural items for play – move away from plastic, plant native plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Seek the use of recycled materials for open ended play rather than the purchase of new packaged resources, for example pipes for water play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>