



Integrated Sustainability Education Partnership Program

Working together towards a sustainable future

our environment *it's a living thing*

Our commitment to sustainability

This is the most comprehensive sustainability education partnership program in New South Wales.

For the first time, a number of influential government and non-government organisations have united to achieve a single goal—promoting the importance of adopting sustainable practices at home, work and play.

This partnership program is made up of leaders in the community, dedicated to a coordinated sustainability education program as a critical tool for securing our environmental future.

The partnership has developed a number of integrated projects that will provide practical easy to access knowledge on key environmental issues, educate the community about their impact on the environment, and motivate positive change.

The partnership is committed to the continued development of integrated projects that work towards a sustainable future for the people of New South Wales.

Together the partnership will:

- Provide practical, easy to access education resources on how to address sustainability issues around the home and at work
- Create a positive change in the local environment that will impact future generations
- Offer new solutions to addressing sustainability issues made possible through a coordinated and integrated partnership
- Share knowledge to positively impact environmental policies and education for sustainability

By working together the partnership seeks to achieve the shared goal of securing a quality environment for future generations.

Sustainability in action

Sustainability in the Home

Make your Home a Green Home

The **GreenHome** program aims to motivate behaviour change amongst NSW households by encouraging practical changes in their lives. The program is made available through workshops, the website, and the GreenHome Guide. This program is underpinned with research into residential and community sustainability measurement (expanding on eco-footprint analysis) to identify priority actions for advancing sustainable consumption in NSW.

Project leader: The Australian Conservation Foundation

Water and Energy Efficiency

The **Affordable Water & Energy Efficiency** project assists community services staff and volunteers to identify options for efficient water and energy use in low income households.

Staff training sessions provide practical information on how to identify high use homes via the NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Ratings System) tool, locate problem areas in homes, and look for low or no cost opportunities to reduce energy and water bills.

Energy and water efficient devices, appliances and practices can result in significant savings on utility bills. The program is run in association with AGL, Energy Australia, and community centres.

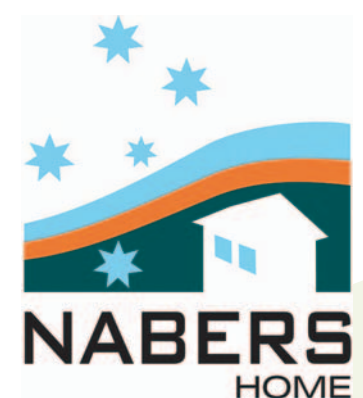
Project leaders: The Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability and the NSW Council of Social Services

Hazardous Chemicals

Focusing on the hazards of chemical exposure in and around the home, the **Safer Solutions** project allows the community to obtain expert information and advice about alternatives. This includes common household cleaners, chemical pest controls and common DIY renovation materials. A comprehensive Safer Solutions website provides practical information to make homes healthy. Community educators also meet with parents and other groups.

The project is currently being monitored by the Working Group on the Environmental Risk Management of Chemicals (formerly the National Chemicals Taskforce) with a view to its application by other states and/or territories.

Project leader: The Total Environment Centre



Affordable
WATER & ENERGY
Efficiency

AN INITIATIVE OF NOOS AND DEUS



Sustainability in the Workplace

The corporate **Sustainable Staff Training** project has been developed to enable businesses to integrate sustainability principles into business practices. The training encourages long term corporate sustainability across all business units within these organisations.

Project leader: The Total Environment Centre

Sustainability in the Community

Biodiversity

The **Biodiversity Education** project, Our Earth, Our Stories: Nature Photography Competition is run in conjunction with local community groups and councils in the Macarthur area and the Central Coast. These communities are encouraged to explore their local biodiversity through photographic images. The aim is to develop a greater understanding of the need to protect our natural surroundings.

Project leader: The Nature Conservation Council of NSW



Sustaining Eco-friendly Communities

The **Sustaining Eco-friendly Communities** project focuses on encouraging neighbourhood and community centres to live and work sustainably. Workshops are conducted with centre staff, volunteers and local government officers regionally in NSW. These workshops use a resource kit to identify what centres are already doing, how they can be more eco-friendly, save money, and how to apply for a regional grant to take these messages to their community.

Project leader: The Local Community Services Association

Sustainable Consumption

The **Sustainable Australia** project is a research-based project designed to support and promote discussion about sustainable living. Working in collaboration with Sydney University to gather data, it encourages Australians to reduce consumption and environmental degradation. An "environmental atlas" will map Australian consumption impacts as measured by land disturbance, greenhouse gas emissions, water use and materials flow.

Project leader: The Australian Conservation Foundation

Professional Development

Improving Community Education

Building on the success of a previous 2002 project, carried out as part of the Our Environment it's a living thing program, the **Professional Development for Educators** project aims to improve the capacity of NSW environmental educators by laying the foundations for innovative, ongoing professional learning in the context of sustainable living. By working in partnership with government and non-government organisations, the project aims to deliver a multifaceted program designed around the priority needs of environmental educators in NSW.

Project leader: The Department of Environment and Conservation NSW

Sharing Environmental Knowledge

A new initiative, **Education Action Supporting Environment Groups** (EASE) collaborates with community environment groups across NSW to share, teach and learn about effective approaches to environmental change.

This project is about bringing community groups together to strengthen and inspire each others work, build skills and improve access to support so that community environment groups and committed individuals can continue to be leaders in creating an ecologically sustainable NSW.

Project leader: The Nature Conservation Council of NSW



The Partners

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)

One of Australia's leading non-profit environment groups, ACF has a 40 year history of policy and advocacy programs on sustainability, including energy, water and resource efficiency and biodiversity conservation.

www.acfonline.org.au



Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS)

DEUS promotes the sustainable, safe, reliable and affordable supply and use of energy and urban water in NSW.

www.deus.nsw.gov.au



The Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC)

The NCC is the umbrella organisation for more than 120 environmental member groups across NSW. The state's peak environmental organisation since 1955, the NCC contributes expertise in community-based education projects and awareness campaigns.

www.nccnsw.org.au



NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS)

NCOSS provides a coordination, advocacy, policy development, leadership and information provision role as the peak body for the social and community services sector in NSW. NCOSS works with its members, on behalf of disadvantaged people and communities, to achieve greater social justice.

www.ncoss.org.au



Total Environment Centre (TEC)

Formed in 1972, the TEC has undertaken over 100 successful environmental campaigns across a wide range of natural, urban and sustainability areas. It works with the community, government and business. It is also the primary NGO source of information on toxic chemicals, raising community awareness about reducing and eliminating hazardous chemicals in and around the home.

www.tec.org.au



Local Community Services Association (LCSA)

The LCSA is the peak body for 300 Neighbourhood and Community Houses in NSW. These Centres provide a network of generalist community-based organisations that carry out important work in their local communities.

www.lcsa.org.au



The Department of Environment and Conservation NSW (DEC)

DEC through the work of its various divisions, works towards achieving a healthy environment cared for and enjoyed by the whole community and sustained for future generations. The Sustainability Programs Division provides leadership in sustainability education policy, and works to encourage closer collaboration with state and local government, non-government organisations and the community and business sectors, to advance sustainable consumption as part of resource conservation; management of biodiversity; and waste management.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au



Local government will play an integral role in the program through the utilisation of networks and community links for the distribution of a wide range of environmental information to be produced by the program.

Getting Involved

The **Our Environment it's a living thing program** links the activities of this partnership program with other groups of similar interest.

If you are looking for an opportunity to make a strong impact environmentally you can become involved in this program by visiting livingthing.net.au or by contacting the Program Manager on **(02) 8837 6000**.



This program has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust

Printed on recycled paper