



# Epping Heights Public School



## Environmental Management Plan

From: Mar 2008 To: Dec 2009

School Website:

Written by:  
Kerrin Peyton  
Mitchell Squires



### Principal's statement

I am pleased to endorse the School Environmental Management Plan for Epping Heights Public School. The plan has been developed by members of the Environmental Education Committee and has included consultation with the whole staff. The school community is regularly informed through the school newsletter and at P&C Meetings of the activities of the committee. This SEMP will be discussed with the school community at the next P&C Meeting.

I endorse the sustainability and environmental objectives of the plan and support the action plans outlined in this document for curriculum, resource management, grounds management, whole school planning and school community participation. Appropriate funds will be allocated to allow the achievement of objectives outlined in the plan. The objectives outlined in this plan will be our focus during the next 12 months.  
Julie Hanley Principal

### Enquiries

For more information about this School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) contact:

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### About Epping Heights Public School

#### School vision/mission statement

"Success for All in a Caring and Sharing Environment"

This is the school's vision and reflects the values and ethos of the school community.

By delivering sound and creative education, by offering encouragement toward independent thinking and by presenting an example of good character and ethical behaviour, we wish to have students who:

- have a core set of values which encompasses caring, considerate and respectful attitudes towards self, others and our world
- have high self-esteem as a learner and as a person
- are independent learners, willing and able to use their initiative, access resources and have a go
- possess sound process skills in thinking, decision-making, team work and communication
- possess effective social skills demonstrating tolerance, good manners, self discipline and a wide range of interests that assure social confidence

- possess confidence in communicating through creative and performing arts
- have positive attitudes towards physical activity and a sound standard of personal fitness

### **School vision and goals for the environment**

Our target at Epping Heights Public School is to build the profile of Environmental Education in the school and give the students the opportunity to develop their skills in investigating and caring for the environment. We want to incorporate environmental and sustainable initiatives into everyday teaching.

### **School profile and background**

Epping Heights Public School is renowned for its caring and nurturing nature and the excellent results it achieves. Set on beautiful, spacious grounds, it is a one department school tucked away in a little cul-de-sac in Epping.

Epping Heights Public School is located near the M2 motorway in Epping. It is a medium sized school with approximately 350 students.

In 2007 the school celebrated its 50th anniversary. There were many improvements made to the grounds during this year, with the installation of a large rainwater tank and automatic irrigation system, the restoration of the oval and a shade structure over the play equipment.

### **About the local environment and community**

In 1792, Governor Phillip began the granting of parcels of lands to marines, and the area was referred to on Phillip's maps as the Field of Mars, named after the Roman Field of Mars probably because of the military link. It contained the area of what is now Epping, along with the surrounding suburbs of Ryde and Marsfield.

Epping railway station was originally called 'Field of Mars' and then was changed to Carlingford. The first post office opened as East Carlingford. To avoid confusion, the postal department suggested changing the name of the railway station to East Carlingford but strong opposition led to other names being suggested such as Corella and East Lynne. In 1899 the suburb name of Epping was adopted after suggestion by a local landowner William Midson (1849-1924), after a town near Epping Forest in Essex, where his father was born.

The M2 Motorway began operation in 1997 and runs through the north of Epping. The Epping - Chatswood Rail Link is scheduled to open in late 2008.

Epping is an affluent suburb in its region. Around 64% of the population are Australian born, with 36% having migrated to Australia, primarily from Hong Kong, China and Korea.

The school community reflects the general make up of Epping, with most students being from an upper-middle class background. There is a growing proportion of students at the school from Non-English Speaking backgrounds. Parental and other community involvement is high in many areas of school life, including fund raising, grounds maintenance, event organisation and participating actively in many committees.



### **School management and planning (including curriculum) priorities**

- Waste management - waste avoidance, recycling or composting where appropriate.
- Energy and water awareness.
- Organise special events targeting sustainable living-rubbish free lunch days and incursions to encourage ongoing environmental practices.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities such as Streamwatch.
- Regularly communicate with members of staff and students through assemblies, reports, staff meetings, professional development activities etc.
- Provide ongoing information to parents on current environmental issues at the school through the use of school newsletters.

### **This plan fits into whole school planning through the following**

- The school's strategic management plan
- Part of the school annual plan
- Reported on in the school annual report
- Integrated with relevant school policies
- Integrated with school administration and management procedures
- Integrated with curriculum programs
- Consultation with Student Representative body
- Consultation with Parents and Citizens or Friends organisations
- Links to extra-curricular activities for students

### School environmental education team

Name: Environment Committee

No. of people: 5 teachers

The team includes:

- Teachers
- Parents
- School Principal
- Community groups
- Students



Each term, the committee will review the SEMP during allocated meeting times.

### School environmental education achievements and new priorities

- The ongoing maintenance of a litter reduction program.
- The establishment of a Streamwatch Group involving regular meeting and water quality testing of local waterways.
- The establishment of a veggie garden within school grounds in which students grow vegetables and other small plants.
- The completion of a mural as part of a wider project for waste management within the City of Ryde.
- Whole school participation in events such as Clean Up Australia Day to raise awareness of waste disposal.
- Improvement of school grounds at various parent working bees throughout the year. This has led to the creation of native garden beds in various locations around the school.
- Staff members and a parent are preparing a submission for a grant to the NSSP
- Purchase of a compost bin.



## About this Plan

### Across the focus areas the goals of this plan are

#### Curriculum

To contextualise environmental learning using the school, grounds management, its resource use, the local area and community to build students' knowledge and skills and develop positive environmental values. To integrate hands-on environmental activities into the teaching/learning processes, such as Streamwatch. Children will apply their increasing knowledge to everyday practices at school in forms such as compost, wormeries, litter-free lunches and tending gardens.

#### Resource management

Improve the awareness of all members of the school community of the environmental impact of the school, and the role of each person within the school in minimizing that impact.

#### Grounds management

Removal of weeds, increase biodiversity of plant and animal life, minimise water usage, and develop a student vegetable garden.

#### Whole school planning

Reduce the overall environmental impact of the whole school. Embed environmental activities into teaching/learning processes and use our outdoor environment as a whole school teaching/learning tool. Organise special environmental events, such as Clean Up Australia Day, Rubbish Free Lunch, Hornsby Shire Council Workshops. Raise environmental awareness through communication with students at assemblies.

#### School community participation

Involve teachers, students and the wider school community in a range of environmental projects, from small groups to whole school events.

### This plan addresses the following issues and topics

- Litter in the school grounds
- Resource Usage Awareness
- Reducing paper usage
- Waste Management
- Streamwatch
- Grounds

### Litter in the school grounds

There is a large amount of litter left in the playground on a daily basis. Large amounts of rubbish have begun to accumulate in areas under demountable classrooms and gardens.

#### Outcome

Less litter left in playground areas, with a cleaner school environment. Create a culture in the school where children put rubbish in the bin.

#### Indicator

The quantity of litter is reduced over time. Having less litter in the school grounds. Improved student awareness of their personal responsibility to put their rubbish in the bin.

#### Time frame

Ongoing

### Resource Usage Awareness

Epping Heights PS regularly uses a large quantity of electricity and water.

#### Outcome

Awareness of energy and water usage levels by the school is raised with staff and students.

#### Indicator

An energy usage audit is conducted and students are made aware of results. A water usage audit is conducted and students are made aware of results.

#### Time frame

2008

## **Reducing paper usage**

Our paper usage and costs are becoming a financial issue at the school.

### **Outcome**

To reduce overall paper use. To use 100% recycled paper. Recycle all possible paper.

### **Indicator**

All paper that can be recycled is being recycled in each classroom. Reduction in school's paper costs Reduction in paper usage. All classes have a recycle and reuse boxes. Students demonstrate a responsibility to reuse and recycle paper. Compostable matter is collected and used for garden compost.

### **Time frame**

Ongoing

## **Waste Management**

Use of worm farm and compost bin to learn the benefits of composting.

### **Outcome**

Reduction of the total amount of waste produced by the school, and the use of food scraps as compost.

### **Indicator**

Less food scraps in the bin. Use of compost on gardens.

### **Time frame**

Ongoing

## **Streamwatch**

Establishment of a Streamwatch Group conducting regular water quality testing on Devlin's Creek.

### **Outcome**

Students participate in a wide range of environmental studies. Students conduct water temperature, pH, turbidity and conductivity tests on Devlin's Creek.

### **Indicator**

Weekly Streamwatch meetings are held with water quality tested. Reports are made to Sydney Water and Hornsby Council.

### **Time frame**

Weekly - Ongoing

## **Grounds**

Maintenance of the school grounds and gardens.

### **Outcome**

The upkeep and improvement of school gardens. Grounds safe and attractive.

### **Indicator**

School gardens are maintained. Some areas of the school are improved through planting and further development of gardens.

### **Time frame**

Ongoing

## **Actions to promote and celebrate progress**

- Reported in the school annual report
- Awards or badges for those involved
- Relevant displays and events at school
- Promoted at school assemblies
- Grants and competitions applied for

# Action Plans

## Litter in the school grounds

**Indicator:** The quantity of litter is reduced over time. Having less litter in the school grounds. Improved student awareness of their personal responsibility to put their rubbish in the bin.

Strategy	Action	Indicator	Project management	
<b>Curriculum Strategies</b>				
Promote environmental citizenship	Continue the "Froggy Point" award system to encourage children to keep the playground free of litter. Report the class winners of Froggy Point System in weekly Newsletter.	Teachers	<b>Timeframe</b>	Ongoing
			<b>Resources</b>	Froggy cards, Ferdinand the Frog
			<b>Responsibility</b>	
<b>Grounds Management</b>				
Reduce litter	Ensure that a number of lidded bins are available to students in all areas of the school playground.	Cleaner, teachers, students.	<b>Timeframe</b>	Ongoing
			<b>Resources</b>	Bins with lids.
			<b>Responsibility</b>	
<b>School Community Participation</b>				
Participate in local government programs and events	Students participate in annual events such as Clean Up Australia Day and Rubbish Free Lunch.	Coordinator, Teachers, Students.	<b>Timeframe</b>	Clean Up Australia Day - Term 1, Rubbish Free Lunch - Term 3.
			<b>Resources</b>	Gloves, garbage bags, bins.
			<b>Responsibility</b>	

## Resource Usage Awareness

**Indicator:** An energy usage audit is conducted and students are made aware of results. A water usage audit is conducted and students are made aware of results.

Strategy	Action	Indicator	Project management	
<b>Curriculum Strategies</b>				
Establish the school as a learning context	Implement practices to reduce electricity use, including: - Turn off lights when not in classroom. - Use airconditioning on low whenever possible. Turn off when leaving room. - Investigate the longterm use of alternative energy, e.g. Solar Power (National Sustainable Schools Program). - Turning off computers and other appliances at the power point over holiday breaks.	Environment Committee, Teachers	<b>Timeframe</b>	ALWAYS DO THIS!!!!
			<b>Resources</b>	
			<b>Responsibility</b>	
<b>Resource Management</b>				
Audit energy usage	Conduct whole school electricity audit.		<b>Timeframe</b>	Term 3 annually
			<b>Resources</b>	
			<b>Responsibility</b>	
Audit water usage	Conduct whole school water audit.		<b>Timeframe</b>	Term 3 annually
			<b>Resources</b>	
			<b>Responsibility</b>	
<b>Whole School Planning</b>				
Develop procedures for students and staff	Implement practices to reduce water use. Toilet systems, taps and bubblers checked regularly for leaks, and repaired where required. Ensure rubbish is cleared from drains. Mulch garden beds to retain moisture in soil. Installation of water tank and irrigation system on oval.	Teachers, students, GA, parents.	<b>Timeframe</b>	Ongoing
			<b>Resources</b>	Water tank. Mulch.
			<b>Responsibility</b>	

## Reducing paper usage

**Indicator:** All paper that can be recycled is being recycled in each classroom. Reduction in school's paper costs Reduction in paper usage. All classes have a recycle and reuse boxes. Students demonstrate a responsibility to reuse and recycle paper. Compostable matter is collected and used for garden compost.

Strategy	Action	Indicator	Project management	
<b>Curriculum Strategies</b>				
Review teaching programs	Staff meeting to identify relevant Key Learning Area and stage to integrate reduction and recycling of paper use. Include the content of paper and its lifecycle in the appropriate unit of work possibly in 'Material World?'	Supervisor of relevant stage to monitor inclusion of lifecycle of paper is in the unit of work	<b>Timeframe</b>	2009
			<b>Resources</b>	Modules of Key Learning Areas Stage meetings
			<b>Responsibility</b>	All relevant stage teachers
<b>Resource Management</b>				
Reuse paper	Reuse existing cardboard boxes for the reusing and recycling of paper and cardboard. Purchasing offices sources 100% paper for school use. Only use coloured paper in special circumstances. Use both sides of paper if applicable.		<b>Timeframe</b>	Ongoing
			<b>Resources</b>	
			<b>Responsibility</b>	Each class, Teachers, SAS staff

## Waste Management

**Indicator:** Less food scraps in the bin. Use of compost on gardens.

Strategy	Action	Indicator	Project management	
<b>Resource Management</b>				
Implement new bin systems	Purchase of Aerobin. Implementation of bucket system to collect food waste. Promoting the use of the buckets through signs explaining what can and can't be composted. Promoting the use of buckets at staff meetings and assemblies.	Coordinator, Teachers, Students	<b>Timeframe</b>	Term 3 2008 - Onwards
			<b>Resources</b>	Aerobin, Buckets, Signs
			<b>Responsibility</b>	
<b>Grounds Management</b>				
Redevelop degraded areas	Use school compost to improve garden beds around the school	Coordinator	<b>Timeframe</b>	Term 4 2008 - Onwards.
			<b>Resources</b>	Compost
			<b>Responsibility</b>	
<b>Whole School Planning</b>				
Seek input from Council or local groups	Hornsby Council Workshops promoting waste management procedures to Stage 1 students.	Kerrin Peyton	<b>Timeframe</b>	Term 3 2008
			<b>Resources</b>	Hornsby Council, Classroom
			<b>Responsibility</b>	

## Streamwatch

**Indicator:** Weekly Streamwatch meetings are held with water quality tested. Reports are made to Sydney Water and Hornsby Council.

Strategy	Action	Indicator	Project management	
<b>School Community Participation</b>				
Participate in local government programs and events	Maintain involvement in Streamwatch program. Conduct weekly meeting of Streamwatch group at Devlin's Creek to test water quality. Upload results of water testing on to Streamwatch website.	Streamwatch coordinator.	<b>Timeframe</b>	Weekly - Ongoing
			<b>Resources</b>	Streamwatch kit, Recording sheets, rubber gloves.
			<b>Responsibility</b>	

## Grounds

**Indicator:** School gardens are maintained. Some areas of the school are improved through planting and further development of gardens.

Strategy	Action	Indicator	Project management	
<b>Grounds Management</b>				
Participate in grounds events	Organise working bees to maintain and improve gardens in the school grounds. Look at sustainability, beautification and OH&S issues. Encourage the use of native plants around the school.	Parent committee, Staff.	<b>Timeframe</b>	Ongoing
			<b>Resources</b>	Native plants, gardening tools.
			<b>Responsibility</b>	Parent committee.

## Community and environment network

These organisations will join in our environmental meetings and activities:

Name of organisation	Type of organisation	Contact details	Type of assistance
Streamwatch	NSW Government agency	<a href="http://www.streamwatch.org.au">www.streamwatch.org.au</a>	Provision of Streamwatch water testing kit. Collection of data.
National Solar Schools Program	NSW Government agency	<a href="http://www.solarschools.net">www.solarschools.net</a>	Application for funding for solar panels and other energy efficient improvements.
Hornsby Shire Council	NSW local government	<a href="http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/">http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/</a> Telephone: (02) 9847 6666 Fax: (02) 9847 6999	Provision of educational workshops.
Hornsby Environment Network	Local voluntary community group	Network meetings run once per term.	
Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre	Other	<a href="http://www.fieldofmar-e.schools.nsw.edu.au">www.fieldofmar-e.schools.nsw.edu.au</a> Phone: 9816 1298	Provide programs, support and staff training.

## Evaluation Plan

### Curriculum

**Goal:** To contextualise environmental learning using the school, grounds management, its resource use, the local area and community to build students' knowledge and skills and develop positive environmental values. To integrate hands-on environmental activities into the teaching/learning processes, such as Streamwatch. Children will apply their increasing knowledge to everyday practices at school in forms such as compost, wormeries, litter-free lunches and tending gardens.

Issue	Strategy	What was Achieved?
Reducing paper usage	Review teaching programs	
Litter in the school grounds	Promote environmental citizenship	
Resource Usage Awareness	Establish the school as a learning context	

### Resource Management

**Goal:** Improve the awareness of all members of the school community of the environmental impact of the school, and the role of each person within the school in minimizing that impact.

Issue	Strategy	What was Achieved?
Reducing paper usage	Reuse paper	
Resource Usage Awareness	Audit energy usage	
Waste Management	Implement new bin systems	
Resource Usage Awareness	Audit water usage	

### Grounds management

**Goal:** Removal of weeds, increase biodiversity of plant and animal life, minimise water usage, and develop a student vegetable garden.

Issue	Strategy	What was Achieved?
Litter in the school grounds	Reduce litter	
Waste Management	Redevelop degraded areas	
Grounds	Participate in grounds events	

### Whole school planning

**Goal:** Reduce the overall environmental impact of the whole school. Embed environmental activities into teaching/learning processes and use our outdoor environment as a whole school teaching/learning tool. Organise special environmental events, such as Clean Up Australia Day, Rubbish Free Lunch, Hornsby Shire Council Workshops. Raise environmental awareness through communication with students at assemblies.

Issue	Strategy	What was Achieved?
Waste Management	Seek input from Council or local groups	
Resource Usage Awareness	Develop procedures for students and staff	

### School community participation

**Goal:** Involve teachers, students and the wider school community in a range of environmental projects, from small groups to whole school events.

Issue	Strategy	What was Achieved?
Litter in the school grounds	Participate in local government programs and events	

Streamwatch	Participate in local government programs and events	
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