Introduction to a Site Environment Management Plan

“(A Site Environment Management Plan is) a very useful record of our journey and assists us in future planning on the ground and within the curriculum”, educator feedback.

A Site Environment Management Plan (SEMP) helps keep key information in one place and is simple to update. It is a (pre)school-friendly tool for planning, implementing, tracking, reviewing and communicating your Education for Sustainability commitment. This tool, along with Core Indicators, are the two main planning tools NRM Education offers.

Features

Creates your (pre)school vision for sustainability

A vision is a positive statement about the future which harnesses the effort and drive of the (pre)school community towards a single end goal – it guides actions and plans for improvement. When writing a grant application, a vision demonstrates a commitment beyond the project applying funding for.

Documents existing sustainability practices, activities and learning

There is a table on page two of the SEMP which allows you to record what your (pre)school is already doing to address different aspects of sustainability including infrastructure, behaviours and curriculum. It is beneficial to involve staff, students, and family and community members to help with recording, as people often are not aware of what is already occurring. Reviewing all this information in the one table is a chance to recognise and celebrate progress made so far, as well as highlight what could be improved upon, to help identify priority actions. Reviewing this table also shows change over time.

Sets Education for Sustainability goals

Education for Sustainability goals help achieve aspects of your (pre)school vision through a coordinated approach. Goals can assist (pre)schools to focus on key strategic projects and initiatives. NRM Education’s Core Indicators tools can help your site to set these goals.

Project planning

Each goal can be broken down using the project action plan. Actions include collecting baseline data or surveying people, identifying learning opportunities, encouraging the (pre)school community to contribute along the way and evaluating progress. The project plan helps keep initiatives on track, determining next steps. Share the load to ensure this work is not left to one person and that the project continues if someone leaves. The project plan encourages this by reminding you to invite others to take responsibility for different actions.

Links to real life learning

Student involvement is encouraged at every stage of a SEMP’s development, maintenance and implementation. The SEMP helps identify opportunities for students to learn in real world and authentic contexts. It does this by involving them in collecting baseline information, considering and enabling them to undertake and be responsible for maintaining projects and initiatives. This encourages students to be leaders and partners for change and develops their skills in relationship building, decision making, planning and communication. These meaningful learning experiences relate to students’ local environment and lives.