Developing an Education for Sustainability* vision

A vision without a plan is just a dream. A plan without a vision is just drudgery. But a vision with a plan can change the world.

Old Proverb

A vision is a positive statement about a view of the future, usually with a three to five year horizon. It states what your (pre)school values and wants to become. The vision should be created by all members of the (pre)school so they feel valued in the process and motivated to achieve it. A vision guides proposed actions and plans for improvement.

Below are some examples of Education for Sustainability visions, and over the page are actual visions from preschools and schools across Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges. Circle any words or phrases that resonate with you and what your (pre)school is about. Add any other words or phrases that are relevant to your (pre)school. By collating the common words or phrases from staff, students and parents a sustainability vision can be drafted for approval.

Examples:

1. Our vision is to develop Education for Sustainability to the extent that our school is a model of sustainability and we are all living more sustainable lives.

2. Our vision is for ……………………school to become an educational model of healthy living; promoting the benefits of the health of ourselves and the environment.

3. Our vision is to continue to improve learning and environmental outcomes.

4. Our vision is to continue decreasing our environmental footprint, and promoting the educational value of sustainability.

5. Our vision is to create a balance between a healthy environment, a vibrant and inclusive school, and sound educational outcomes.

6. Our vision is to become carbon neutral through both educational and environmental actions.

7. Our vision is to be an inspiring model of environmental, social and economic sustainability with our community.

8. Our vision is to become global citizens, living respectfully and sustainably with the community.

9. Our vision is to be lifelong learners who care for and respect ourselves, each other and the environment.

10. Our vision is to combine education and sustainability outcomes so we continue to develop and improve as responsible global citizens.

11. ‘Our vision is a world in which our work and lifestyles contribute to the wellbeing of all life on Earth. We believe that through education, human lifestyles can be achieved that support ecological integrity, economic and social justice, sustainable livelihoods and respect for life’. (The Ahmedabad Declaration 2007)

The (pre)school’s current vision:

Your Vision:

* The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) describes Education for Sustainability as learning to:
  • assess, care for and restore the state of our planet
  • appreciate the wonders and the peoples of the Earth
  • respect, value and preserve the achievements of the past
  • live in a world where all people have sufficient food for a healthy and productive life
  • create and enjoy a better, safer, more just world
  • be caring citizens who exercise their rights and responsibilities, locally, nationally and globally.
Blackwood Kindergarten: We are a supportive and inclusive community kindergarten inspiring an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. We encourage children to approach new challenges with confidence and creativity. We love our Natural Environment and understand the responsibility that we all share by living within it. We will observe what it does and learn from it, we will care for it and give back to it when we can. We will play with it and we will take only what we truly need from it.

Glenunga International High School: Our vision is to develop a more sustainable and environmentally engaged school community. We aim to create a school culture which has a shared responsibility in our attempt to reduce our environmental footprint. We want to implement lasting change and develop permanent structures and links between the environment club, committee and outside agencies such as the AYCC, local council, NRM Board and SITA. It is important that the change we make is supported and understood by the wider school community, and thus effective advocacy of our vision and goals will be imperative.

Golden Grove High School: Golden Grove High School has a long term focus on sustainability, through special programs, community events and having sustainability embedded in our curriculum. Our vision is to have an educated and informed school community that recognises that they have a moral responsibility (personally and collectively) for the environment that motivates action through knowledge and respect for the environment around us. Our school is actively working towards intragenerational equality; ensuring future generations benefit from our efforts in engaging with sustainable practices.

Magill Kindergarten: An understanding of sustainability will be embedded in the curriculum and lives of the families so that sustainability is seen to be an everyday part of life. The Centre will model sustainable practices and lifestyles and encourage all children to develop more sustainable lifestyles.

Marymount College: We in Marymount College act sustainably in all aspects of our school. We are an ecological environment, caring for our planet.

Mitcham Preschool Centre: Our vision is to be a sustainable community within which children learn through play to care for and respect each other and the environment. We intend for children and families to gain knowledge, understanding and skills to foster a successful sustainable future. Sustainable practices should be seen as an everyday part of life. Within the Centre we will model these practices, which are embedded in the curriculum, and continue to be expanded to cover new initiatives. We aim for all children to develop real and meaningful connections with their environment in partnership with their families, the staff team and the school community, in order to become responsible and effective global citizens.

St Michael's College (Junior School): Our vision is to develop a culture within our school community that recognises the shared responsibility to reduce our environmental footprint and promote the educational value of sustainability. We intend to create a balanced and equitable approach to the development of ecological programs within or curriculum that will enable our students to become informed, responsible, resourceful and respectful global citizens.

St Martin's Catholic Primary School: St Martin's school community loves to learn about our environment. St Martin's Catholic School students use the outside class room as an invaluable dimension in their learning. The school community lives and demonstrates sustainable lifestyles.

St Pius X School: St Pius X School will use less energy; use less water; be on track with our ‘zero waste’ initiative; reduce food miles by growing our own food; value our indigenous culture through art, history and vegetation; extend children’s delight and confidence through a myriad of natural play opportunities.

Therabarton Senior College: Members of the TSC community will model global citizenship by engaging in an education that ensures understanding and practice in sustainability and peace-building.

Torrensville Primary School: Our vision is to actively engage students, staff and the community in developing a sustainable environment which fosters and inspires best practice and emphasises the importance of preparing and empowering individuals to become responsible for contributing to a sustainable future.

Unley Kindergarten: We promote life-long learning towards an evolving, sustainable future which values people in our richly diverse community.

Waite Campus Children’s Centre: We are committed to helping children, educators, staff and families acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to be environmentally and culturally responsible by forming sound judgements about sustainable lifestyles and participating in environmental decision making as part of a global community.

Trinity College: Our College’s vision is to educate for a healthy sustainable future where every student appreciates the joy and wonder of nature and accepts the responsibility they have to be stewards of the environment.