

enviroschools

What is an Enviroschool?

Imagine ... a generation of innovative and motivated young people, who instinctively think and act sustainably.

Wake up to an enviroschool day ...

.... Students are learning science, technology and art by helping architects to design a solar heated classroom with a water system that supplies the swimming pool and organic food garden. In a maths class, students use data from the audit they conducted with their caretaker, to report on energy and water savings to the Board of Trustees. Horticulturalists and parents are working with a class in the plant propagation unit. They are raising trees to revegetate their adopted gully and establish a rongoā (Māori medicinal) garden. Younger children are mapping the existing trees and recording their native names .. And, while English students prepare their submission to the District Council's District Plan, others are adding the worm farm project to the school landscaping plan ...

.... It is a vision that is already becoming reality for many schools through involvement in the Enviroschools programme.

Benefits of being an Enviroschool

Educational

- Knowledge about a range of sustainability issues
- Skills in decision-making and planning
- Cooperative working skills
- Leadership and project management experience
- Whole school becomes a learning resource

Environmental

- Sustainable resource management
- Enhancing biodiversity
- Greener purchasing decisions
- Respect and care for the environment

Social & Community Benefits

- Reduction in bullying and anti-social behaviour
- Reduction in littering and vandalism
- Increased involvement of communities

Economic Benefits

- Financial savings
- Greater use of sustainable business practices
- Student entrepreneurship



Becoming a Sustainable School?

Becoming a sustainable school is an ongoing process that develops and deepens over time. Each school develops its own approach based on these concepts:

Place (*Wāhi*)

- ☺ The school grounds demonstrates how ecosystems work
- ☺ The school buildings are designed to work with natural systems
- ☺ The buildings and grounds are a learning resource
- ☺ The whole school environment reflects the culture and heritage of its place and people

Programmes (*Kaupapa Ako*)

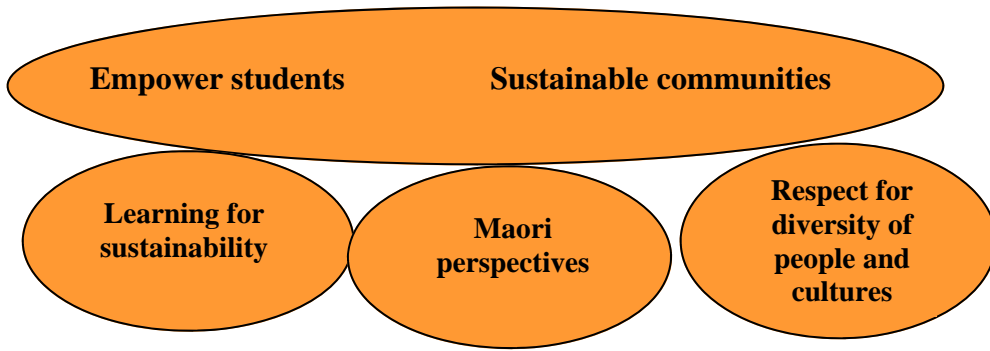
- ☺ Students learn as they create a sustainable school and community
- ☺ Sustainability is a core part of the formal curriculum
- ☺ Student-centred learning approaches are used
- ☺ The 'teacher' role becomes one of facilitating, learning and enquiry

People and Participation (*Tangata*)

- ☺ Decisions are made with the involvement of students
- ☺ The school has a whole vision for the sustainability for the school and the wider community
- ☺ There is a sense of belonging and ownership

Practices (*Tikanga*)

- ☺ School policies and systems support environmentally friendly and sustainable practices
- ☺ Sustainability is a fundamental part of new staff recruitment
- ☺ Sustainability guides school budgeting
- ☺ Practices are monitored and evaluated



Our Natural Environment

EnviroSchools guiding principles

There are five guiding principles for EnviroSchools which encompass a whole school approach where students learn through the Action Learning Cycle to change and improve their environment. These guiding principles are shown in the graph above.

Working with communities

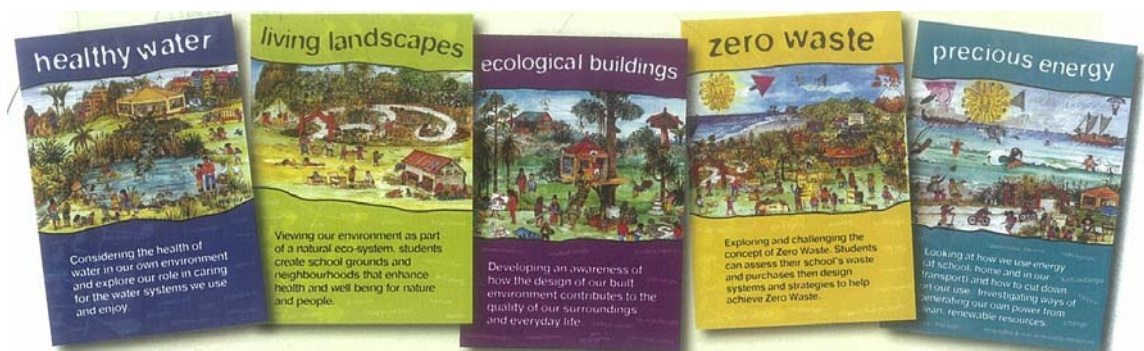
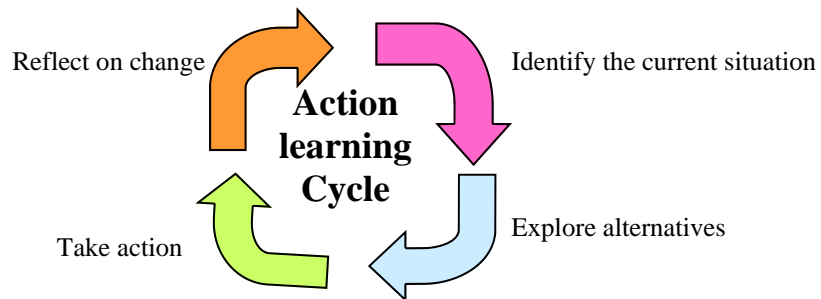
Creating sustainable schools requires knowledge and expertise from a wide range of people. Participating and contributing with the community adds real value to students learning and the school's journey towards sustainability.

Celebrating achievements

Schools also have an opportunity to celebrate their achievements in the EnviroSchools' journey by going for an award. Schools can complete an award when they feel they are ready. They can do this by contacting their facilitator.

Theme areas

The Action Learning Cycle is the main EnviroSchools' tool to help plan and carry out student-led projects. As well as the Action Learning Cycle there are five theme areas which all lead off the first topic called 'Me and my environment' which set the framework for EnviroSchools.





The Enviroschools Kaupapa

Kaupapa does not have a direct English translation but encompasses words such as foundations, principles, or philosophy. Our kaupapa is our touchstone.

Enviroschools have a sense of place

Nature and people are nurtured and the whole school environment is a learning resource. Creating a sustainable physical environment is an ongoing learning exercise that fosters a greater understanding of the inter-relatedness between all living things and a concern for the particular place we live in.

Enviroschools are participatory

Enviroschools processes involve the whole school community. Students, teachers, caretakers, Boards of Trustees, families/whānau and the wider community each have roles in actively creating and caring for their school.

Enviroschools have a sense of purpose

Students are inspired to be creative and become competent to make decisions and take action in their community. Learning is lived and reinforced at school. Teachers reshape and refocus everyday activities so that the potential for environmentally friendly practices is maximised. Adults act responsibly on behalf of the environment and serve as role models for young people.

Empowers students ... sustainable communities

The EnviroSchools' touchstone is creating a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through people teaching and learning together. Each of us brings unique perspectives and gifts, and it is by combining them that sustainable communities will be created. Many solutions will come from people working together intergenerationally combining past wisdoms and new understandings. Solutions will be found by working with nature and allowing nature to teach us. By learning together in practical ways sustainability becomes an integral part of what we do throughout our schools and communities.

Caring for our place and the world planet becomes a living curriculum where schools can be catalyst for change.

How do I become an Enviroschool?

EnviroSchools is a journey for schools to become more sustainable. The Council supports this programme because it helps the Council to achieve its strategic goals of waste reduction, cleaner water, improved landscapes and energy efficiency. The Council supports this programme by providing a facilitator to work with schools and teacher release days for professional development.



Please contact Education Officer, Annie McDonald for more details annie.mcdonald@marlborough.govt.nz, Phone 520 7400 or write to Marlborough District Council, PO Box 443, Blenheim 7240.

