**Improvement Strategies for East Side State High School**

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# SYNOPSIS

The aim of this report was to investigate environmental sustainability at East Side State High School. Results of this investigation revealed that environmental practices are evident but could be multiplied and/or improved. It was found that the tuck-shop, art, home economics and the science departments had minimal sustainable practices in place where as the business blocks, agriculture farm and the library were consistently applying procedures which reduce, reuse and recycle in the school.

Positive use of sustainability principles include flouro lights in some classrooms, paper recycling and use limits in some classrooms/offices, posters in classrooms reminding people to turn off aircon and lights when no one is in the classroom and to turn off the computers at the end of the day and the school uses rain water to water the ovals.

Although each department does its own little thing as a whole school it is not very environmentally sustainable therefore it was recommended that a sustainability committee is formed to take control of East Side State High Schools sustainability practices and improve and/or multiply ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.2.0 INTRODUCTION

## 2.1 SUBJECT OF THE REPORT

The aim of this report is to investigate sustainable practices at East Side State High School and make recommendations to facalt6ies where further improvement is necessary.

## 2.2 METHODOLOGY

To get the information you are about to read about I have interviewed staff around the school, researched sustainable ways for schools and used my own observations and knowledge so we can make this school more sustainable.

3.0 REPORT FINDINGS

## 3.1 Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is a set of ideas and practices with a long term goal of conserving natural resources; minimizing waste, pollution, and other negative forms of human impact; and promoting global environmental and ecological awareness.

## 3.2 Environmental Hazards and Resource Efficiency Issues – current strategies/initiatives at East Side State High School

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### 3.21 Electricity usage

There are fluoro lights in place around the school which reduces the power needed to light a room/ area. There are also posters in classrooms reminding people to turn off aircon and lights when no one is in the classroom and to turn off the computers at the end of the day. We also promote walking to school or carpooling.

### 3.22 Water usage

Rain water is used to water the grass on the ovals and the agriculture farm uses water from the dam to water their plants and fill water drums for the animals. However, students often leave taps running wasting water.

### 3.23 Paper usage

Currently teachers have a photocopier limit which limits the number of copies that they do each semester. Most rooms in the business department have paper recycling bins as well as some other areas around the school.

## 3.4 Strategies for improvement

After thorough investigation of sustainable practices, it is recommended that East Side High address improvement strategies in the following ways:

* Coloured recycling bins are purchased to encourage students to recycle
* Paper use is recorded to keep track of excessive use in particular departments
* Invest in sensor taps that only turn on when it senses movement.
* Put posters around the school classrooms reminding people to open the windows instead of using aircon when it is a nice day.
* A compost heap down at the agriculture farm for the tuck-shops waste

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# 4.0 CONCLUSION

East Side State High School has some sustainable practices in and around each area but there is no coordination and the practices could be improved and multiplied. I have devised that there should be a sustainability committee that give and control what sustainable practices to enforce. Therefore, I hope head of department decides to read and carry out some of my recommendations.

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

En.wikipedia.org (1980) *Sustainability - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. [online] Available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental\_sustainability [Accessed: 17 May 2013].

We interviewed Mr. Smith and Mr. Cooper

# APPENDIX

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Faculty** | **Hazard (to environment and employees)** | **Solution** | **In-place?** | **Recommendation** |
| **Whole school** | **Light usage** | **Fluoro lights use less power.**  **Turn off after each lesson.** | **✓**  **Reminder stickers**  **Night lights on timers** | **All classrooms to have reminder stickers next to power points.** |
| **Science Faculty** | **Chemical storage** | **Clear labelling and locking in the lab** | **Storage of chemicals, trained people working, follow MSDS.** | **Reduce use of harmful chemicals.** |
| **Agriculture** | **Animal poop** | **Use animal poop as manure.** | **Manure; recycle extra wire and things they don’t use. Limit chemicals** | **Use children to get rid of bugs.** |
| **Business** | **Computer and aircon usage** | **Open windows, turn computers off when not in use** | **Paper recycling in each classroom, computers changed every 4 years by a registered company** | **All classrooms to have reminder stickers next to power points.** |
| **Shop A & Shop B** | **Over usage of wood and electronic tools** | **Recycle and reuse used wood.** | **Reminders to cut wood to size therefor not wasting wood.** | **Appropriate wood is cut** |
| **Art** | **Water and paint usage** | **Reduce water and paint usage** | **Windows instead of aircon** | **Reminders on how much Water and paint you use.** |
| **English** | **Air-conditioning** | **Windows opened** | **Signs to turn off lights and aircon.** | **Open windows and only use aircon when its really hot.** |
| **Health and Physical Ed** | **Sharp equipment. dirty jerseys, whistles and equipment** | **Clean equipment and be cautious of sharp objects** | **Padded things on poles** | **Clean equipment at the end of every term. Get jerseys washed after every use. Be cautious of sharp objects** |