



Developing a Principals' Statement on Sustainability

The following responses were collated from the Final Session facilitated by Peter Harney on Day 3 of the Conference. All work done in the initial sessions on butcher paper has been photographed and transformed to pdfs.

The working party for the development of the Statement is:

Graham Leddie (E), Tim Young (N), Gerard Keating (W) and Gerald Bain King (S) and Ray Paxton (National Office)

What are emerging as possibilities for EREA to move towards ecological sustainability?

- ❖ **Create a learning framework with specific aims that educate our staff, students and communities**
 - ✓ Ecology
 - ✓ Sustainability
 - ✓ Gospel values
 - ✓ Platform needed for resources / ideas

- ❖ **Inspired by our 'CHARTER' a sustainability hope filled statement to drive a strategic response at each school. This would include:**
 - ✓ A strong spirituality component
 - ✓ A learning framework
 - ✓ Core values
 - ✓ Key measures
 - ✓ Student engagement and voice

- ❖ **Development of clear and transparent statement that incorporates the essence of the Touchstones and Laudato Si'.**
 - ✓ Establishing partnerships with a critical friend e.g. Universities
 - ✓ Making a long-term commitment to sustainability.

- ❖ **A communally developed EREA statement of shared vision**
 - ✓ Much has begun
 - ✓ Education "A tool for change"
 - ✓ Draw out from Touchstones the challenges and opportunities for Ecological sustainability
 - ✓ Students must emerge from our school 'literate' in E and S thinking and therefore be able to participate in community debate and decisions
 - ✓ Hope filled, global focus
 - ✓ Our whole world is home

- ❖ **Because this such a critical priority, how do we ensure that this a sustainable initiative?**
 - ✓ Make sure there are clear rationales and vision statements
 - ✓ Allow sufficient time – do not rush things, but start with a long term plan that has a relatively easy/simple starting point
 - ✓ This is not a "template approach" contexts and resources will guide and shape the work
 - ✓ Each school will need a champion (these can be hard to find)
 - ✓ Use students as resources: their commitment and energy will help catapult the program
 - ✓ EREA Principals Conference are advised to not go on to the next thing as we will need to run this area of work over a 3+ year project

- ❖ **Must learn from 'Best Practice' in every school**
 - ✓ Find ways to share our successes with those who are unable to share this space with us
 - ✓ Creating partnerships so all can benefit

- ❖ **Given there is 'Buy-in'**
 - Principals need to Support and empower the delegates and become leaders in Sustainability

What are some possible pathways that might enable us to get there?

- ✓ Statement
- ✓ Strategic directions and targets
- ✓ Student leadership roles designated and supporting Sustainability
- ✓ Add to School Renewal as part of the review process
- ✓ Staff buy in is essential
- ✓ Measure carbon footprint
- ✓ Vision statement (shared) that is broad enough to fit individual school's context – A motherhood statement that can be adapted
- ✓ Ensure the link between ES and Gospel and broader social justice activities – keep a human face
- ✓ Be explicit
- ✓ Construct learning framework
- ✓ Developing appropriate and realist timelines BUT we must start, NOW.
- ✓ Incorporating sustainability into our: Master building plans; Budgets; Business plans
- ✓ Educate community how current E & S Principles are incorporated in infrastructure design and construction
- ✓ National and Regional Sustainability gatherings
- ✓ “Beacon schools” – so “like” schools can share initiatives and developments
- ✓ Section in strategic plans – A.I.P
- ✓ EREA Sustainability prizes for partnership for sustainability Student Leaders Sessions

❖ How do we manage and balance the ideals vs practical impediments?

- Start slowly
 - Wait until you have champions
 - Take time to set things up
 - Educate your community
 - Engage (in EREA) a national
 - Ecologist who animates schools
- } Build capability

❖ Use the insights of this Conference but include also:

- Student thought
- Parents
- School Boards
- Staff

❖ EREA to release sustainability paper

- Empower student leaders to work in this space
- Develop intentional work units across the school
- Be aware of the therapeutic effect of outdoor adventure based learning
- Capture what works well in every school
- How to use our collective buying power to make the opportunities ‘more’
- Has to be part of all our planning Strategic & Master & Business

What next?

- ❖ Audit – Possible standard ‘Footprint’ for comparison
- ❖ Get the statement drafted
 - Get the buy-in
 - Build the connections of passionate people to drive this forward
 - Spirituality must be part and foundational
- ❖ KPI’s that become part of the Renewal process
 - Build into Principals duty statement
 - Energy footprint audit
 - Network of school champions
- ❖ Galvanise “Champions”
 - In schools
 - At macro-level e.g. Tim Flannery
 - Working Group
 - Gathers Champions
 - Feeds into EREA Sustainability Group for development of shared statement
- ❖ Begin to develop a culture of environmental sustainability
 - Ecological disciples/Warriors from attending EREA schools
- ❖ Sharing the different initiatives currently at schools - through a central database
 - Sustainability Day – Earth Teaching Day (limit use of technology)
- ❖ Develop local responses and share what we are doing
- ❖ Policy and reporting updates regularly
 - An acceptable way to communicate this across schools
 - Sustainability support network that will work with all schools
- ❖ Audit – Possible standard footprint for comparison