

Sustainability at EREA – Gathering our voices

The Voice of the EREA Sustainability Committee – April 2016

- The guidance of the encyclical in essence gives the EREA board the "license" to shape a practical policy response that can be transformative for the EREA network of schools. This will not only relate to the way we build and operate our schools but also extend into what we teach and what our students are able to learn.
- What excites me is that the EREA Board are concerned to take up the challenge of Laudato Si' and infuse its teaching into staffs and students. This is a huge challenge but one that we cannot ignore for the sake of our own comfort. IF IT IS TO BE IT IS UP TO ME. Now that we have set our hand to the plough we have to do what we can for this opportunity will not come again in our lifetime. Right now, environmental literacy is the most important literacy our students will need into the future.
- By 2020 we should have a fully implemented sustainability program that is a component of consideration in all schools and services, partners or associated schools both here and overseas. What it looks like :

1. There should be a position statement that is flexible to the changing nature of the dimension of sustainability,
2. Education at all levels. There is a voice through video and text of what it is.
3. It should be in our key strategic documents.
4. It should be constantly reviewed and assessed as to its workability within each of our services - through internal and external reviews.
5. It needs to be a key to each decision making process - at all levels.
6. It needs defined resources allocated to the program.
7. We need to encourage an element of sharing of resources- both physical and thought.
8. Resources that will show schools what you can achieve- leading to champions of that change to celebrate.
9. Awards associated with sustainability and publications on our websites

Directors of Regional Support – October 2016

- The role of Deans of Identity in schools.
- Where do you begin to break open concepts and change thinking?
- What outcome does EREA want – schools need: reminding; communication; strategy; resources?
- What skills do we have that we can bring to this process?
- EREBB Congress was transformative – how can we process that and apply it to Laudato Si – through conversation?

Sustainability at EREA – Gathering our voices

- Work with Deans of Identity to replicate EREBB Congress experiences? How we come together to find meaning?
- Writings coming out of EREBB Congress are a possible direction - a reflective piece from each country to stimulate others to respond.
- Who are we including in our response, is this aimed at students, the whole community?
- We need data to inform decisions – not a ‘scattergun approach’.
- How do we take this message to schools?
- Drawing on wisdom from outside the church, through science and other disciplines?
- Narratives – ‘harvesting’ stories to inspire.
- Potential for student leaders meeting in NSW next year – student advocates.
- National gathering in Term 3 – a launch with stories – embed thinking in our processes – in the next round of ‘Formation’ programs.
- It is very conceptual at the moment. To present to Principals the DRSs will need more concrete examples.
- It will not be a directive from EREA but rather a direction.
- This will link into the EREA Board’s vision next year – mission sustainability.