



Avondale College Environmental Sustainability Policy (ESP)

March 2010

Preamble

As a Seventh-day Adventist higher education provider, Avondale College holds a respectful view of the natural world as the unique creation of God. Being made in the image of God confers on humanity the privilege of caring for creation in partnership with the Creator.

Avondale accepts responsibility to carefully monitor its use of resources, minimise waste production, maximise recycling and implement ecologically-sensitive management and development of its campuses.

Avondale College seeks to manage the natural and built environment in an ecologically sound manner that models an ethical approach to the care of the Earth.

Avondale College will:

1. Conduct annual energy and environment audits.
2. Practise sound environmental management.
3. Minimise negative impacts on the environment through wise use of natural resources and respect for biodiversity.
4. Promote environmental sustainability and stewardship among its staff, student body and local community.
5. Equip graduands with a sound knowledge of issues relating to human impact on the environment.
6. Enhance campus biodiversity and aesthetic value.
7. Support research into environmental issues at local, national or international levels.

Environmental Sustainability Priority areas

Through its Environmental Sustainability Policy (ESP), associated Plan of Action and annual audits, Avondale College will focus on the following key areas in 2010 and 2011:

1. Information Technology (minimising the environmental impact of technology).
2. Facility Construction (incorporating principles of environmental sustainability in building works and planning).
3. Facility Management (monitoring and reducing the impact of the built environment).
4. Purchasing Policy (reducing the environmental footprint through a sound acquisitions policy).
5. Landscape and Campus Management (maximising biodiversity, reversing degradation, improving resource management, documenting, preserving and improving natural resources including land, water, forests). Waste management (minimising waste, maximising recycling, ethical disposal).
6. Research (promoting research in environmental issues).
7. Education (ensuring Avondale students and staff are 'environment aware').
8. Advocacy (modelling and promoting an ethical approach to care of the campus and to the Earth).
9. Diet and food consumption (minimising the environmental footprint of the cafeteria).
10. Systems development (providing the administrative support and resources required to implement and report on the policy and its objectives).

ESP Committee

The ESP Committee is mandated to oversee the application of the policy, review the Action Plan, and provide its minutes and report regularly to the College Executive Committee. Membership consists of:

1. Chairperson (elected by the committee members from categories 3-5 below)
2. Deputy chair (elected by the committee members from categories 3-5 below)
3. Vice President Finance
4. The Lake Macquarie Campus property manager
5. 5 staff members (at least one of whom must be from the general staff & one from the Sydney Campus)
6. 2 students by invitation
7. 1 community member by invitation

Operating principles:

1. Staff Members of the ESP committee will be appointed every 2 years or as vacancies arise.
2. Student members of the ESP committee will be appointed yearly.
3. Membership shall be notified to Avondale's Executive Committee.
4. Meetings shall be open to staff and students at discretion of the chairperson.
5. Activities of the ESP will be supported on a case by case basis at discretion of the VP Finance.
6. The committee shall report to the Executive Committee and ultimately to College Council.

ESP Committee Responsibilities:

1. Oversee the development of an ESP Action Plan.
2. Monitor progress in KPIs allocated in the ESP Action Plan.
3. Foster communication with the Avondale community.
4. Facilitate funding applications for environmental initiatives.
5. Develop and monitor an annual budget for the ESP.
6. Author an annual report for College Council on progress in priority areas.
7. Foster critical reflection about Avondale's commitment to environmental issues.
8. Foster partnerships with local government councils, community groups and organisations.



Environmental Sustainability Action Plan Draft 1

The committee has identified 12 core areas where objectives/guidelines will be set for review, monitoring and target setting.

A) Information Technology (Chief Information Officer)

Focus: minimising the negative impacts of information technology on the environment.

Broad Goals:

- IT1 Progress towards a paper-'less' campus (reduce paper use).
- IT2 Environmentally conscious IT purchasing policies.
- IT3 Maximisation of E-waste recycling.
- IT4 Safe E-waste disposal.

Tasks:

- IT1a Audit the amount and source of paper used on campus.
- IT1b Identify high paper use departments.
- IT1c Identify and implement paper reduction strategies for trial.

- IT2a Review purchasing criteria for IT and communications.
- IT2b Update purchasing guidelines.

- IT3a Report on current E-waste recycling options & availability.
- IT3b Identify and implement E-waste recycling strategies.

- IT4a Report on current E-waste disposal strategies.
- IT4b Identify and implement E-waste disposal strategies

B) Facility Construction (Vice-President Finance)

Focus: incorporating environmental impact guidelines in all new building works.

Broad Goals:

FC1 Embed environmental criteria in new building design.

FC2 Develop environmental guidelines for new projects.

FC3 Model good building practices.

Tasks:

FC1a List upcoming development projects.

FC1b Identify projects designed without a clear environmental assessment.

FC1c Assess environmental merits of upcoming projects.

FC2a Identify best practice guidelines of building site, design and materials. eg. regarding, ventilation, heating, natural light, thermal efficiency, building materials, aesthetic impact, etc.

FC3a Use new projects for advocacy and education.

**C) Facility Management (Vice-President Finance, Lake Macquarie Campus
Property Manager, Residence Directors)**

Focus: monitoring and reducing the environmental impacts of the built environment

Broad Goals:

FM1 To reduce water usage

FM2 To reduce electricity usage

Tasks:

FM1a Audit annual water use

FM1b Identify water savings initiatives already in use.

FM1c Identify strategies for future water savings.

FM1d Monitor annual water use.

FM2a Audit annual electricity usage.

FM2b Identify strategies for electricity use reduction.

FM2c Monitor annual electricity usage.

D) Purchasing and Acquisitions (Vice-President Finance)

Focus: (reducing the environmental footprint through a sound acquisitions policy).

Broad Goals:

PA1 Apply environmentally aware purchasing policies across departments and faculties.

Tasks:

PA1a Develop a short purchasing policy statement.

PA1b Identify current environmentally aware purchasing

PA1c Develop purchasing guidelines for specific items and departments eg. cleaning agents, motor vehicles, food, equipment.

PA1d Integrate purchasing with reporting.

E) Cooranbong Campus (Lake Macquarie Campus Property Manager)

Focus: Resource Conservation (documenting, preserving and improving natural resources including land, water, forests).

Broad Goals:

- CC1 Minimise waste, maximise recycling.
- CC2 Reduce pests and weeds.
- CC3 Reuse and recycle waste water.
- CC4 Improve access to the natural environment on campus.
- CC5 Protect and maintain important habitat. Promote biodiversity.

Tasks:

- CC1a Identify previous waste initiatives.
- CC1b Identify current waste problems.
- CC1c Identify and cost future waste disposal and recycling strategies.

- CC2a Identify and evaluate past strategies for pest and weed reduction.
- CC2b Identify current pest and weed problems/hotspots.
- CC2c Identify strategies for future reduction of pests and weeds.

- CC3a Identify current water reuse and recycling strategies.
- CC3b Identify future water reuse and recycling strategies.
- CC3c Set targets for future water capture and reuse.

- CC4a Identify past 'access initiatives.' eg. access to 'natural areas.'
- CC4b Identify potential for future access initiatives for Avondale students and the community. eg. nature walks.

- CC5a Map the campus habitat areas.
- CC5b Identify biodiversity hotspots and preservation areas.
- CC5c Implement management strategies for preservation areas.

F) Research (Vice-President Administration and Research)

Focus: Research (promoting Avondale research in environmental issues).

Broad Goals:

- R1 To ensure that Avondale staff and students have access to research funding for environment related projects through the internal funding program.
- R2 To ensure that Avondale supports the submission of quality research proposals to external funding agencies for research on environmental sustainability.
- R3 Ensure that Avondale College is aware of actions taken by Australian universities and other organisations in Australia that contribute to research in ecological sustainability.

Tasks:

- R1a Identify previous research with an environment emphasis.

- R2a Scope an annual research grant into research that expands the stock of knowledge regarding 'creation', or our role in 'creation, or environmental issues.

- R3a . Identify actions taken by Australian universities and other organisations in Australia that contribute to research in ecological sustainability.
Report on such in the Avondale Research news.

G) Teaching and Curriculum (Vice-President Learning and Teaching)

Focus: Education (ensuring Avondale students and staff are 'environment aware').

Broad Goals:

TC1 To ensure that all Avondale students receive an education that exposes them to the urgency of environmental and economic sustainability, and provides opportunity to commit to a sustainable lifestyle.

Tasks:

TC1a Review content of CLS classes to see if the concept of environmentally sustainable living is taught.

TC1b Review potential to include commitment to the sustainability of the earth and its people as one of Avondale's values.

TC1c Incorporate awareness of and commitment to environmental sustainability as a graduate attribute.

TC1d Include 'environment' in Avondale's revised 2010 key objectives

H) Public Relations and Advocacy (Public Relations Officer)

Focus: Advocacy (modelling and promoting an ethical approach to care of the campus and to the Earth).

Broad Goals:

Utilise Avondale's PR system to promote Avondale as a green campus.

Tasks:

PR1 Publicise the EE Policy.

PR2 Report annually the energy and environment audit.

PR3 Publicise Earth Hour and student involvement in 'Green' activities.

I) Cafeteria and Cafe (Cafeteria Manager)

Focus: Promote a diet and food management system that is ecologically sensitive.

Broad Goals:

- C1 Promote a vegetarian diet associated with a reduced environmental footprint.
- C2 Promote organic composting for cafeteria waste.
- C3 Minimise Styrofoam and plastic waste.
- C4 Minimise high food-miles purchases.
- C5 Minimise sales of bottled water.

Tasks:

- C1a Clarify for students the health and ecological benefits of vegetarian food.

- C2a Review current disposal of organic waste.
- C2b Identify strategies for future organic waste disposal with the campus manager.

- C3a Identify environmentally harmful, polluting waste such as styrofoam.
- C3b Audit quantities of harmful waste.
- C3c Identify strategies for reducing amount of harmful waste.
- C3d Monitor waste.

- C4a Identify high-food miles products
- C4b Identify strategies for reducing food miles.
- C4c Apply a food purchasing policy.

- C5a Identify alternatives to sales of bottled water.

I) Avondale Administration & Systems Development (President)

Focus: Ensuring that administrative structures and funding is in place to model and promote an ethical approach to care of the campus and to the Earth through the EE Policy and priority areas.

Broad Goals:

AA1 Develop and implement an Energy and Sustainability Policy for 2010 and 2011.

Tasks:

AA1a Approve a trial Energy and Environment Policy through ADCOM.

AA1b Mandate an annual Energy and Environment Policy Report for 2010.

AA1c Include Energy and Environment Policy Report in annual report to College Council.

AA1d Promote Avondale's credentials as a "Green" higher education institution.