



QUEENSLAND EARLY CHILDHOOD SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK INC.

QECSN inc. Sustainability in Practice Awards.

Supported by:

Qld Early Childhood Sustainability Network Inc.

(QECSN Inc.)



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About the Sustainability in Practice Awards

Overview

“Sustainability is essentially an issue of social justice and fairness” (Davis, 2015, p. 10). The **Sustainability in Practice Awards** highlight services which become the catalyst for building communities where children are encouraged and supported to be active members and responsible citizens. Daily practices modeled by the educators are built on respect, care and advocacy across four dimensions: social, political, environmental and economic. The journeys toward sustainability for early childhood services in Queensland are documented in the **Sustainability in Practice Awards** and highlight the significance of lifelong learning of sustainability.

The **Sustainability in Practice Awards** are open to members of QECSN Inc. to show case the projects which demonstrate their commitment to learning for sustainability. QECSN Inc. hopes that these awards will inspire others to evolve into future **Sustainability in Practice Award** participants and winners.

Our aim is for these awards to become a significant influence on the continued integration of sustainable practices and principles into the operations and curriculum of early childhood services in Queensland.

Where to start...

Develop a plan

- Get a team on board (staff, families, children & wider community)
- Develop your vision – this is one of the key components in Education for Sustainability and is a crucial starting point for any change.
- Think about how your vision for sustainability is embedded in your philosophy and every day practices.



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Consider the following when developing your plan:

1. How are the families in your early childhood community engaged and participating in the planning process? What are their concerns and priorities? Use meetings and fund raising events to develop support and to get a picture of the needs and wants of the centre's community. Get a team together to decide on how to best use this information and start your plan.
2. Learn more about the centre and research what materials and resources may be needed for your project. Give examples of how these are used to integrate sustainability principles into the curriculum. For example, a water tank that the children can use for water play, PD for educators around reconciliation, etc.
3. Detail your action plan. For example, your water action plan may include changes to the centre's plumbing systems, water tank and changing patterns of water use for the children at the centre and how they use water at home.
4. Gather, measure, record and describe. Gather stories of change, Share the stories and search for the impacts from the project. This will help you to build documentation of your journey to which children are encouraged to contribute. Also, your achievements can then be communicated to staff, parents and the community.
5. Celebrate your achievements.

The Sustainability in Practice Awards Guidelines

If you need support in completing the application contact QECSN:

email: admin@qecsn.org.au

Important Dates:

Due Date of Application: last Friday of Term 4, December.

Review of Submissions: January.

Announcement and presentation of the Award winners at QECSN Inc. AGM (usually February).



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It is a requirement that **all entrants are current QECSN members**. Membership forms are available on the web site, www.qecsn.org.au

Complete the **Application form**, available from QECSN Inc. web site. Please follow guidelines for size and length of your document. Font must be no smaller than 10 pts. The whole document should be no larger than 2MB. The application form must be used.

After completion please email to: admin@qecsn.org.au

Sharing the applications: By submitting your application, you acknowledge that QECSN Inc. has permission to place your application up on our web site or Facebook page to share with other members.

Permission for use of photos: Please ensure you have permission for the project to be submitted and that you certify that all photos sent have permission from those in the photos. In the case of children, we require that you have parental or guardian consent to use their photos and the assent of children involved.

Judging: Award applications will be judged for excellence, using the evaluation criteria sheet (as displayed in the Appendix). One **Sustainability in Practice Award** will be on offer from each of the 3 categories listed below. Please choose the category within which you feel your project best fits. You may submit a different project for each category

When deciding which stories to share in your application, we suggest you discuss these with your teams, families and the children to consider which stories **demonstrate the most significant impact**.

Categories:

1. Service Engagement and Improvement through Sustainable Practices and Processes
2. Educator(s) leading change: Rethinking sustainability
3. Children leading change for sustainability



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The prizes:

The prizes are as follows:

AWARD	PRIZES
Service Engagement and Improvement through Sustainable Practices and Processes	A prize to the value of \$200 An organizational QECSN membership A perpetual trophy for the year
Educator(s) leading change: Rethinking sustainability	A prize to the value to \$100 An individual QECSN membership A perpetual trophy for the year
Children leading change for sustainability	A prize to the value of \$100 An organizational or individual QECSN membership A perpetual trophy for the year

The perpetual trophy is held for the year by the service from which each winner has applied. These trophies have been commissioned by QECSN and designed by local Brisbane artist Carol O’Sullivan. The use of natural raw and recycled materials in each trophy represents our relationship to and ongoing dependence on nature, and the critical need for sustainability.

Winners can use the membership prize to renew their existing QECSN membership for an additional year.

Specifics for Completing the Application Form:

Project Title: Try to be creative yet keep it simple

Telling the Story: In 300 words or less tell us about your project. What was the situation like before your project was undertaken? What was your inspiration for the change? What actually happened? Who was involved and how were decisions made?

Linking the Learning: In less than 500 words tell us what was significant about the change. What changes did you experience? What stories tell other people’s changes? How were the changes linked to the category you have selected for this project? What learning might be identified that links with the Early Years Learning Framework [EYLF] or National Quality Standards [NQS] or ECEfS research/policy?

Future Potential: In less than 300 words tell us where you see this going? Has it influenced any further change? Who will carry things forward? What differences will your project make in the future?



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Size: As your application may be displayed on the QECSN Inc. website or Facebook page, we request that a total of 4 photos only be submitted to support your application. In total the whole document size needs to be within 2MB after PDF.

After completion please email to: admin@qecsn.org.au

Resources:

Visit the QECSN resources section within the member's area of QECSN web site for many resources which may assist you in completing your project.