Thebarton Senior College

Sustainability: Challenges and Successes'

- Kate de Ruyter
School Context

- Students from 70 different countries
- 1045 Full-time equivalents
- 85% come from NESB
- 365 New Arrivals Program
  - English
  - Science
  - Maths
  - Computing
  - Art/Tech/PE/Home Ec.
Background 1.

- Formed in 2007 Staff Environmental group
- Range of initiatives run by separate teachers.
  - Recycling project
  - Garden project
  - Biodiversity audit
  - Grants
Background 2.

- 2010, Environmental group – sampled staff
- “Sustainability” as a cross curricular priority in the Australian Curriculum
- End 2010 – “Sustainability” accepted as schools 4th Value.
Background 3.

- NRM board – Matt Cattanach
- 2012
  - Sustainability project release time
  - Faculties and subjects teachers questions about “sustainable” practices
  - Documentation of what we are doing: sEMP
  - “Sustainable Directions” employed
  - Attempt at focusing on “Energy usage”

Some findings

- Many items were left over night on standby such as:
  - Desktop computers
  - Laptops
  - Photocopiers
  - Televisions
  - Smartboards
  - Printers
  - Laminators
- Hot water services in staffroom and student centre left on over night.

L:\o SHARED RESOURCES\Sustainability\
Challenges 1.

- Senior school site: non-priority in cross curriculum except in VET
- Sustainable directions – business focus.
- sEMP, documentation seemed to be theme based.
- Energy Theme – no lasting changes seen.
Challenges 2.

- Staff behaviour difficult to change.
- Projects linked to key teachers.
- Limited prior knowledge of students.
- Language difficulties.
- Turn-over of students.
World Environment Day

- World Environment Day celebrated 2012, 2013
  - Raise awareness in school community.
  - Show case for student work and presentations.
  - Collection of survey data.
    - Compared across year
    - Can be used as raw data for classes.
  - Engagement with outside Community.
Ongoing successes 2.

- Rotaract engaged in recycling of cans.
  - Raises funds for charities
  - Student engagement
  - Community engagement
- Sustainability tour around the college.
- Reading glasses collection.
Engagement with teachers

- Sarandia Pagonis:
  - NAP Maths class
  - Food miles
  - Production of poster
  - Presentation at World environment day
  - Poster displayed in prominent place in college for other students to view.
Engagement with teachers

- Minxy Kannampuzha
- NAP Maths class
- Food wastage survey
- Surveyed over 100 staff and students
- Presentation of findings at World Environment Day
Engagement with teachers

- Josh Earl
- VET – Cert IV
- Requirement: Sustainability Unit