

I believe NZ can aim to be the first nation to be truly sustainable – across the four pillars of the economy, society, the environment and nationhood

Helen Clark 13th February 2007 statement to Parliament

The coming decade promises to be one of sustainability 'step change'. We need to move up a gear... Now we must understand the changes needed in our daily lives, how we meet our needs and wants, and what we expect of those who serve in government.

Morgan Williams, outgoing Parliamentary Commissioner for the environment

For more information contact:

Add in school contact details

A sample of what students will be learning as part of sustainability education

Key concept :

Biophysical Environment

Describe the consequences of human activities within a biophysical environment in relation to sustainability.

Key context:

Marine Reserve and the Harbour

- Human impacts on marine ecosystems
What's happening to our harbour? task.
- Investigating land based activities and their impact on the marine environment?

Key concept:

Self-confidence and esteem in the environment

Key Context

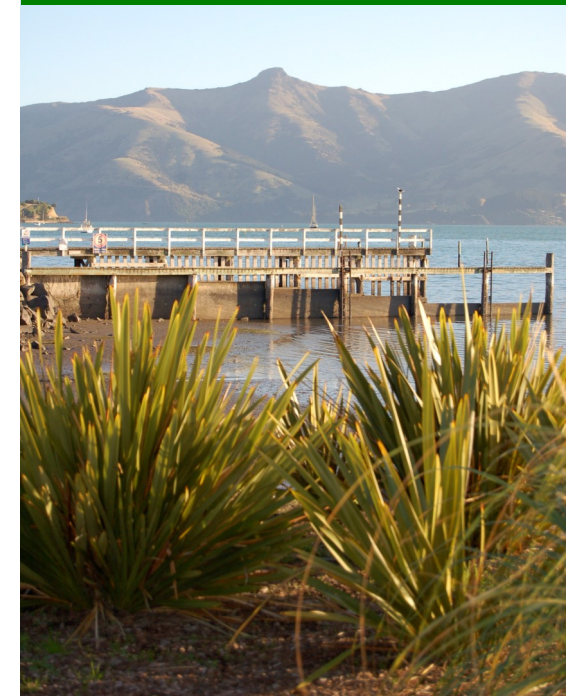
Amazing Race style experiential learning in the local area encompassing:

- Tramping
- Snorkelling
- Kayaking
- Team building



New Zealand Curriculum in action

A course in sustainability education for level 2



Sustainability education

An Education for Sustainability course, that encompasses the unique environmental setting, local and global issues in sustainability and building students' competence to deal with life as the circumstances around them change.

The course will:

- build an understanding of issues in sustainability and how these issues affect us in our local area
- develop cooperative learning and collaborative decision-making skills so that young people leaving school know how to participate in a democratic process;



Sustainability issues in our area

- develop students skills in critical thinking, reflection and inquiry learning using authentic contexts in our area as the basis for learning.
- encourage action-oriented learning whereby sustainable living practices are developed by the students' within their homes, school and community.

This course:

- is designed to utilise the local environment for authentic learning opportunities so that students know their local area, the issues it faces and how these connect to wider global concepts for future living in New Zealand.
- recognises the challenges society faces and how government is responding to the increased global calls for action to reduce our ecological footprint.
- is innovative and aligned with the suggested direction of the new NZ curriculum integrating key competencies and values with learning areas.
- uses learner-centred approaches challenging students to make decisions about their learning both as individuals and with others, as part of and beyond the class. We believe this will support the achievement of educational, environmental and social outcomes.



Encouraging decisions for the future

Outcomes for learners as part of this course, students will:

- Know how to find answers to questions of concern to them (Thinking, Managing Self)
- Work with others to achieve a goal (Participating and contributing, Relating to others)
- Develop and adapt personal values from those set down in the curriculum (especially care for the environment, community and participation)
- Think critically about things and make informed decisions (Thinking, Participating and contributing, Managing Self, Using language, symbols and text)
- Show initiative and creativity in considering solutions for a sustainable future (Using language, symbols and text, Thinking)
- Apply ideas when implementing action projects (All KC)