

Northern Sydney Environmental Educators Network (NSEEN) STRATEGIC PLAN

An Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW Chapter (AAEE NSW) project supported by the NSW Government's Environmental Trust

working for sustainability



Background

This Strategic Plan has been created as part of the AAEE NSW 'Equipping Regional Sustainability Education Networks for Creating Change' Project 2016- 2018.

The aim of this project is to increase the capacity and effectiveness of the Regional Sustainability Education Networks (RSEs) operating across rural, regional and metropolitan NSW.

This project is one big step in the implementation of *Make the Change: A Framework for Education and Engagement for Sustainability 2014-2021* which was developed by AAEE NSW in partnership with NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH).

The principles and themes in this Strategic Plan have been guided by *Make the Change: A Framework for Education and Engagement for Sustainability 2014-2021*, the *Make the Change Framework Sector Guides* and the Terms of Reference of the Northern Sydney Environmental Education Network (NSEEN) and Southern Sydney Sustainability Education Network (SSEEN).

Both AAEE NSW members and RSEN members have been consulted on the creation of this strategic plan.

Regional Sustainability Education Networks (RSEs) are independent and volunteer-run organisations that are not governed by AAEE NSW.

NORTHERN SYDNEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS NETWORK STRATEGIC PLAN 2017- 2020

VISION

Educators from different organisations and sectors collaborating to undertake best practice sustainability education and engagement for our region's communities and environment.

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together and communicating regularly on projects whilst supporting each other and encouraging best practice sustainability education and engagement.

ETHOS

Network members:

1. Agree to take an active role in making our network supportive, fun and successful;
2. We all share the responsibility to lead collaboratively;
3. Share information about their projects both at and between meetings in an open and transparent manner;
4. Find opportunities to collaborate with each other and sector-based networks in their projects.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Best practice sustainability education and engagement projects:
 - a. Share the values of sustainability - defined as 'balancing the community's social and economic needs within the planet's ecological limits';
 - b. Support and encourage the community to be active citizens in caring for our environment;
 - c. Respect and reflect local Aboriginal culture and heritage and include cultural and place-based learning;
 - d. Reflect and address the needs of target audiences and engage these participants through critical thinking, problem solving and action;
 - e. Have reflection, monitoring and evaluation built into their design, to allow for continuous improvement;
 - f. Are achieved through the collaborative efforts of multiple partners from different organisations and sectors.
2. The Northern Sydney Environmental Educators Network endorses 'Make the Change: A Framework for education and engagement for environmental sustainability 2014- 2021' and is committed to using the framework to help achieve our vision;
3. The Northern Sydney Environmental Educators Network acknowledges the support provided by the Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW Chapter (AAEE NSW) and will work with them to enhance sustainability education and engagement across our region.

GOALS/ OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage communication and collaboration between network members;

2. Increase our membership reach and diversity of sectors that are represented by our members;
3. Hold quarterly meetings and at least one social gathering each year.

EVALUATION

1. Annually invite all members to comment on the purpose and administration of the network and how they have contributed to the network and to identify areas for change/improvement to meet network goals and member needs;
2. Contribute (where possible) to the AAEE NSW annual state-wide RSEN evaluation, by providing data on the following outcomes:
 - a. Meeting frequency and attendance numbers;
 - b. Number of members and number of sectors represented;
 - c. Projects worked on and other indicators of collaboration within the network.

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Northern Sydney Environmental Educators Network is for sustainability educators from Northern Sydney which is geographically bounded by Sydney Harbour to Broken Bay and westward to Ryde
2. Sustainability educators/facilitators representative from all sectors are welcome to apply to become members of the Northern Sydney Environmental Educators Network.

These sectors include (but are not limited to); Aboriginal communities; agriculture & primary industries; business; community & environment groups; culturally & linguistically diverse (CALD) communities; early childhood; local government; natural resource management; school education; state government; TAFE; universities, students, waste education- local government; waste industry; and youth engagement;
3. Sector-based sustainability educator networks are welcome to become members by filling in the membership form;

ADMINISTRATION

1. Northern Sydney Environmental Educators Network meetings will be between 1-2 hrs long and held quarterly, with at least one meeting per year being a social gathering e.g. Green Drinks;
2. Meetings will be rotating, with a different location, chair and minute-taker for each meeting;
3. The role of the Convenors is to:
 - a. Organise the date, location, chair and minute-taker for each meeting;
 - b. Email meeting invitations and minutes to network members;
 - c. Set up and maintain a Northern Sydney Environmental Educators Network Yahoo group and network contact list/database.
4. Every 6 months the Convenors will be asked if they wish to remain in that role or if they would like to 'hand the baton' onto another network member;
5. Any funding applied for by this network will refer to 'Make the Change: A Framework for education and engagement for environmental sustainability 2014- 2021' and acknowledge the support provided by AAEE NSW.