Since the release of the Department of Education and Community's Environmental Education Policy in 2001 school communities across the Hunter Central Coast region have achieved a great deal in making their schools more sustainable. We can be justifiably proud of what has been achieved. Recent sustainability initiatives have placed more emphasis on students using their creativity and innovative thinking to find solutions to sustainability problems. The 2012–2014 Regional Environmental Strategy: Building Leaders for Sustainability, aims to further develop the partnerships between schools and their communities and continues to emphasise the key role played by students as creative thinkers, innovators and problem solvers in relation to environmental sustainability.

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Sustainable education practice

Students use initiative and innovation to find solutions for environmental problems

Students work with others to build a sustainable community

Schools provide curriculum that includes real and relevant sustainability challenges

Schools build community partnerships that contribute to a more sustainable future

Regional services from DEC and agencies in the wider community support schools in achieving their environmental goals

LEADERS FOR SUSTAINABILITY:

STUDENTS

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
All students contribute to a sustainable school community.
Students engage with the school’s environmental management process (monitor, report on and set targets).

BUILDING CAPACITY
Students collaborate to develop solutions to local and global issues.
Students apply new technologies to share their sustainability initiatives.

PARTNERSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY
Students are involved in environmental sustainability projects with the local community.
Explore relationships with wider communities to become active global citizens for a sustainable future.

SCHOOLS

The school curriculum implements the DEC Sustainability Education Policy for Schools.
The school is a model of best practice environmental sustainability.
Sustainability education programs and initiatives are part of the School Plan.

Schools support teacher professional learning about environmental sustainability education.
All teachers are responsible for integrating authentic learning for environmental sustainability into teaching programs.
The school actively supports staff in environmental leadership.

Schools engage their local community in partnerships that support sustainability.
Schools encourage engagement with the local Aboriginal community to assist students learning about Aboriginal peoples relationship with country.
School learning communities address environmental sustainability.

REGION

Hunter Central Coast 2012–2014 Strategic Directions are aligned with local and State sustainability priorities.
Coordination with other regional environmental stakeholders supports common objectives.
The DEC Asset Management Team provides advice on efficient usage, maintenance and procurement.

Environmental Education Centres and other environmental education providers deliver field work, sustainability education programs and resources.
Professional learning for school communities delivered through MyPL@edu courses, network meetings and ICT.
Communicates professional knowledge to facilitate continual improvement in sustainability education practice.

HCC Regional Environmental Educators advise on partnership opportunities with the community.