



Holy Spirit College
A Catholic Coeducational Secondary College



Holy Spirit College, Bellambi **Laudato Si' Action Platform Reflection 2023**

Overview

Holy Spirit Bellambi is a systemic co-educational Catholic College catering for students from Year 7 to Year 12. The school provides a quality Catholic education for young men and women in the northern Illawarra.

The community of Holy Spirit College, Bellambi has grown in an environment of respect and appreciation for the past, and a tremendous enthusiasm and hope for the future.

The College Motto 'Live By The Truth' comes from the Gospel of St John: "But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God" (3:21). The motto reminds the College community that Christ is the role model for all we undertake. Jesus described himself as "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6) hence by following the example of Christ, we enable the mission of our Baptism to be lived on a daily basis.

The motto invites each of us to take seriously the call of ecological conversion to act and live with truth and justice for God's creation. We need to take seriously the challenge from Laudato Si' to care for our common home. At Holy Spirit we see that it is crucial that we take action to be sustainable stewards and responsible citizens that contribute to the building of a better future for humanity and our planet.

Environmental Vision

Our Vision: For the school to be a role model in demonstrating stewardship and sustainability.

Our Purpose: To empower the school community to be proactive in caring for our school, local and global environment.

Mission Statement: To incorporate and promote sustainability into daily life at the college and improve the culture of stewardship.

Holy Spirit College's Contribution to the LSAP

From 2019 - 2021 Holy Spirit College was involved in the SEMP process.

The school started SEMP ii in 2022 with a view to refining the previous SEMP and incorporating more sustainability initiatives.

Our SEMP Process aligns with the Laudato Si' Goals of:

Response To The Cry Of The Earth
Response To The Cry Of The Poor
Ecological Economics
Adoption Of Sustainable Lifestyles
Ecological Education
Ecological Spirituality
Community Resilience And Empowerment

Below are some initiatives that were undertaken in 2022/23

The garden has been maintained and is constantly being updated with crops and other plants. Many have been raised from seed by the students.

Tank water is used for the garden via an irrigation system funded by the school.

In 2023 a lizard lounge and tadpole hotel were constructed to improve the fauna diversity in the garden.

Worm farms are also a feature of the garden and the school canteen contributes vegetable scraps from sandwich making.

A new compost bin has also been provided by the school P&F (2023)

A preloved clothing sale is held each year on Holy Spirit Activity Day with donations from staff, students and their families. It has become a high point of the day. In addition to saving countless items from landfill, the event made nearly \$500 for charity.

Reflections, prayers and liturgies for environmental occasions (World Day of Prayer etc)

Woodiwild tree planting scheme set up in 2020, has planted 145 trees so far.

<https://woodiwild.org/holy-spirit-college-bellambi/>

Paper and plastic bottles recycling boxes in all classrooms. The boxes are themselves recyclable to further reduce plastic waste. Every Tuesday morning the school participates in a whole school initiative to empty the recycling at two central points. The P&F funded new, smart recycling boxes.

Return and Earn Vinnies bins for recycling plastic bottles, cans and popper boxes. Vinnies allowed us to keep the blue bins but they no longer collect so the bins have to be emptied and the contents taken to the local depot.



Bread tag recycling programme with BRAD, over 1kg of tags sent in 2022/3.



Blister Pack recycling scheme with BRAD with over 10 kg of blister packs sent for recycling

Soft Plastic boxes in many areas of the school have sadly had to be put on hold due to the lack of recycling facilities for soft plastics in Australia.



Keep Australia Beautiful Day saw members of the environmental group cleaning up the litter around the school.

Many departments also have their own small recycling hubs (such as the one in the science prep room pictured below) to collect individual items which are then collected centrally and recycled or sent for recycling



Reduction of plastic in canteen and for corporate events with BioPak or compostable items now being used.

Staff have an informal environmental group which communicates through Google chats as finding time to meet face to face is problematic.

The initiative to send old sports jackets to East Timor as started by Vera Clearly is being continued.

An environmental article features in every school newsletter.

Future Projects

- To be part of the development and design of the new outdoor learning area at school to improve biodiversity within the school grounds.
- To assist the technology KLA with starting a “Patch to Plate” initiative with the year 7 as well as building a frame for a vertical garden to be used in design lessons. “The Garden” will be utilised much more by various KLAs
- To make nesting boxes for native birds.
- To meet with commerce teachers to build sustainability into the food sale projects undertaken by students in year 9 and 10.
- To gradually change to LED lighting where possible in the school.
- To push for solar panels on the roof of the new building. Building works will started in 2023
- To refine and improve and waste management within the school.
- To continue to reduce plastic waste produced by the canteen and school events.
- To push for more water refill stations around the school to further reduce plastic waste.

- To plant a bee friendly area in the garden and eventually get a hive of native stingless bees to further improve the biodiversity of the garden and educate the students about the importance of pollinators.
- To start an initiative to recycle uniforms in conjunction with the school P&F.