

# Strategic Plan

2018- 2023



## Mission

We are a non-government, not for profit environmental education centre that empowers people to create a sustainable future for the Canberra community by supporting lifelong behavioral change.

## How we'll deliver our mission



### *Our centre*

*A vibrant environmental education centre that showcases innovation. We provide a collaborative space used by the Canberra community, sustainable living workshops, sustainable living demonstration (including a garden), sustainable living retail and a library.*



### *Our outreach*

*Environmental education outreach service. We provide events, online library and resources, social media and other online channels to reach into the community, phone advice service and in-community outreach.*



### *Our people*

*Sustainable organisation. We'll see security of funding and physical presence, happy staff and a vibrant volunteer community.*

## Who works with us

We support people to take the next step in making their life more sustainable, with a focus on people who are new to sustainable living. We meet people where they need us. We take a gentle approach to change, through providing tools and positive messaging for change. We actively engage people who are at major life transition points, and ready to make a change. This includes school students, university students, new parents and recently arrived migrants. We collaborate with other like-minded organisations to most effectively support the community.



## Areas of sustainability focus

Our areas of sustainability focus are driven by a community interest and sustainability impact. We actively focus on activities that will reduce the Canberra Community's ecological footprint.

### ***Waste***

We will provide resources and facilitate activities on composting and worm farming in the community. Teach and encourage best practice recycling. Empower the community to reduce reliance on single-use plastics. Teach the community to reduce food waste by providing education on preserving techniques and encouraging the support of local and sustainable food producers.

### ***Energy efficiency***

We will hold workshops and provide resources on draught sealing, understanding electricity bills, using solar power and retrofitting.

### ***Local food***

Hold workshops and working bees and provide resources on organic gardening including small-space food gardens, healthy soils, pest management and gardening resources for the ACT. Facilitate projects that allow all a diverse range of members of community members to experience growing food.

### ***Active transport***

Hold workshops and provide resources on basic bike maintenance, make second hand bikes more accessible and encourage the use of public transport and car sharing.

### ***Biodiversity***

Provide education to people of all ages on creating backyard habitats for both native and critical pollinator species. Provide resources that encourage an appreciation for the natural world and local native species. Encourage organic gardening principles.

### ***Water***

Provide information and resources on the importance of keeping our waterways clean and healthy and how residents can contribute to this goal.

## **Research**

Priority areas are identified and underpinned by the [ACT State of the Environment Reports](#), released every four years. The most recent report, published in 2015, identifies climate change adaptation as the most urgent priority for action by the Canberra community. The [2015 Ecological footprint](#), a component of the ACT State of the Environment Report, identifies electricity; petrol; gas; air and space transport; and consumption from hotels, clubs, restaurants and cafes as the biggest contributors to Canberra's ecological footprint.