



WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?



Sustainability is about looking after the world we live in. We all want to live on a beautiful and clean planet and we can all do some really great things right here at school and even in our own homes to do this.

What is our current sustainability situation?

Around the world, we are using more and more energy and water and buying more products, which means we are producing more rubbish. This means we need to think differently and look at different ways to look after the environment.



So if you want to figure out if something is sustainable - ask yourself the question if you can do it forever?

Let's look at an example together. Plastic is a mass produced item that we use for a range of things like food containers, lamps, bottles and bags, I bet we can point out some in the classroom right now?

But did you know the average plastic bag is used for only 5 minutes, yet can take up to 1,000 years to break down in the environment and there are 358 million pieces of plastic litter along the Australian coastline? Plastics take up valuable space in our oceans and natural environment, causing harm and damage to our ecosystems.

Let's look at some other sustainable actions we're seeing in Australia and globally. Refer to the sustainability fact-sheet.

Can you think of some other examples when you have been sustainable right here at school or at home?

- Putting your paper and glass in the recycling bin
- Turning the lights off in a room when you are not using it
- Planting a veggie patch or using your food scraps to create a compost, or maybe building a worm farm
- Reusing your water bottle.

