

[St Ignatius College, Riverview, N.S.W.](#), is one of many Jesuit schools where environmental sustainability engagement is long-standing and comprehensive.

The College Sustainability policy commits the college to be responsible in its management of: energy, water, waste and biodiversity. This is aided by the approved Sustainability Masterplan.



Specific environmental sustainability actions taken include:

- **Educating** the college community about environmental issues e.g., Newsletter, House sustainability challenge and Care of creation in curriculum;
- Facilitating **ecological conversion** e.g., Annual Environment Mass (for June 5, World Environment Day) with theme chosen by students, Rector writing reflections on environment topics, Leadership environment retreat, Ecological Examen, Lenten Carbon Fast, [Ignatian Carbon Challenge](#), and the [Riverview-walk](#);
- Engaging school community in **events** including: Earth Hour Breakfast, Sustainable Living Festival, Catchment Day, Mobile Phone Muster, Annual tree planting, Walk/Ride to school day, Book swap;
- Environment **Clubs** and Garden Clubs (junior and senior campus);
- Indigenous students looking after **Indigenous food** plants in local FoodFaith community garden and working with local Elder on college Indigenous seasons garden;
- Installing more **efficient** taps/showers/toilets and lighting (e.g., LED and sensor lights) in new building and retrofitting existing buildings as appropriate;
- New buildings incorporating **sustainable design principles**, including a new major teaching & learning facility using a passive / naturally ventilated design instead of air conditioning.
- Installing 419 **solar panels** (100KW system) generating 148MW/year (the equivalent of 25 homes);
- Software **monitoring** the current level of energy use within the College;
- **Rainwater tanks** installed and connected for toilet flushing and other suitable uses;
- Increased **recycling** by changing waste contractor to ensure 95% of waste is diverted from landfill;
- Increased **organic waste** reuse with Pulpmaster (with collected waste pulped and reused); and
- Catering contractor has a **food sustainability** policy and provide vegetarian meal options.



[Jesuit Social Services](#) (JSS) operates in Victoria, N.S.W. and N.T. empowering the vulnerable and to work for a more just society. JSS main activities are in:

- Justice and crime prevention;
- Mental health and wellbeing;
- Settlement and community building; and
- Education, training and employment.

JSS understands that the poorest in our world are most vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation. JSS fosters an ecological culture where transformation starts with the personal. The JSS approach is to:

- encourage shared values of personal relationships with ecology; and
- integrate an ecological justice perspective into all programs and advocacy.

Ecological participant programs

JSS activities for their program participants often have an element of connecting them with the natural environment.

Examples are:

- Bush/coastal walks
- Kayaking
- Rock climbing
- Vegetable gardening
- Photographing nature
- Making art out of bush materials

Operating sustainably

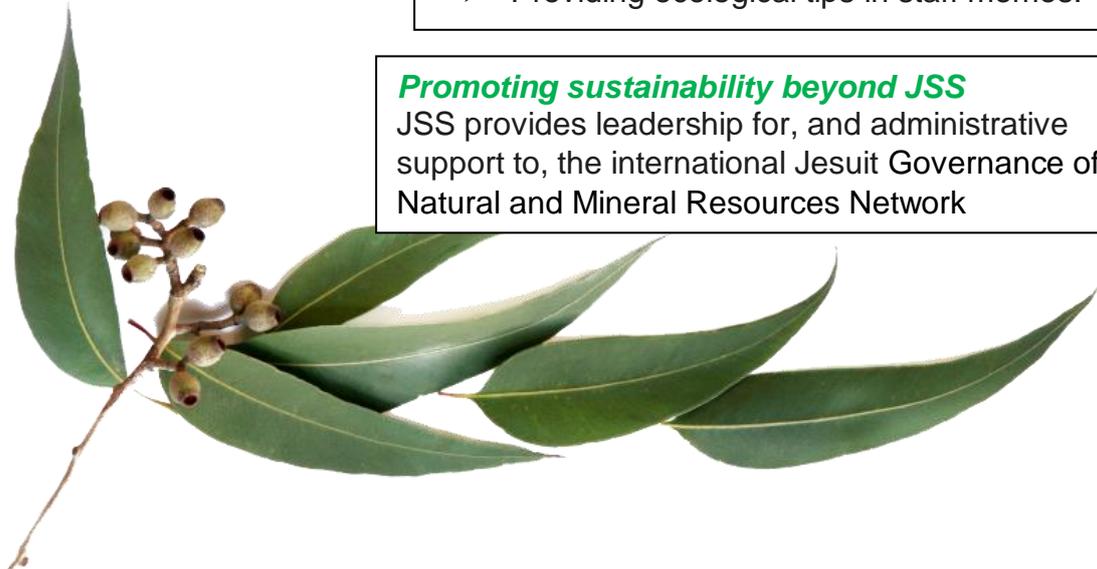
Sustainability is an integral part of the JSS identity and operations. In 2012, JSS released a policy: [Our Environmental Way of Proceeding](#).

Outcomes from this policy are:

- Staff workshops every 6 months on integrating ecology into participant programs;
- Ecological aspects to participant programs;
- Reducing the number of lights in the office and installing LEDs;
- Extensive recycling;
- Waste audits to refine recycling efforts;
- Offsetting emissions from air travel;
- Environmentally friendly cleaning products;
- Vegetarian options at functions;
- Implementing an ethical investment policy;
- Measuring JSS environmental impact; and
- Providing ecological tips in staff memos.

Promoting sustainability beyond JSS

JSS provides leadership for, and administrative support to, the international Jesuit Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources Network



[The Parish of St Canice's, Elizabeth Bay, NSW](#), is an example of a Jesuit Parish addressing:

What GC 35 had identified as three dimensions of this ministry of reconciliation, namely, reconciliation with God, with one another, and with creation, assumed a new urgency. ... While we speak of three forms of reconciliation, all three are, in reality, one work of God, interconnected and inseparable (GC36 Decree One: no 21).



St Canice's has a vibrant spiritual life (weekly meditation group, monthly scripture study group, seasonal retreats/faith groups, high quality music and liturgy, monthly healing Masses, and street retreats).

The parish community also provides a welcome to regular Mass participants and visitors with a cuppa after Sunday Mass. There is a parish St Vincent de Paul group. [St Canice's Kitchen](#), with volunteers coming from across NSW, provides a free lunch to about 50,000 of the area's homeless and disadvantaged each year. Since 2004, St Canice's has also partnered with the people in [Railaco, Timor Leste](#), assisting them address the welfare, healthcare, nutrition, and educational needs of their children.

St Canice's parish had a guest speaker to assist parishioners understand Pope Francis environmental Encyclical *Laudato si'*. A very practical way of engaging people with the environment has been through a community vegetable garden on the flat rooftop of a parish building. The garden was made possible by the enthusiasm of a small group of parishioners who used crowdfunding and networks to raise the funds and bring together the resources to build and maintain the garden.

The rooftop garden provides some produce for Canice's Kitchen. It also has a healing impact on participants who are refugees and members of a horticultural mental illness therapy program from local St Vincent's Hospital. The garden has not been without difficulty. In 2016, the whole garden was temporarily dismantled to enable replacement of the waterproofing membrane on the roof. One parishioner was instrumental in starting the garden. For some years, he had great enthusiasm and he brought in expertise and labour from outside the parish. Now he has moved on to new projects and the parish needs to re-establish garden and probably in a more modest form and with more parishioners having a sense of ownership.



The Parish also maintains a peace garden. Many local residents visit this small lawn surrounded by trees and shrubs. The garden is itself a prophetic message about setting aside valuable real estate as a green space available for all to enjoy.

Father General, Arturo Sosa SJ, recently said:

It (GC36) asks for two very practical, and in some ways, more difficult steps. First, "changing our personal and community lifestyles." This is a big challenge. Second, "to celebrate creation, to give thanks."¹

Faber Jesuit Community is one of many Jesuit Communities taking small steps towards reconciliation with creation. The motivation for this journey is their growing ecological conversion. Community members educate themselves about environmental issues mainly by reading relevant articles. When they gather for Eucharist they also bring to the Table the rest of creation in prayers of thanksgiving, concern and communion.

A rainwater tank helps to water the community's small vegetable garden and citrus trees. They have a compost bin to process organic waste which is then used to build up the soil in the garden which is kept well mulched to save water. When adding new plants to their garden they choose drought resistant Australian native plants.

Conscious of the environmental impact of red meat, the community has two fish meals each week and sometimes a vegetarian meal.

They have reduced their energy consumption by installing more efficient LED lights and heating.

They have a comprehensive recycling program. Like most households they recycle: paper, glass, cans and plastics. They also collect batteries for periodic deposit in battery recycling bins.

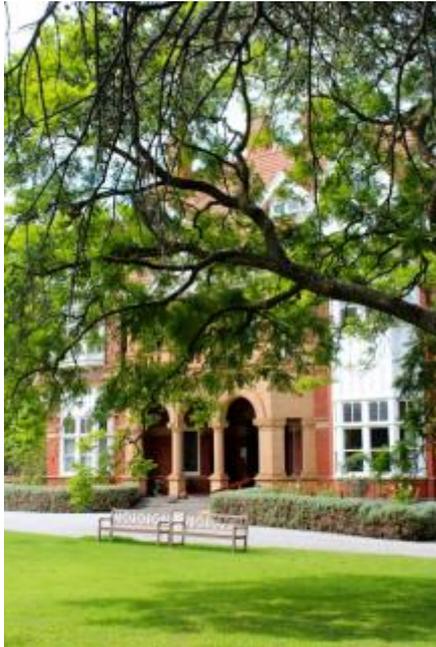
The community has hopes and plans for further steps to lighten their impact on the environment. They want to install rooftop solar PV panels to produce electricity and want to complete the insulation in their roof cavity



¹ Arturo Sosa SJ. Dialogue with Lay Catholics in Public Life (14-Jul-2017) <http://www.sjweb.info/news/indexallNews.cfm>
<accessed 21 Aug 2017>

**Environmental excellence
October 2017**

**Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality,
Kew, Vic.**



[Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality](#) in the Melbourne suburb of Kew, cherishes creation both in its programs and in its way of operating.

The Centre along with the Jesuit community to which it is attached aims to tread lightly on the earth. Past refurbishments have installed a more energy efficient hot water system, lights, taps, and shower heads. Electricity for the Centre is partly supplied by the 80 solar panels on the roof. The onsite vegetable garden supplies produce for the meals which almost always include a vegetarian option. A worm farm creates fertiliser for the garden. Later this year a compost machine will be installed that will turn all kitchen food scraps (including meat) into compost.

Campion offers a diversity of retreats and other spiritual experiences founded on Ignatian spirituality. Many of these are at the Centre with access to its calming gardens and the surrounding Yarra Bend Park. There are also a range of full day and three, five and seven-day programs in other settings of natural beauty.

Listening to Turning Earth

Four evening sessions of ninety minutes each to sit and contemplate the seasons of our Earth.

A Stillness in Nature

This weekend at Millgrove, in the foothills of Mt Donna Buang, offers a time of quiet and stillness in Nature. During the weekend, retreatants will have the opportunity to relax and contemplate the beauty of creation and God's presence in the cosmos calling them to new life

Season of Creation – Care for our Common Home

This small group seminar meets weekly for four weeks to prayerfully reflect on Pope Francis' encyclical and its invitation into an ecological conversion.

The Wilderness Retreat

– Walking with God in the Grampians

This five-day walk is based at Halls Gap with contemplative walks into different parts of The Grampians. Individual and group reflection draws on the wisdom of Ignatius of Loyola and Teilhard de Chardin and other contemporary writers on the spiritual dimensions of creation.

Walking with God in Nature

Walking prayer days at different locations:

- Merri Creek, Melbourne
- Bass Coastal Walk, Gippsland,
- Royal Botanical Gardens, Cranbourne
- Sherbrooke Forest, Dandenong Ranges
- Altona to Williamstown

Walking with Jesus as on the Road to Emmaus

An eight-day walking retreat along the George Bass Coastal Walk and the Great Southern Trail.

