

Sustainability education gives students and their communities the fundamental knowledge, skills and values for supporting the health and quality of life of present and future generations.

We offer three professional development programs for teachers to develop ideas for integrating sustainable systems associated with gardens into teaching and learning, school grounds and resources, management systems and networks.

## We can also help you with:

Concept Mapping  
Integrated Visioning  
Permaculture Design  
Sustainable Systems  
Ongoing Support  
Professional Development

*Talk with us about your ideas*

# GROWING SKILLS

## We are:

Growing Communities is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes sustainability education and healthy living through the establishment of productive gardens in Queensland communities and schools.

Close collaboration with a wide range of people is our way of developing accessible solutions that address the big issues of sustainability, food security and nutrition.

Our services include consultation, design, implementation and support of school and community gardens; promotion and management of school garden networks; and the design and delivery of skills development and training through seminars, workshops and professional development programmes.



Growing  
Communities

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# GROWING COMMUNITIES

**Professional Development**  
*Educating for Sustainability in  
Queensland Schools  
& Communities*

**BOOK NOW**  
for next semester

# GROWING SCHOOLS

# Gardens are a living means to enrich and extend learning for a sustainable future

Schools can choose individual topics or whole-day sessions from these three strands.

For details and bookings contact us at [edu@growingcommunities.org.au](mailto:edu@growingcommunities.org.au)

## INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE

Permaculture is a design system for creating sustainable human environments based on a set of ethics and principles. This is achieved by focusing on relationships between the elements of plants, animals, buildings and infrastructure through their positioning in the landscape. Learn about this rapidly growing design discipline that fuses commonsense with effective, sustainable solutions.

Workshop sessions will cover three topics:

### Permaculture Ethics and Principles

The permaculture ethics and principles form the theoretical basis of Permaculture. We examine each of these and discover why permaculture is unique in both its approach and outcomes in system design.

### Permaculture Design

Permaculture design considers elements such as water, waste, energy, food and culture to create efficient and sustainable garden systems. In this session we learn about some practical themes and elements used in designing a permaculture system and experiment with these in the planning of an urban garden system.

### The School as a System

The school is a community and system containing functioning relationships. We explore these and the potential for creating new connections within communities using the ethics of permaculture. We also examine how permaculture can inform teaching and learning practices.

## GROWING SUSTAINABILITY

Schools impart values of belonging, responsibility, care and respect when they engage in sustainable practices to conserve and protect environmental resources. Investigate the many practicalities of linking sustainable systems through the garden, such as waste recycling and water harvesting.

Workshop sessions will cover three topics:

### Waste

This workshop leads educators through the wonderful world of worms and waste where they examine trends in waste minimisation and identify feasible recycling systems for their school. Further ideas for teaching and learning will be developed as we examine how 'matter' cycles through the garden.

### Energy

We explore some basic science concepts for environmental understanding through methods of enhancing energy efficiency. We examine the carbon cycle to identify ways of reducing our schools' carbon footprint. Teaching and learning ideas are generated through an investigation of the big issues around energy and fuel.

### Water

Schools have an important responsibility to conserve water. Catching and harvesting water are crucial for the health of our urban environments. In this workshop we examine water in the garden and its role in the permaculture design system.

## GROWING CURRICULUM

Discover the elements and dimensions of sustainability as we share planning ideas and develop connections between the garden and the curriculum.

Workshop sessions will cover three topics:

### Whole-school Approach

There's a lot to learn in the garden. We briefly examine the elements and ethics of sustainability to further discover the myriad of teaching and learning opportunities generated from 'getting our hands dirty'. Working across key learning areas we identify relevant Essential Learnings and brainstorm whole-school approaches to 'gardenising' the curriculum.

### Scope and Sequence

The scope and sequence of the gardening curriculum grows with students' knowledge and skills –from concrete to abstract, physical to analytical, and individual to communal. We explore cross-curricular organisers to develop learning maps that track children's growth in knowledge and understanding.

### Unit Planning and Organisation

Get inspired about worms, food, history and culture as you brainstorm and refine ideas for unit themes and activities. We utilise Garden Planning templates to identify knowledge and understanding, skills and competencies, and values and attitudes for enriched and sustained learning tasks and projects.