

Enviroschools

in the Bay of Plenty

Imagine... a generation of innovative and motivated young people who instinctively think and act sustainably...



The Enviroschools programme is working towards this vision through a whole school approach to environmental education. Students develop skills, understanding, knowledge and confidence through planning, designing and creating a sustainable school. Action projects undertaken by Enviroschools have both environmental and educational outcomes that benefit the school and the wider community.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council supports the creation of sustainable schools via:

The Enviroschools Programme – schools sign-up to a three year process of environmental learning and action. As an Enviroschool they gain access to an extensive resource kit and a trained facilitator.

Students planting spinifex spikelets for dune restoration at Ōmanu School



Benefits of Being an Enviroschool

Environmental

- Sustainable resource management
- Enhancing biodiversity
- Healthy and stimulating school grounds
- Greener purchasing decisions

Educational

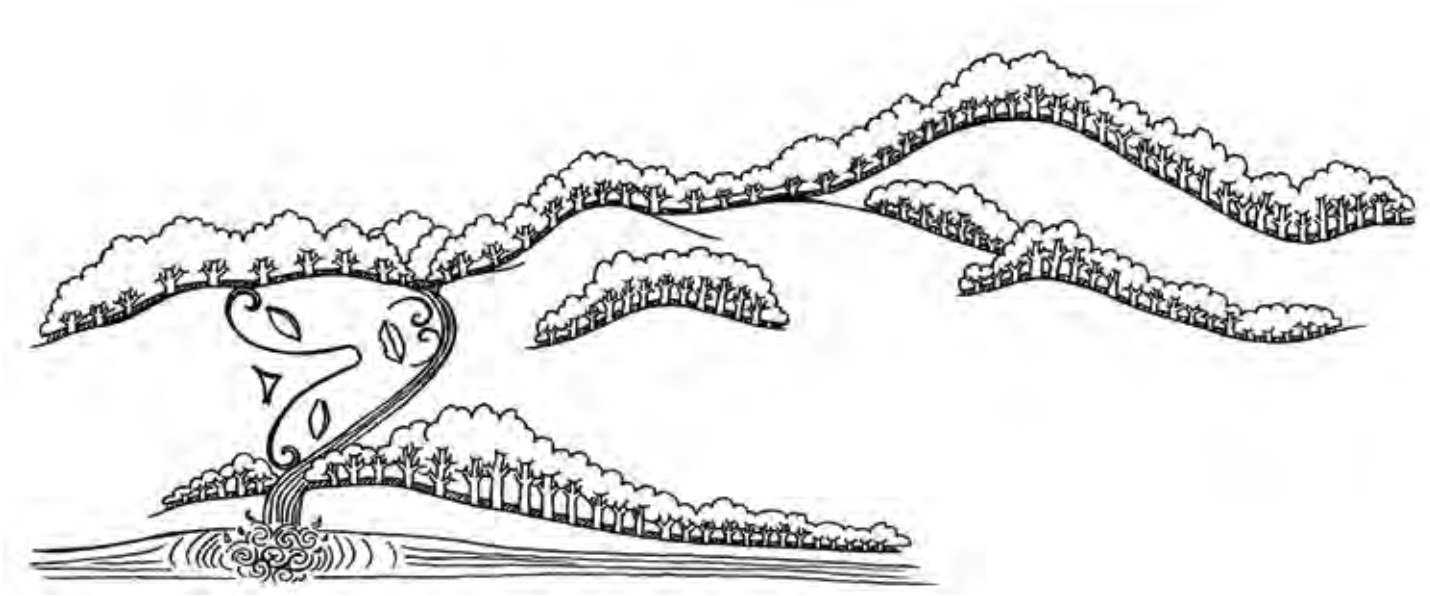
- Knowledge about a range of sustainability issues
- Skills in decision-making and planning
- Cooperative working skills
- Leadership and project management experience
- Whole school becomes a learning resource

Social and community benefits

- Reduction in bullying and anti-social behaviour
- Reduction in littering and vandalism
- Increased involvement of communities

Economic Benefits

- Financial savings
- Greater use of sustainable business practices
- Student entrepreneurship



What is a sustainable school?

Becoming a sustainable school is an ongoing process that develops and deepens over time. Each school develops its own approach based on these concepts:

Place/ Wāhi

- The school grounds demonstrate how ecosystems work
- The school buildings are designed to work with natural systems
- The buildings and grounds are a learning resource
- The whole school environment reflects the culture and heritage of its place and people

Practices/ Tikanga

- School policies and systems support environmentally friendly and sustainable practices
- Sustainability is a fundamental part of new staff recruitment
- Sustainability guides school budgeting
- Practices are monitored

Programmes/ Kaupapa Ako

- Students learn as they create a sustainable school community
- Sustainability is a core part of the formal curriculum
- Student-centred learning approaches are used
- The 'teacher' role becomes one of facilitating, learning and inquiry

People and Participation/ Tangata

- Decisions are made with the involvement of students
- The school has a whole school vision for sustainability
- There is a sense of belonging and ownership



Enviroschools Garden Tour at Maketū School

Guiding Principles of the Enviroschools Programme

Schools are encouraged to develop the guiding principles at their school.

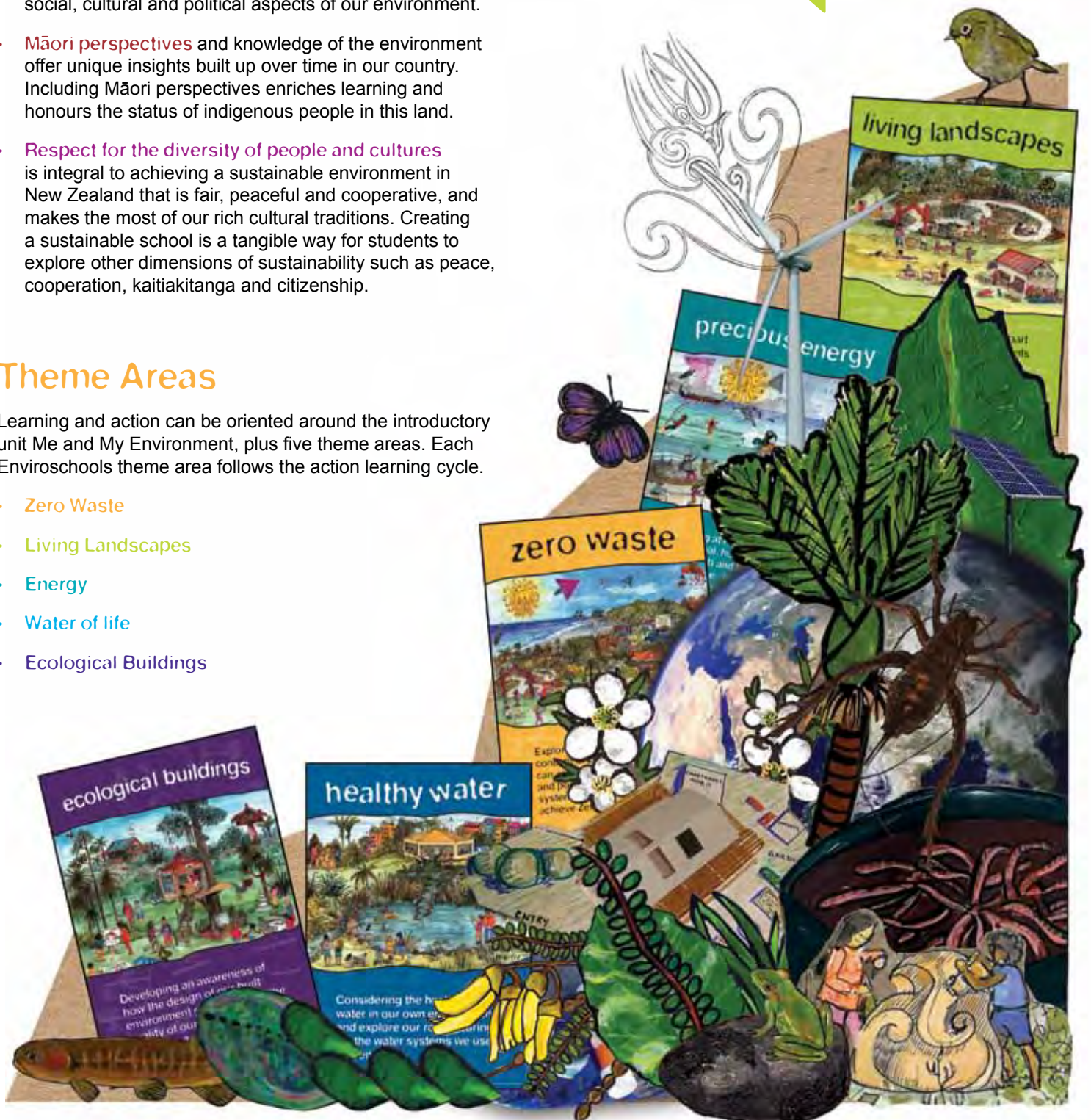
- **Empowered students**, means enabling students to participate in their own unique and creative perspective. This enriches decision-making and the design of the school environment, empowering children to be active environmental citizens for life.
- **Sustainable communities** act in ways that nurture people and nature, both now and in the future.
- **Learning for sustainability** is an action-focused approach to learning that engages us in the physical, social, cultural and political aspects of our environment.
- **Māori perspectives** and knowledge of the environment offer unique insights built up over time in our country. Including Māori perspectives enriches learning and honours the status of indigenous people in this land.
- **Respect for the diversity of people and cultures** is integral to achieving a sustainable environment in New Zealand that is fair, peaceful and cooperative, and makes the most of our rich cultural traditions. Creating a sustainable school is a tangible way for students to explore other dimensions of sustainability such as peace, cooperation, kaitiakitanga and citizenship.



Theme Areas

Learning and action can be oriented around the introductory unit Me and My Environment, plus five theme areas. Each Enviroschools theme area follows the action learning cycle.

- **Zero Waste**
- **Living Landscapes**
- **Energy**
- **Water of life**
- **Ecological Buildings**

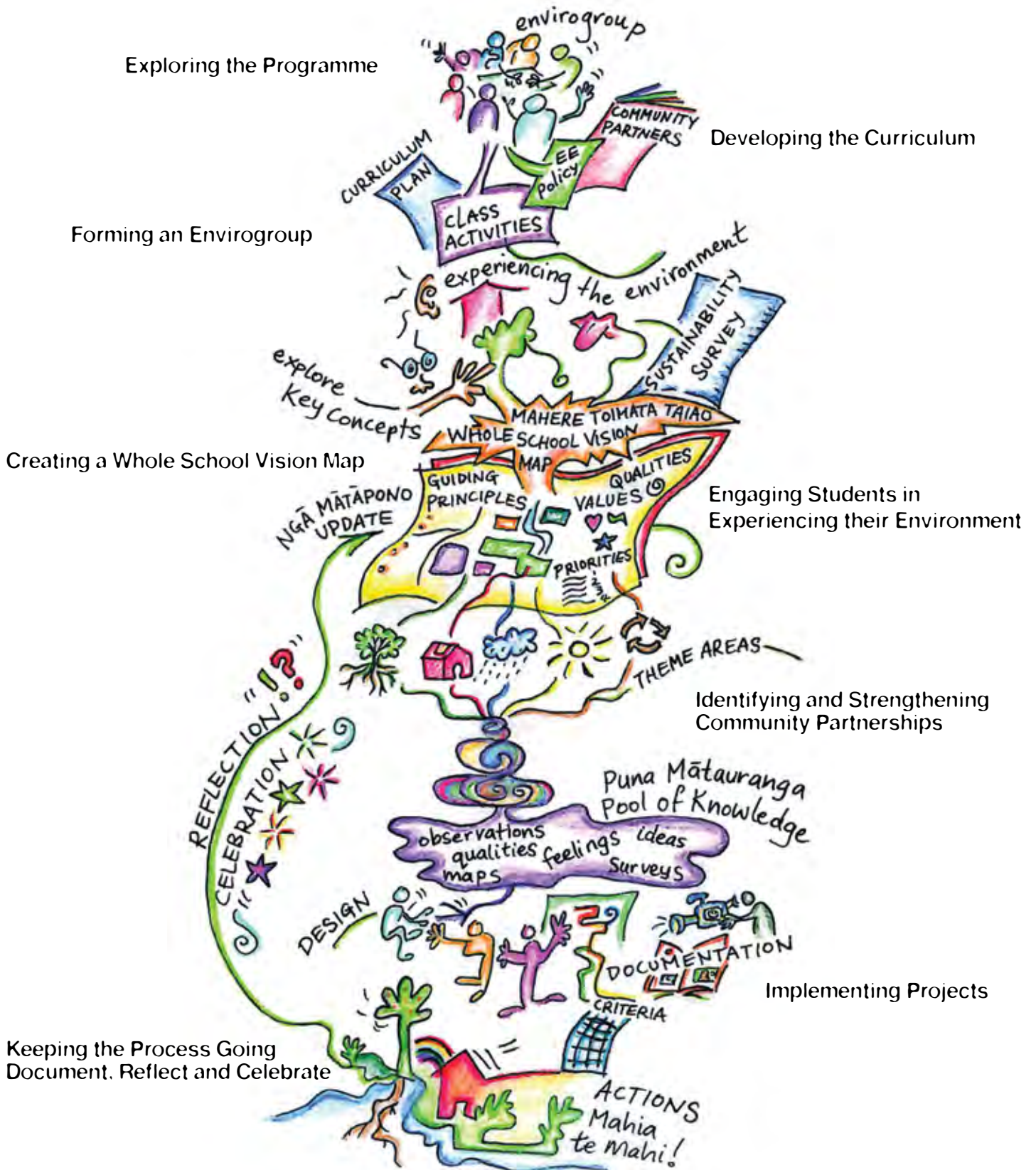


Overview of Key Tasks & Roles for the Enviroschools Programme

Role	Key Tasks
<p>Teachers/School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in a whole school approach. • Ensure the formation of an Envirogroup. • Plan ahead for Enviroschools professional development time. • Develop a long-term strategy to become a sustainable school (vision map, care codes, policies). • Support key staff/contacts (perhaps with some time and resources). • Participate in the regional Enviroschools events. • Keep documentation of all Enviroschools processes and activities (photos, curriculum plans, videos, media reports etc). • Send at least one representative to hui/ professional development.
<p>School Envirogroup</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steer the school process. • Support staff to develop EE in the curriculum. • Steer development of care code and EE policy. • Ensure consultation for development of whole schools vision map. • Ensure documentation of processes and projects.
<p>Facilitators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the school's staff over a 3 year period (including meetings, workshops, preparation and travel). • Book in at least 2 meetings per school at the beginning of their Enviroschools journey. • Organise and attend regional annual event for Enviroschools. • Encourage regular and frequent communication with the Envirogroup. • Facilitate reflection on the year's progress. • Assist with school's future planning.
<p>Regional Coordinator Funding Agency: Bay of Plenty Regional Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee coordination of funding partners and facilitators. • Provide up to three teacher release days for (Year 1-3) schools per year for Enviroschools' action/planning/ professional development • Organise invitation and presentation to interested new schools. • Update National coordinator with new school/facilitator details. • Organise facilitator team meetings. • Ensure organisation of an annual regional hui for Enviroschools.
<p>The Enviroschools Foundation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme development and promotion. • Facilitator professional development. • Regional support. • Evaluation and sharing of information. • Support Regional Coordinators.



Enviroschools Process



Become an Enviroschool

If you have some experience with environmental education, and want to make a long-term plan and sustainable changes with whole school involvement, curriculum development and student actions, the Enviroschools Programme is for you. Your school signs up for three years.

A trained Enviroschools facilitator will help guide, motivate and advise your school. They will also help you link with other people and organisations that have the expertise you may need.

What next?

Step 1

Meet with an Enviroschools facilitator

Find out what it means to be an Enviroschool and how the programme can be implemented into school life. Hear about the Bay of Plenty Enviroschools we already have.

Step 2

Talk to your staff and Board of Trustees

Step 3

Request an application form and submit it.

Step 4

If accepted, your school signs an agreement with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Enviroschools Foundation committing to the programme for three years.

Step 5

Lead teachers are appointed in the school who help coordinate all of staff meetings with the facilitator. The school receives a wide range of student-centred Enviroschools resources including the Enviroschools Kit, DVD, scrapbooks and handbook.



Students reflecting for their Silver at Selwyn School



Learning about energy through re-enacting the story of Maui taking fire from Mahuika, Pāpāmoa Coast Kindergarten

For more information

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Enviroschools Bay of Plenty is proudly sponsored by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, with support from Tauranga City Council and the Tauranga Region Kindergarten Association.

