



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

25 August 2010

Embargoed 5am

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS AND TAFES LEAD THE WAY

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, has today congratulated the 20 winners of the Education Department's Year of Learning for Sustainability Awards of Excellence.

The NSW Education Department declared 2010 the Year of Learning for Sustainability as a way of encouraging its schools, TAFEs and corporate offices to keep sustainability front of mind.

"Throughout the year, students, teachers and staff have been implementing new measures in order to live and work more sustainably," Ms Firth said.

"The Awards of Excellence recognise the most outstanding and innovative leadership on sustainability in NSW public schools, TAFEs and Education Department offices.

"The types of programs we have seen emerge throughout the year have been really inspiring - our schools and TAFEs are certainly leading the way when it comes to taking action.

"We have seen schools build and grow their own vegetable gardens, collect rainwater for use around the school, implement recycling programs and incorporate environmental sustainability into classroom lessons.

"TAFE Institutes have placed green skills at the forefront of their course offerings, partnering with industry and equipping students with the essential skills required for a sustainable workplace."

Ms Firth said the NSW Education Department is the largest education system in the southern hemisphere, with over 1.4 million students and more than 100,000 employees.

"Given the sheer size of the organisation, we have a real opportunity to influence change – we have a responsibility to lead by example, looking after our planet and to make sure we are aware of our daily impact on the environment.

The Year of Learning for Sustainability Awards of Excellence ceremony was held on 25 August, 2010 at TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute's Ryde College.

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The winners were:

Region	Recipient
Hunter / Central Coast	TAFE NSW - Hunter Institute, Hamilton Campus GSMART project
	Central Mangrove Public School Environmental achievers
Illawarra South East	TAFE NSW - Illawarra Institute, Yallah Campus Learning for sustainability... naturally
	Ulladulla High School Inspiration of a school and community to live more sustainably
New England	TAFE NSW – New England Institute, Gunnedah Campus General Education and Equity Services Growing Gunnedah project – TAFE Community Access Garden
	Narrabri Public School Sustainable garden project
North Coast Region	TAFE NSW – North Coast Institute, Kingscliff Campus 'Sustainability Advantage - Resource Efficiency'
	Karang Public School 'Learning for Sustainability, Learning for the Future'
Northern Sydney Region	TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute, Northern Beaches College 'Food to Energy'
	Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre Learning for Sustainability Video Conference Festival
Riverina	Griffith Public School Dirty Dozen Environmental Group
South Western Sydney	TAFE NSW - South Western Sydney Institute, Wetherill Park College Installation of solar battery charging system
	Bargo Public School BELA – Bargo's Environmental Learning Area
Sydney	TAFE NSW - Sydney Institute, Sutherland College – Loftus Campus Pulpmaster food waste recycling system
	Burraneer Bay Public School Promoting best practice in environmental education
Western Sydney	TAFE NSW - Western Sydney Institute, Blue Mountains College – Events Footbeat Festival
	Katoomba High School Mr Yates – 20 years of sustainability education
Western NSW	Neville Public School Environmental restoration and sustainability project
DET Corporate	Curriculum K-12 Directorate, Environmental Education Unit 'Climate Clever Energy Savers'
	Training and Education Support Directorate: Industry Skills Unit – Orange and Granville Education for Sustainability Teacher Induction Program / Skills for Sustainability Student induction Program

Over 100 initiatives were nominated for the awards.