

Supporting materials for embedding sustainability

The following pages offer these tools and templates:

- » the environmental footprint
- » the social handprint
- » worksheet on sustainability actions in my early childhood setting – environmental footprint
- » worksheet on sustainability actions in my early childhood setting – social handprint
- » calendar of dates related to sustainability.

You may find it helpful to print these resources in A3 size for group discussions and displays.

Ideas for using the environmental footprint and social handprint

- » Establish shared understandings about sustainability, its aspects and connections at staff and/or committee meetings.
- » Discuss and note staff members' skills and interests against each aspect of the footprint and handprint to identify your setting's strengths and knowledge gaps.
- » Reflect on current practices and/or brainstorm new ideas.
- » Use them as prompts for what to include in a sustainability policy or code of practice (eg, by writing a statement relating to each aspect of the footprint and handprint).
- » Talk with children about sustainability and the connections between aspects, perhaps noting some of their comments, questions or observations.
- » Create displays so families can see your approach to sustainability and the actions you're taking.

Where you are brainstorming and recording ideas related to the different aspects of the footprint and handprint, writing on sticky notes can be helpful so you can use the sheets again.

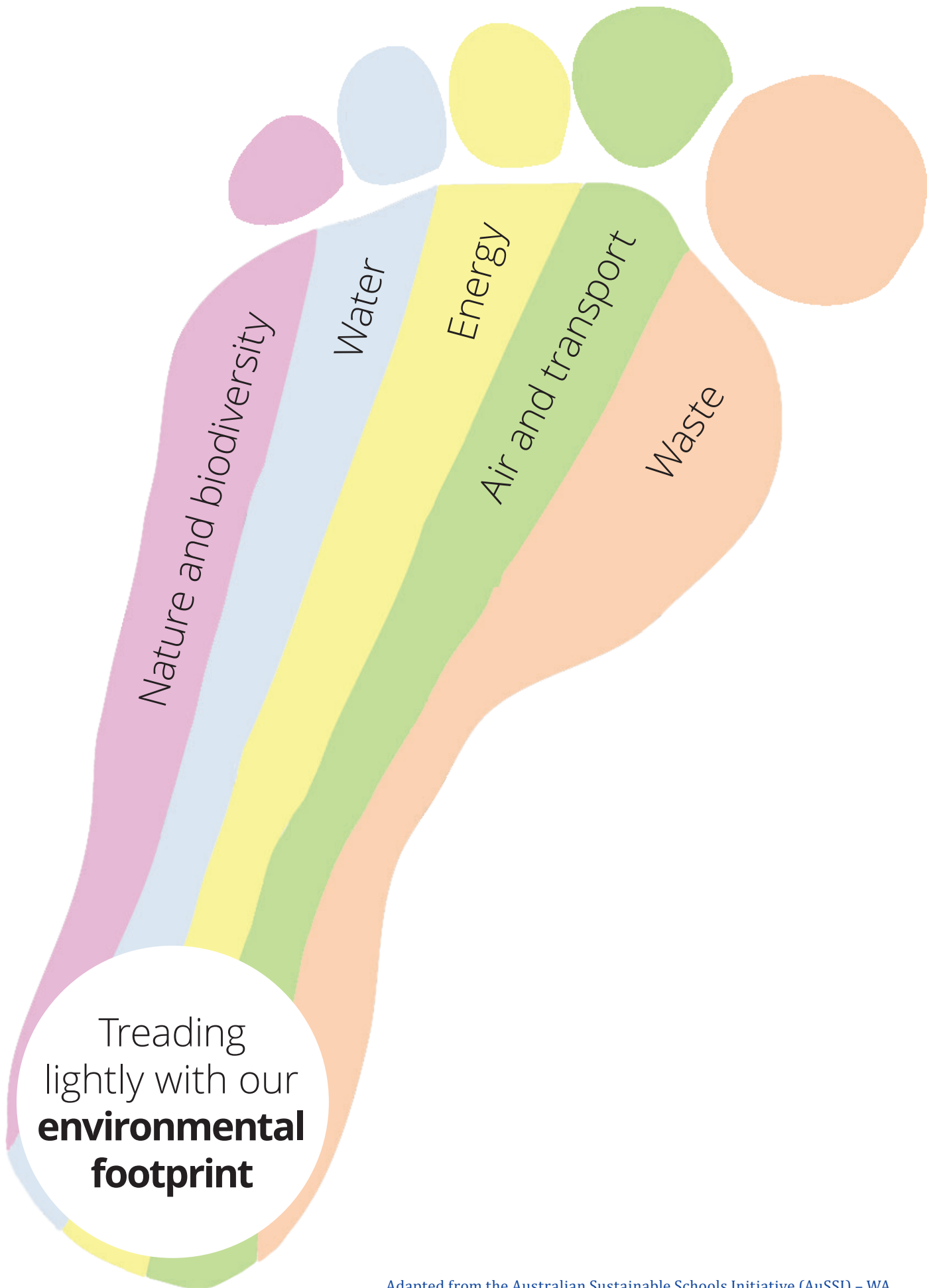
Ideas for using the sustainability actions worksheets

- » Reflect personally on what's relevant and appealing to you, and your ideas for new actions or initiatives.
- » Discuss and collate the interests, strengths and aspirations of your staff team and identify new areas to focus on.

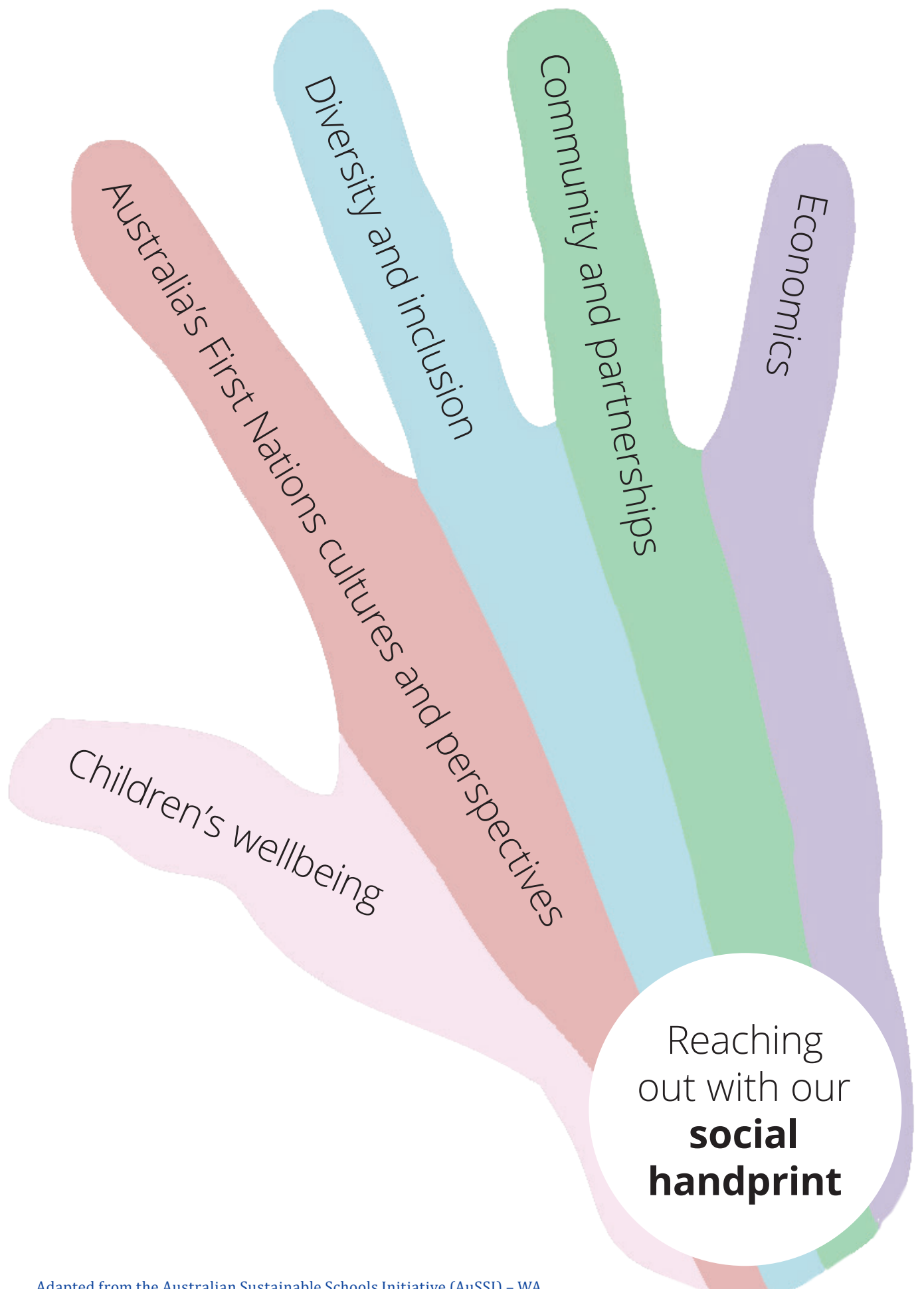
Ideas for using the calendar of dates

- » Watch for times when new resources and inspiration may become available.
- » Keep alert to opportunities to mark or celebrate significant dates or events in your setting and/or community.





Adapted from the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI) – WA



Adapted from the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI) - WA

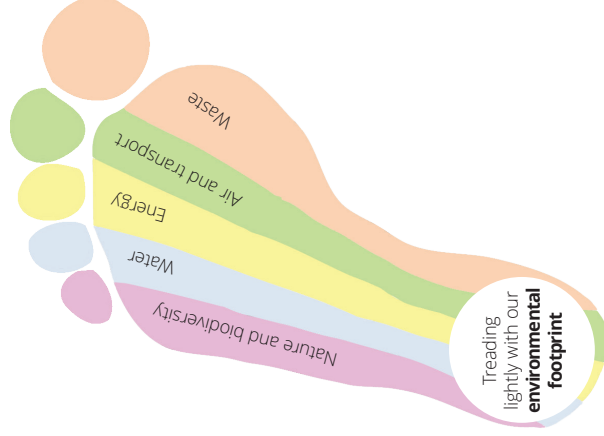
Sustainability actions in my early childhood setting

Protecting nature and biodiversity
What we're doing

What else is possible

Rethinking waste
What we're doing

What else is possible



Caring for water
What we're doing

What else is possible

Conserving energy
What we're doing

What else is possible

Sustainable approaches to air and transport
What we're doing

What else is possible

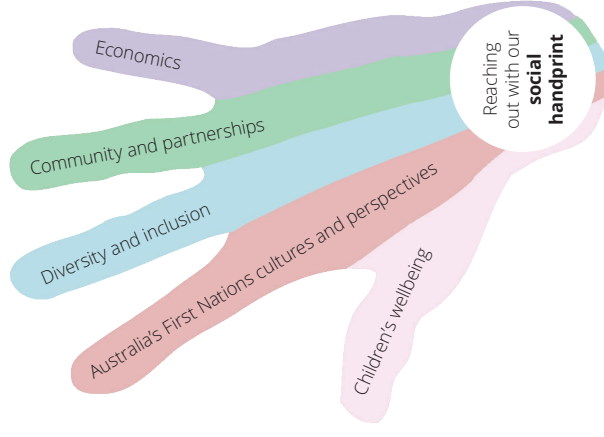
Sustainability actions in my early childhood setting

Nurturing children's wellbeing
What we're doing

What else is possible

Weighing up economic choices
What we're doing

What else is possible



Learning from First Nations cultures and perspectives
What we're doing

What else is possible

Valuing diversity and inclusion
What we're doing

What else is possible

Fostering community and partnerships
What we're doing

What else is possible

Calendar of dates related to sustainability

Many aspects of sustainability are recognised on particular local, national and international dates that can be useful markers to launch or support ongoing actions. At these times we might tap into new resources, find extra opportunities to involve families, develop new relationships in our communities, participate in events, access funding and make contributions to sustainability beyond our early childhood settings.

For entries below with no date, the exact date varies from year to year. Dates in dark red are of particular significance to Australia's First Nations Peoples, and offer times for everyone to learn and connect.

| | |
|--|--|
| January | July |
| 26 Invasion Day/Survival Day/Day of Mourning | 1 Coming of the Light |
| February | 11 World Population Day |
| 2 World Wetlands Day | 30 International Day of Friendship |
| 13 National Apology Day | First week NAIDOC Week |
| March | Plastic Free July |
| 3 World Wildlife Day | Clean Energy Week |
| 8 International Women's Day | National Tree Day |
| 21 International Day of Forests International Mother Language Day | August |
| 22 World Water Day | 4 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day |
| First Sunday Clean Up Australia Day | 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples |
| Third Thursday National Close the Gap Day | Keep Australia Beautiful Week |
| Last Saturday Earth Hour | National Science Week |
| Last Sunday Neighbours Day | September |
| National Ride2School Day | 1 National Wattle Day |
| Bike Week | 7 National Threatened Species Day |
| Harmony Week | 21 International Day of Peace |
| April | 22 World Car-free Day |
| 7 World Health Day | First Wednesday Indigenous Literacy Day |
| 22 Earth Day | First Friday Walk to Work Day |
| Australian Heritage Week | First two Sundays Sustainable House Day |
| May | Second Sunday National Bilby Day |
| 15 International Day of Families | Last Sunday World Rivers Day |
| 17 IDAHOBIT Day | World Parks Day |
| 21 World Day of Cultural Diversity | National Landcare Week |
| 22 International Biodiversity Day | Seaweed Week |
| 26 National Sorry Day | National Biodiversity Month |
| 27 Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum | October |
| 27 May to 3 June National Reconciliation Week | 1 World Habitat Day |
| Second weekend World Migratory Bird Day | 16 World Food Day |
| National Walk Safely to School Day | Children's Week |
| National Volunteer Week | Mental Health Week |
| June | National Organic Week |
| 3 Mabo Day | National Water Week |
| 5 World Environment Day | Buy Nothing New Month |
| 8 World Oceans Day | November |
| 20 World Refugee Day | National Recycling Week |
| 29 International Mud Day | December |
| International Children's Day | 3 International Day of People with Disability |
| | 10 Human Rights Day |
| | 11 International Mountain Day |
| | Coastcare Week |