



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: CERES

Tags; sustainability, model

Overview:

[CERES](#) (the Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies, pronounced 'series') is a fantastic example of a large-scale model of a sustainable society. Located on 10 acres of land on the banks of a creek in Melbourne, CERES runs on renewable energy, is a 55 tonne carbon sink, conserves and recycles its water and waste, grows organic food, and teaches diverse audiences about environmentally friendly ways of living. CERES hosts a range of participation-based sustainability initiatives which have gradually turned the area into a village-like environment.

The following initiatives are located on site: a nursery, organic farm, organic market, organic café, a variety of festival, events, school holiday programmes and workshops, an ecohouse, wormfarms, demonstrations of the latest green technologies, and a bicycle recycle workshop.

Education and training is a major part of the work CERES carries out, through site tours, excursions, workshops and school holiday programmes. CERES also runs a number of training programmes focussed on gaining employment such as the food programme aimed at new migrants. It also coordinates wider community initiatives such as food co-ops and the urban orchard (which involves people bringing surplus produce from their own homes to trade with others).

The concentration of a number of green initiatives and models on one site, that can be used for events, learning programmes, casual visits and dining out, has resulted in CERES becoming a "destination" where people can enjoy themselves and learn about green initiatives either as a casual visitor or in a more formal manner. It provides a place where people can see firsthand how they can reduce their environmental footprint in a number of ways (i.e. wormfarms, ecohouse, water conservation). It also provides a place where people can participate in green initiatives such as the urban orchard. Further, they have created a wide range of partnerships for specific projects, with government and non-government agencies.

Why is it relevant to PTS?

An excellent example of a large-scale physical model
Strong focus on environmental education
Cutting edge "green" water technologies
Fosters community gatherings focussed on environmentally friendly initiatives

Ideas and tips for PTS:



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Consider the development of a "site" for modelling green initiatives that could contribute to the environmental goals of PTS, ideally located near one, or more of the streams
Explore the feasibility of providing employment training opportunities for volunteers

Contact:

[CERES](#)