

Teach Your Students To Be  
**SUSTAINABLE  
KIWIS!**



**SUSTAINABILITY**

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# SUSTAINABILITY

It's everyone's responsibility!

Sustainability is the idea that every person takes responsibility for looking after the planet so that future generations will still have a healthy environment, economy and society to live in. No person, group or generation wants to be charged with ecocide. The way to avoid ecocide is to practise sustainability and sustainable development so that the environment, economy and society all flourish together and not at the expense of one another.

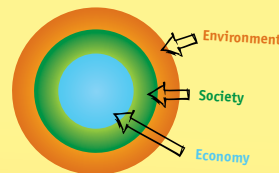
This book looks at what sustainability is and what it involves, and how it can help our planet. How our individual actions and consumption as a nation affect our planet are explained, along with how New Zealand is becoming more sustainable and how you can be a sustainable Kiwi.

'Making meaning' comprehension questions and 'Critical literacy' questions are included, along with activities and a glossary of terms at the end of the book.

Clear, easy-to-understand language and format.

## What does sustainability involve?

### Sustainability involves these three strands



Graphics, maps, tables and diagrams to help explain concepts.

**Economy** – the system of producing goods such as timber and services such as lawn mowing, distributing goods and services by sending them to various places, and consuming goods and services by using them. When Europeans first came to New Zealand, for example, they began to cut down the 1.2 million hectares of kauri forests they found for the timber to build all sorts of goods such as ships, masts, fences, barrels and bridges. Because kauri grew so slowly, and people made farms on the cleared land, the kauri forests did not grow again. Was the kauri industry practising sustainability? No. It was consuming the kauri resource without thinking about future generations of people wanting to use the same resource. Does today's timber industry practise sustainability? Yes. Instead...

## 5 What is sustainable energy and transport?

### What sort of energy does New Zealand use?

New Zealand has the choice of two types of energy.

#### Non-renewable (unsustainable)

This energy cannot be replaced or renewed.

If people keep using this energy at the same rate as people have used it in the past, it will eventually run out and there will be none for future generations.

Examples are coal, natural gas and oil. These are called fossil fuels because they come from fossils, which are plant and animal remains that have been in the ground for millions of years.



#### Renewable (sustainable)

This energy can be replaced or renewed. It is also known as alternative energy. People can keep using this energy and know, because it will not run out, that future generations will also be able to use it.

Examples are hydro from rivers, wind, geothermal from Earth's heat, solar from the Sun, and biogas from sewage treatment plants, farm waste and food processing.



## 6 What is sustainable food production?

### Should New Zealand have sustainable food production?

Sustainability is becoming a more important issue in New Zealand food production because the country is known as a food producer for many other countries. Overseas customers want to make sure their food comes from a place that looks after its environment and works to get sustainability, while overseas retailers want to provide consumers with information to show products are safe and sustainably-produced. New Zealand sells itself on its clean and green image, so it has to make sure nothing spoils that image. New Zealanders and green image, so it has to make sure nothing spoils that image. New Zealanders themselves are becoming more aware of where their food comes from and the impacts of food production on the environment. Monitoring and checking food for sustainability is becoming more reliable and common.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Workers in Ancient Egypt received daily rations of onions to give them strength while they built the pyramids.



New Zealand examples throughout.

AVAILABLE  
IN PACKS OF  
4 TITLES







