



GREEN PURCHASING POLICY



Rationale:

- The purpose of this **Green Purchasing Policy** is to provide a purchasing structure that will reduce **Winters Flat Primary School's** negative impact on the environment and human health and promote the sustainable use of resources. Winters Flat aims to do this by supporting all staff in selecting products that minimize waste, pollution, habitat loss, toxicity and soil degradation and maximum water efficiency. This policy aims to establish a green purchasing culture in our school's work environment.

Aims:

- Currently the **Principal and Administration Staff** are responsible for purchasing. Purchasing decisions need to *be made on the basis of environmental considerations and value for money, rather than just the cheapest up-front purchase price.* Our purchasing decisions can improve markets for environmentally preferred products, enhance environmental quality, be resource responsible and contribute to progress toward sustainability.

Guidelines:

- Winters Flat Primary School prefers to purchase environmentally preferred products whenever they perform satisfactorily and are available at a reasonable price. **Purchasing decisions shall be made in the context of the waste hierarchy to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle.**
- **AVOID** – Identifying ways of carrying out a function or task without using materials that generate waste. An example is sending information electronically instead of on paper.
- **REDUCE** – Using less in the first place and avoiding waste. Examples of this include purchasing in bulk to reduce packaging and the purchase of printing equipment that prints double sided copies.
- **REUSE** – Using the same item more than once, and extending the useful life of products and equipment before replacing an item. Aim to re-use or repair an existing product. Ensure that new purchases are durable, have a long service life and are easy to maintain and upgrade.
- **RECYCLE** – Purchasing products that contain recycled materials or those that have or can be re-manufactured or recycled.
- Winters Flat Primary School will minimize greenhouse gas emissions, habitat destruction, toxicity, soil degradation and maximize water efficiency by purchasing:
- Energy efficient products and materials by checking that the energy rating and efficiency features are the best available for the cost over the lifetime of the product;

- Renewable energy and reduce the purchase of fossil fuels;
- Goods that are produced locally in preference to those that have high kilometers associated with them.
- Paper and wood products obtained from post-consumer recycled, plantation, salvaged or renewable sources as well as being FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) approved.
- Green cleaning products that don't result in discharges of toxic chemicals to waterways.
- Materials and products that are free of toxic or polluting materials;
- Products and materials that will not release toxic substances that can affect human health and pollute water, land or air at any stage of their life cycle.
- Products that conserve water or use water in an efficient way.
- Products, materials and services that will not degrade or pollute the soil, or result in erosion through their use.

Objectives:

The objectives of this Green Purchasing Policy are to:

- **A.** Eliminate unnecessary purchasing;
- **B.** Reduce our impact on the environment;
- **C.** Reduce our impact on human health;
- **D.** Create a better market for environmentally preferred products;
- **E.** Develop a green purchasing culture throughout our school.

Implementation:

To achieve the above objectives, **Winters Flat Primary School** will:

- **A.** Establish a staff education program to raise awareness about this policy;
- **B.** Ensure that all staff, where appropriate, have access to information on environmentally preferred products;
- **C.** Require that all contractors and consultants are aware of the current purchasing policy and green purchasing options and work with our school community to meet the objectives of the Green Purchasing Policy within their contracts;

- **D.** Actively promote environmental purchasing to the community.

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- **B.** Ensure that all staff, where appropriate, have access to information on environmentally preferred products;
- **C.** Require that all contractors and consultants are aware of the current purchasing policy and green purchasing options and work with our school community to meet the objectives of the Green Purchasing Policy within their contracts;
- **D.** Actively promote environmental purchasing to the community.
- **E.** Encourage staff to find and share information about recycled and environmentally preferable products and specifications;
- **F.** Encourage innovativeness among staff for environmental purchasing.
- Our school will refer to the Australian Green Procurement Websites for more details on specific products when considering new purchases.
- Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) www.geca.org.au/products/search
- Ecospecifier www.ecospecifier.com.au/products.aspx
- ECO-Find www.ecobuy.org.au/director/ecofind.cfm?findagreenproduct=keywords&s=f
- Sustainable Choice www.lgsa.org.au/sustainablechoice/

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council

Oct 2014