



SUSTAINABILITY

POLICY



Rationale:

- At Winters Flat Primary School, a continued exploration and improvement of environmentally sustainable practices is embedded in our School Curriculum and reflected in the 2014 School Strategic Plan. We believe that fostering a positive attitude and appreciation of sustainable environmental practice is vital to the development of our students and complements our school motto – Care for Self, Care for Others and Care for Environment.

Aims:

- To develop **an environmentally conscious culture** at Winters Flat Primary School and its surrounding community.
- To improve **biodiversity** by increasing our school's **habitat quality index score as close to 75 as possible** by planting indigenous species of plants and increasing the habitat area for local and indigenous wildlife.
- To reduce the amount of **energy** through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources: **Electricity - 250kWh per student per year Gas - 0.9GJ per student per year Greenhouse Gas - 0.4 tonnes CO2 per student per year.**
- To minimise **landfill waste output to 0.3m3 per student per year** and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To minimise the consumption of mains **water to 4KL per student per year** through the improvement of plumbing systems and water conservation programs.
- To introduce '**green purchasing**' procedures for the school community in order to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

Guidelines:

- **Curriculum** delivery will incorporate elements of sustainability at all year levels using our Whole School Cross Curriculum Priorities Scope & Sequence (please see attached).
- The school will engage in **daily sustainable practices** that incorporate environmentally-friendly behaviours by utilising systems e.g. recycle bins, standby/shutdown systems.
- The school will lead the **community** by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.
- The **ResourceSmart Online** will be utilised to measure progress in reaching our targets, as well as completing modules in the Resource Smart AuSSI Vic framework. Examples of implementation will be provided in the comments on each ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic checklist in ResourceSmart Online to serve as a progressive action plan. Results from each audit will be added to 'Annual (Baseline) Data'.

Implementation:

- The school will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events. Student learning will focus on taking action within the school and wider community, utilising the Junior School Council and other student leaders.
- The school will support an active sustainability (ResourceSmart) co-ordination team that involves School Council, staff, student leadership, students and parents. Student leadership will be established at the beginning of the school year through the Junior School Council and will continue working towards our goals. Senior students will be involved in the input of data online, auditing of school operations and equipment, analysis and contribute to policy and behaviour change.
- The Business Manager will forward information about billing to the ResourceSmart team to allow input and updating of water, energy, waste and other resource usage.

Biodiversity:

- Undertake habitat assessments to gather information about biodiversity and identify areas for improvement.
- Encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences e.g. curriculum, excursions and school camps.
- Enhance the school vegetable garden program, through the continuation of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.
- Continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard in order to support local flora and fauna.
- Showcase native and indigenous gardens as model to the school and wider community.

Energy:

- Undertake energy audits to gather information about energy usage and identify areas for improvement.
- Develop a program that promotes sustainable transport (e.g. walk-to-school) and undertake audits to measure improvement.
- Include the whole school community in the process of developing an 'Energy Efficient' school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available.
- Develop a program that promotes sustainable transport e.g. walk-to-school.
- Increase the use of carbon neutral energy sources.

Waste:

- Continue to support our 'Care for Areas', where each class is assigned to a zone of the school grounds.
- Continue to promote our school wide 'Nude Food Policy', and encourage those students who bring rubbish to take it home with them.
- Junior School Council students will be leading the 'Kooka Awards' to encourage sustainable practises at weekly assemblies.

- Undertake waste and litter audits to gather information and identify areas for improvement.
- Include the whole school community in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school through the principles of 'Rethink/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'.
- Minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling and composting (e.g. rubbish free lunches, recycling bins, compost buckets and worm farms).

Water:

- Undertake water audits to gather information about usage and identify areas for improvement.
- Appreciate water as a precious natural resource.
- Involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water (e.g. water tanks for flushing toilets).
- Continue to work with community programs (e.g. Coliban Water) to allow the students to partake in incursions, excursions and competitions about Environmental Education.

Green Purchasing:

- Refer to Green Purchasing Policy.

Evaluation:

- The Annual Program Budget review will provide recommendations which may be used to affect policy change in future.
- Staff and community feedback will be sought to review the policy.
- The School Council and Sustainability Program Co-ordinators will annually review whether the school is reaching its environment targets, as outlined in 'Goals'.

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