

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

RATIONALE:

Barwon Heads Primary School aims to become a Sustainable School by reducing our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives.

AIMS:

Energy

To control energy consumption to avoid unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy; educate students, staff and whole community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services.

Waste

To continue the development of a Waste Wise ethic (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) within the whole school community; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment.

Biodiversity

To improve our outdoor natural environment, by planting native trees that are conducive to our environment; develop our vegetable gardens through active student, staff and community participation and maintenance: using natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment.

Water

To encourage the school community to reduce water usage; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource.

GUIDELINES

Energy

- Reduce the use of energy consumption within the school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an Energy Efficient school.
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Make energy efficient choices when developing infrastructure in the school.
- Make changes to infrastructure to convert some fluorescent lights to LED based on evidence collected in our 2013 energy audit.
- Maintain records of energy consumption within the school to monitor usage.

Waste

- To minimise rubbish and recycle our waste throughout the school, as much as possible, on a daily basis.
- To include the school community in the process of developing a Waste Wise school.
- Students to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner.
- To promote nude food and reward those who participate regularly.
- To develop and maintain a worm farm and compost system.

Biodiversity

- To develop a master plan for future grounds/garden development.
- To utilise our garden area to its full extent.
- To involve community members in maintenance of school grounds.
- For each year level to have ownership in the upkeep of an area of school grounds.
- Planting native trees and plants that are conducive to our environment;
- Develop our vegetable gardens through active student, staff and community participation
- Use natural and recycled materials that reduce the impact on the environment.

Water

- To reduce the water consumption within the school.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives.
- Educate the school community on ways to reduce water usage indoors and outdoors;
- Plant drought tolerant shrubs, trees, flora and grasses.

<i>AIMS AND TARGETS</i>

We aim to achieve the following goals and targets over the next three years:

1. To improve aesthetics of the school grounds and biodiversity.
 2. To reduce paper usage by 15%.
 3. To reduce water consumption by 15%.
 4. To reduce energy consumption by 25%.
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IMPLEMENTATION:

We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into all areas of the curriculum and instilling a sense of ownership of and pride in improving the environment. We will lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity

CURRICULUM FOCUS

There will be an environmental focus incorporated into the inquiry unit across all year levels.

Energy

- To promote a 'switch off and save' policy for technological equipment, lighting and heating/cooling.
- Students to engage in units of work relating to energy.
- Students will investigate the best ways to conserve energy.
- Regular layer day announcements to reduce the need for heating and cooling.
- Students understand how energy is created and sustainable energy consumption.

Waste

- To assign students to dispose of waste and recycled products daily in the appropriate manner.
- To assign students to monitor rubbish free lunches and each term award the class who has the most rubbish free lunches.
- For monitors to collect food waste daily and transfer it to the compost bin.
- For students to dispose of paper into recycling bins.
- Use recycled paper for printers, photocopiers.
- Promote the reuse principle of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office.

Biodiversity

- Consult local community members on ways to improve our garden (e.g. Where to plant, what to plant, eg Barwon Coast).
- Involve community members in planting and maintaining our gardens.
- Engage students and staff in the maintenance of our gardens.
- To grow and harvest a range of vegetables/herbs to be utilised in cooking classes.

Water

- To promote a 'water-wise turn off' policy.
- Students to engage in units of work relating to water conservation.
- To assign students to monitor water usage and report wastage.
- Plant trees and plants that require minimal watering.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We will encourage community participation in environmental projects undertaken, as well as, invite parents or other members of the community with expertise to help maintain and improve our school environment. We will also promote sustainable living through educating the school community through our students.

RESPONSIBILITY/ COMMUNICATION

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing these programs. The Environment committee in conjunction with the Principal will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program to the whole school community, through school newsletters and the annual review. The parties involved will provide reports to staff and School Council outlining the goals, aims, costing, savings and other relevant issues. Each of the programs will be subject to annual review by school staff, student and School Council.

ACTION PLAN

Our Sustainable Schools Four Year Plan outlines the four resource modules we will undertake over the next four years; these are 'Core', 'Energy', 'Waste' and 'Water'.

TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING

When the Sustainability Coordinator reports to the School Council when necessary, they will provide feedback on sustainability practices within the school community. They will report on the

triple bottom line; that is, the social, economic and environment impact of school sustainability practices.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review cycle

This policy was last ratified by school Council: May 2015