

Sustainability Policy

Dorset Primary School



Declaration of Commitment

As part of Dorset Primary School's environmental commitment we will endeavour to practice Waste Wise initiatives, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, increase biodiversity in the school gardens and encourage community practice in sustainability. We will include the environmental plan in all curriculum levels, creating a stimulating learning program, engaging students in multi-sensual experiences.

Policy

1. Waste

To continue the development of a Waste Wise ethic within the whole school community; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; to practice waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle; ensure the school undertakes green purchasing; and to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.

2. Energy

To control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment; 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 and to conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption.

3. Biodiversity

To improve our outdoor natural environment; by planting trees that are conducive to our environment; upgrading the play areas and making them environmentally friendly; using natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment; to educate the school community about incorporating biodiversity in our every day school life.

4. Water

To prompt actions that will reduce water usage; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; to plant trees that are conducive to our environment and don't need much water; to educate the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors and to conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption.

Objectives

1. Waste:

- > to minimize and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
- > to use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste
- > to minimize the waste created by the canteen by using recyclable packaging
- > to compost food waste or to supplement feed the chickens
- > to maintain compost heaps for gardening waste and compost bins for class waste
- > to reduce the amount of paper in the school by recycling and reusing it before it gets emptied into the recycle bin
- > Ensure green purchasing of cleaning products, stationery and other school supplies
- > to reduce the cost of 'skip' pick-up
- > to reuse garden waste as mulch; and
- > to include the students and staff in the process of developing a Waste Wise school

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2. Energy:

- > reduce the costs of energy consumption within our school
- > use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- > reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we create to create a healthier impact on the environment
- > choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available; and
- > to include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school

3. Biodiversity:

- > to use our garden plan for development of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program
- > to create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy
- > to choose materials that have less impact on the environment
- > for each Unit to have ownership of an area in the school; and
- > to include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school

4. Water:

- > to reduce the costs of water consumption within our school
- > to use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- > choose the most effective means of conserving water i.e. connect toilets to water tanks
- > to involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives

Aims and Targets

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

- > increase biodiversity in the school ground by 10%
- > reduce indoor waste by 10% - 50%, and reduce yard litter by 50%
- > reduce water consumption by 10%; and
- > reduce energy consumption by 10%

Plan for Program Implementation

Curriculum Focus:

Students in the school will be involved in the planning and decision-making of environmentally focused units, as part of the bi-annual and tri-annual plan.

Energy:

- > to promote a 'switch off' policy for equipment, lighting and heating that is not being used
- > to re-invest savings made through conserving energy; and
- > students to engage in units of work relating to energy

Waste:

- > for compost monitors to collect waste daily and transfer it to the compost heap/ chickens
- > for each class to dispose of paper into the recycle bin
- > to promote the reuse principle of paper in the classroom, staff room and office areas
- > to use recyclable paper for photocopying; and
- > to maintain a designated outdoor eating area, so as to keep rubbish in one area

Biodiversity:

- > to conduct an inspection of the school grounds to determine which areas require attention
- > to have 'working bees' in order to get school community involved in developing our school grounds

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- > to consult with the school gardener about the best trees to plant in our environment
- > visit other 'Sustainable Schools' who have adopted the biodiversity module, to gain ideas for developing our school grounds
- > to consult with local businesses about the most effective and environmentally friendly materials to use
- > engage students and staff in the development of the biodiversity program; and
- > to grow and harvest plants for consumption in the SAKG program.

Water:

- > to promote a 'water-wise/turn off' policy for plumbing fixtures
- > to re-invest savings made through conserving water i.e. install dual flush cisterns
- > Students to engage in units of work relating to water; and
- > to plant trees that require minimal watering

Community Involvement

We will encourage community participation in all projects undertaken, as well as, invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve our school environment.

Responsibilities / Communication

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing the above programs. The various committees, including the Sustainable Solutions Group and Junior School council and the principal, will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program to the whole school community, through Newsletters and local media. The parties involved will provide reports to staff and School Council outlining the goals, aims, costing, savings and other issues relating to the above programs. Each of the programs will be subject to annual review by the school staff, students and School Council.

Action Plan

The five resource modules we will undertake over the next three years. They are **Core, Biodiversity, Waste, Water** and **Energy** in order to obtain 5Star Accreditation as a Resource Smart AussiVic school.

October, 2013