

Authorisation

The policy was re adopted at Williamstown Primary School Council meeting on 17 August 2004.

Review date

This policy shall be reviewed in 2008 and updated if required.

Rationale

The Sustainable Schools Program is an initiative aimed at increasing environmental awareness, changing attitudes and implementing sustainable practices that contribute toward the protection and sustainability of the environment. By setting and meeting goals and targets we aim to conserve energy, minimise waste and water usage and provide for the conservation of biodiversity within the school and its wider community. We endeavour to do more in the environment, about the environment and for the good of the environment!

Guidelines

- Through an innovative educational program, integrate environmental sustainability across the curriculum and in the daily operations of the school.
- Involve the whole school and wider community in setting achievable goals and targets for:
 1. Reducing non-renewable Energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions
 2. Water conservation
 3. Waste and litter minimisation and recycling
 4. Biodiversity
- Maintain and/or improve on agreed outcome targets in subsequent years
- Reduce the costs to the school for waste disposal, cleaning, water and energy charges
- Where appropriate, build agreed targets into the Master Plan for the grounds, that will improve the image and appearance of the school
- Enable school community members to plan and implement positive changes that make a difference to the management and sustainability of the wider environment

Implementation

- Planned inclusion of energy, water, waste and biodiversity elements in Integrated Studies Curriculum Units at all levels within the school
- Regular communication with the wider school community about sustainability issues affecting the school through newsletters, meetings, committees and special projects and events etc
- Daily practice of sustainability, for example, the routine usage of lunch boxes to eliminate excessive wrapping waste, the recycling of one-side printed computer or photocopy paper for re-use school wide
- Progressive fitting of energy-efficient appliances and water-saving devices, for example, low energy usage light globes, timer-controlled drinking taps and dual flush toilets.
- Reorganisation of waste recycling into more precise collection units, for example, aluminium, glass, card/paper etc and to create ways to reuse as much as possible within the school community
- Consideration of the installation of rainwater and drinking trough runoff collection systems to use for toilet flushing and garden watering, for example, water tank/s, pump/s, pipes and hoses.

- Manufacturing of compost and mulch for use on reorganised, water-efficient gardens, for example, by using a daily food scrap collection for recycling to compost bins and worm farms and the regular gathering of other vegetation waste for composting and/or mulching
- Systematic monitoring and repair of leaking taps and toilet cisterns, etc.
- Educating and promoting the whole school community about unnecessary usage of lighting, heating and cooling systems
- Program Implementation Timeline:
 - 2004 – Energy Module
 - 2005 – Water Module
 - 2005 – Waste Module
 - 2005 – Biodiversity Module

Evaluation

- Evidence of sustainability elements present in curriculum planning documents, classroom programs and student's knowledge and positive behaviours
- The meeting of staged sustainability outcome targets for the reduction of non-renewable energy, water usage and waste.
- Budget reduction in costs to the school for the provision of waste disposal, energy and water usage
- Improved appearance of the school environment as evidenced from 'before and after' photographic records