



# Carrum Primary School 3385

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## **Sustainability Policy**

### **Rationale:**

To help to promote an environmentally conscious school that engages in a range of sustainable practices wherever possible.

### **Aims:**

- To minimise waste produced by the school going to landfill and increase the percentage of material that is reused and recycled
- To decrease the amount of energy that the school uses through greater efficiency and better practices, and to ensure that the energy that is consumed comes from carbon neutral sources
- To increase the biodiversity of the school by planting indigenous species where possible and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife
- To minimise the consumption of mains water at the school and to utilise other sources such as tank and storm water to assist in this reduction.

### **Implementation:**

The School will:

- Facilitate and encourage the implementation of a range of strategies to reduce resource use and increase our biodiversity
- Provide the necessary funding to implement these strategies on an ongoing basis
- Encourage community participation in our environmental projects and strategies and encourage similar strategies to be undertaken at home
- Apply best environmental practice and principles to the design, construction and operation of all new buildings enabling high levels of energy efficiency and sustainability to be achieved
- Utilise water conservation measures to decrease our reliance upon the State System and harvest and monitor usage of our own rainwater system – tanks, collecting excess runoff, recycling where possible, etc

Teacher will:

- Ensure that the objectives outlined above are incorporated into the curriculum to ensure that all children understand the important of sustainability
- Encourage children to become more environmentally aware and actively involved in sustainable activities
- Model appropriate sustainable practices to the children at school
- Assist with the litter reduction, water, paper and energy conservation through habitual practices

Parents will:

- Support the objectives and strategies outlined in this policy
- Model appropriate sustainable practices to the children

- Encourage children to become more environmentally aware and actively involved in sustainable activities

Students will:

- Participate in all activities and strategies that help to increase the school's sustainability
- Become actively involved in, or support, the practices and activities of the School Green Team
- Assist with litter reduction, water, paper and energy conservation through habitual practices
- Support and encourage their parents to adopt similar sustainable practices at home

### **Attached Documents**

- Appendix A – Specific Strategies and Targets
- Appendix B – Green Procurement Guidelines

### **Evaluation:**

The policy will be evaluated bi-annually by teachers and parents by observing whether the objectives of the policy are being met through the school program and observations of student behaviours

**This policy was ratified by School Council on 16/05/2017  
Due for review May 2019**

## **Appendix A – Specific Strategies and Targets for 2016 – 2019**

- Continue our participation in the AUSSI Vic Resource Smart School Modules (Core, Waste, Energy, Water, Biodiversity)
- Utilise the grants available under the National Solar Schools Program and the Victorian Solar Schools Program to create an Interactive Solar power system at school, as well as energy efficient lighting, and blackout blinds on the northern and western windows
- Utilise the interactive nature of the Solar Power system to ensure students learn how our energy is produced and used and incorporate this into Curriculum Units
- Maintain the school's vegetable gardens, farmlet and wetlands to promote good environmental practices and to allow children to experience the links between growing and eating food, animal husbandry and biodiversity
- Plan, build and maintain a Habitat Garden in the school's grounds to increase the school's biodiversity and to add an important teaching area to promote sustainability
- Continue the operation of the Green Team where all classes are represented to promote student participation in good environmental practices
- Maintain links with the Sustainable Schools Network which fosters links between local school, the council and the broader community
- Reduce our use of paper, using email, interactive whiteboards, projectors and whiteboards rather than printing and photocopying
- Monitor the use of photocopier paper and encourage all staff to reduce their usage of this paper, by using double sided sheets, grey scaling, laminating for reuse, and reduction to fit more information on each page
- Establish paper free days where the school activities are completed with no use of paper (as in handouts)
- Continue to provide facilities for recycling of all recyclable waste
- Incorporate Sustainability into the school's Annual Implementation Plan through the development of Curriculum Units
- Rubbish-free lunch days to become more regular and then mandatory every day
- Participation in World Environment Day activities each year.

Please also refer to our Strategic Environment Management Plan (SEMP) which sets out our specific targets and objectives for the next 4 years. (Under construction)

## **Appendix B – Green Procurement Guidelines**

Whenever possible and practical the school will purchase the following:

- 100% recycled paper products
- Recycled and sustainable products for student supplies
- 100% renewable energy (green power) to supplement the solar power produced at school
- Low energy lighting (Fluorescent and LED)
- Natural cleaning products with lower quantities of chemical additives
- Computers with energy compliance and an end of life recycling program
- Timber and building products from sustainable sources or timber alternatives e.g. Modwood

Whenever possible and practical the school will avoid the following:

- Products which are harmful to the environment or whose production process is harmful to the environment or not sustainable

Refer to the Australian Green Procurement Website for more details on specific products

[www.greenprocurement.org](http://www.greenprocurement.org)