



1. BACKGROUND

Williamstown Primary School has a firm commitment to environmental sustainability. To date, the School has undertaken and promoted various activities with the overall aim of creating a better world for all species on Earth and future generations of these species.

2. PURPOSE

The aim of this policy is to:

- clearly articulate the School's commitment to environmental sustainability,
- explain how the School will implement various activities and initiatives related to environmental sustainability, and
- develop and ensure the ongoing existence of an eco-friendly culture at Williamstown Primary School and its surrounding community.

3. DEFINITIONS

"School" means Williamstown Primary School.

4. PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Commitment

As part of our commitment to environmental sustainability we:

- build an understanding of sustainability principles and practices of both students and staff, e.g. through recycling, water conservation.
- develop and implement relevant curriculum to reflect key issues around sustainability, e.g. Grade 5/6 Unit – Think Global-Act Local.

Furthermore, we are committed to reducing our resource usage and increasing biodiversity. To demonstrate this commitment the School:

- reuses and recycles as much material as possible, e.g. use of co-mingled recycling bins, double sided printing and paper use.
- reduces energy use through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources, e.g. solar panels, switching lights off when not in use.
- maintains the biodiversity and habitat quality score of the school grounds, e.g. planting indigenous species.
- aims to minimise the consumption of mains water through the improvement of plumbing systems and water conservation programs, e.g. our use of water tanks for flushing toilets.

4.2 Implementation

- The School implements a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events, such as Nude Food days and Green Day. Teaching and learning will focus on taking action within the School and wider community.
- The School engages in daily sustainable practices that incorporate eco-friendly behaviours, e.g. recycle bins, water tanks, solar panels.
- The School demonstrates and promotes to the community sound practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develops the School grounds to promote biodiversity.

- The School has a belief that implementing sustainable practices is a shared responsibility which rests with all key groups within the school community, including School Council, staff, student leadership, students and families.

4.3 Waste

- The whole school community is involved in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' School through the principles of 'Rethink/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle', e.g. Nude Food lunches, reuse and recycling of scrap paper.
- Landfill waste is minimised, e.g. rubbish free lunches and recycling bins.
- The School strives to maintain litter-free grounds through clean up days three times each week with dedicated time and resources.

4.4 Energy

- Resources and equipment are used as efficiently as possible.
- The most appropriate energy saving methods available are chosen, e.g. energy efficient lighting.
- The Walk/Ride to School Program which promotes sustainable transport, is fully supported.

4.5 Biodiversity

- An appreciation of the natural environment is encouraged through hands-on learning experiences e.g. curriculum, excursions and school camps.
- The School encourages student participation in a gardens program from which home-grown vegetables are sold.
- The School is committed to increasing biodiversity in the School yard in order to support local flora and fauna, e.g. planting indigenous species.

4.6 Water

- Water is acknowledged as a precious natural resource and appreciated as such.
- The School is involved in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives.
- Water resources and equipment are used as efficiently as possible.
- Water tanks for flushing toilets are used as a means of conserving water.

4.7 Green Purchasing

- Post-consumer recycled paper or carbon-neutral paper is purchased for printers and photocopiers.
- Environmentally-friendly paper alternatives for items like toilet paper, hand towels, tissues and serviettes are purchased.
- Furniture and equipment made from second hand or a recycled material is used wherever possible.
- Environmentally friendly products, e.g. for cleaning, are encouraged.

5. REVIEW AND POLICY HISTORY

This policy is due for formal review in June 2017 although it may be changed at any time as required after discussion with School Council and the Principal.

Policy History:

Version Approval Date	Summary of Changes
June 2013	New policy

June 2014

Update