

Environmental Sustainability Policy

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Supersedes	N/A new Policy
Next Review Date	September 2024
Policy Owner	Finance Director
Policy Authoriser	Head

POLICY

The College is committed to reducing its ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practices throughout its sites. The aim is to be a leader in the community by having exemplary practices in water and energy usage, waste management and to seek opportunities to promote biodiversity within its grounds; the College is a proud participant in the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative.

Curriculum programs will assist students in understanding the relationship between humans, living things and the natural environment; by involving students in sustainable practices and encouraging them to become responsible local and global citizens, it will instill in them a sense of ownership and pride in improving the environment.

The College will ensure appropriate resources are provided to comply with this Policy and strive for continuous improvement.

COMMUNITY

The College will encourage community participation in environmental projects undertaken, as well as invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve the school environment.

Whole of school events will be organised, such as, Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day.

COMMUNICATION

The College will actively promote its sustainability measures and achievements, including but not limited to: on its website, reports to staff and the Board, discussed at assemblies, in Newsletters.

COMMITMENT

The College is proud to embrace a culture focusing on the following sustainability areas:



WATER



ENERGY



BIODIVERSITY



WASTE

The College endeavours to:

- Reduce water consumption and to appreciate water as a precious natural resource.
- Minimise energy consumption and reduce the impact on the natural environment (*less greenhouse gas emissions*).
- Improve its outdoor natural environment.
- Promote a culture of 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' within the whole school community.

Refer to the Appendix for the College commitment and measures for each area.

Water

1. Conduct periodic water audits and maintain records of water consumption.
2. Involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives.
3. Promote a 'water-wise turn off' culture - Children are educated on the importance of turning off the taps when not in use, including being promoted using signage.
4. The College has a dam and water tanks used for harvesting rainwater as much as feasible and reused to water gardens and grounds.
5. Promote the use of reusable water-bottles and drinking fountains; and discourage the purchase / use of retail water bottles.
6. Reduced pressure on taps and cisterns.
7. Regularly maintain facilities, such as leaking taps, toilets.
8. To minimise the consumption of water at the school through the improvement of plumbing systems and conservation programs.
9. Implement other water saving irrigation measures where feasible, including sub surface drip irrigation on large ovals and lawn areas, all watering on timers, and accessing recycled water.

Energy

1. Conduct periodic energy audits and maintain records of energy consumption.
2. Promote a 'switch off and save' culture for technological equipment, lighting and heating / cooling.
3. Maintain a large solar energy system, to harness the sun's energy and feedback into the school, reducing its energy use off the grid.
4. Include students in reporting and monitoring of solar generation and energy consumption.
5. Encourage maximum heating settings of 21 degrees, and minimum cooling temperatures of 24 degrees to avoid excess energy use.
6. Ensure heating, cooling and non-essential lights are turned-off outside of school operating hours.
7. Open blinds to use the natural light as much as possible.
8. To minimise energy use by encouraging students to participate in Earth Hour.
9. To choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available, such as, sensor lights, blinds and having appliances that are 4 star plus energy rating.
10. Promote both children and employees travelling to and from school via public transport, car-pooling, walking, and cycling.
11. Electric vehicles where practicable (*particularly golf buggies for site travel*).

Biodiversity

1. To use a nature plan for the future development of school grounds, particularly at Blackham, and utilise natural area to its full extent – ensure the outdoor natural environment is maintained and developed by planting trees that are conducive to the environment and encourage local wildlife.
2. To grow and harvest a range of vegetables/herbs/fruits to be utilised in cooking classes.
3. Children’s play areas are environmentally friendly and recycled materials are used where possible.
4. Nurture and protect established trees, and where necessary, actively replace any trees that unfortunately reach the end of their lifecycle.
5. Encourage the appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences eg. excursions, school camps – particularly at school owned and managed sites, including the Farm area and Blackham.
6. For all children to be involved in learning about biodiversity and sustainability through involvement in school gardens.
7. To plant trees to create shade areas. Planting native trees that are conducive to our environment (*particularly drought tolerant*).
8. Maintain butterfly gardens.

Waste

1. Safely and responsibly dispose of electronic (e.g. computers, screens, printers) and other toxic wastes (e.g. batteries) through an accredited recycling facility.
2. Promote the use of reusable, rather than disposable or recyclable, products – e.g. crockery, cupware and cutlery. Use of plastic drinking straws is discouraged.
3. Have a student leadership group working on sustainability, i.e. rubbish free lunch promotion (‘Nude Food Days’). Plus, all R-10 sites have a ‘Green Team’.
4. To strive for and maintain litter-free school grounds.
5. Purchase 100% recycled paper for printers and photocopiers, and set printers to double sided print as default. Furthermore, where possible, maintain electronic records instead of paper based.
6. Limit the amount of printing – through less hard copy advertising materials, and reducing documentation sent home to students. Plus recycle printer cartridges – e.g. through Planet Ark.
7. Organic waste will be re-used as compost / mulch where practicable (*including recycling all animal manure generated by the Farm and Equestrian Centre, as well as mulching all garden limbs, scraps and offcuts*), including having School and Classroom compost bins.
8. Green waste to chickens at the Farm.
9. All sites to have three types of bins, appropriately labelled for waste, food organics and recycling. School recycling with funds paid to the College, are directly donated to the College Foundation.
10. Second hand uniform and book sales.
11. Every product purchased has an environmental footprint, from the materials used to create it to the pollution emitted during manufacturing to the packaging that ends up in landfill. Therefore prior to purchasing, staff should reflect and consider if the item is really needed.