

Sustainability Action Plan

July 2009



Environment Committee Mission Statement:

To create an environmentally safe sustainable centre that models sustainable behavior and is linked to sustainable curriculum.

The work of the Environment committee will endeavour to harness the energy of the community with cross over between all stake holders – staff, students, parents and the wider community.

1. 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 to create a healthier environment
- choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available
- to include students in the process of developing an 'Energy Efficient' school

2. Waste:

- to minimise and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
- to use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste where possible
- to actively promote Rubbish Free lunchboxes to reduce packaging waste within the school
- maintain a compost heap at both campuses
- to reduce the amount of paper in the school by recycling and reusing it before it gets emptied into the recycle bin
- to reduce the number of 'skip' pick-ups and therefore decrease the costs associated with landfill waste
- to reuse garden waste as mulch
- include the students and staff in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school

3. Biodiversity:

- to create a garden plan for the future development of our school grounds including areas of biodiversity
- to create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy
- to choose materials that have less impact on the environment such as soft fall woodchips, recycled & unbleached toilet paper and handtowel
- for each year level to have ownership of an area in the school
- to include the whole school community in increasing the biodiversity within our community

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
- to involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives
- to audit existing water equipment ie. Toilet flushes, taps and upgrade to water saving devices where possible

Aims and Targets

We aim to achieve the following goals and targets over the next three years (2009-2012) to:

- increase biodiversity in the school ground by 40%
- reduce indoor waste by 30% - 50%, and reduce yard litter by 90%
- reduce water consumption by 10%
- reduce energy consumption by 10%

Plan for Program Implementation

Classroom Curriculum Focus

A Sustainability Committee comprising staff members from each area of the school will work together to facilitate the implementation of programs.

Students and staff within 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. Student Action Teams which operate in the grade 5 & 6 areas will form the student organisation committees to lead change within the student community.

Energy:

- to promote a 'switch off' policy for equipment, lighting and heating that is not being used by introducing class energy monitors
- to re-invest savings made through conserving energy
- students to participate in units of work relating to energy and sustainability

Waste:

- to collect daily food scraps in buckets located in all classrooms and compost into worm farms located on Clarke Street & Brooke Street
- for compost monitors to transfer food scraps to the compost bays and worm farms
- for each class to dispose of paper into the paper recycle bin
- to promote the reuse principle of paper in the classroom, staff room and office areas
- to use recyclable paper for photocopying
- to send all left over food from P-2 fruit program to Kitchen Garden to be used in cooking program
- for each class to dispose of recyclable packaging into the mixed recyclables bin (to be provided in each double room)
- Student Action Team to reports at assembly each week, giving grade results for rubbish free lunches
- Student Action Team to continue to collect results about how people travel to school and results to be displayed in the front foyer of the school and in the newsletter

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
- to consult with local community arborists 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 indigenous plants as well as fruit and vegetables in the Kitchen Garden program
- to apply for grants through Landcare and other organisations to increase biodiversity within the school grounds

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
- to plant trees that require minimal watering
- Student Action Teams to collect water under drink taps for use on garden beds

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 Staff Sustainability Committee, Junior Waste Busters and Student Action Team committees 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 monthly 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

Our '**Sustainability Policy**', outlines the four resource modules we will undertake over the next three years. They are **Biodiversity, Waste, Water** and **Energy**.