SUSTAINABILITY POLICY
WERRIBEE PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 0649

RATIONALE

Werribee Primary School recognises that the environment is integral to the quality of our student’s lives. We endeavour to reduce our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives.

PURPOSE

To embed an environmentally conscious culture within the school community through curriculum and extra curricula activities.

OBJECTIVES

• To minimise waste produced by the school and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.

• To reduce the amount of energy used by the school through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources, such as solar panelling.

• To increase the biodiversity of the school by planting indigenous species and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife.

• To minimise the consumption of water at the school through the improvement of plumbing systems and conservation programs.

• To undertake a ‘green purchasing’ program to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

BROAD GUIDELINES

CURRICULUM FOCUS
Werribee Primary School will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability. This will be achieved through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events e.g. Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day, end of lunch clean ups, environmental monitors, etc.

ACTIVE COORDINATORS
Werribee Primary School will support the sustainability initiatives of:
• The Student Biodiversity Team
• Junior School Council
• Sustainability Committee (for interested teachers and parents).

IMPLEMENTATION
The following strategies will be incorporated into the regular practises of our school community and apply to all students in all grades.

**WASTE**
- To minimise waste by using systems, such as recycling and composting (e.g. rubbish free lunches, recycling bins, compost buckets, Clean Up Australia)
- To strive for and maintain litter-free school grounds.
- To develop in-house recycling programs such as paper/cardboard, co-mingled materials, printer cartridges and other electronic waste.
- To be a drop-off point for the community to reuse/recycle mobile phones, flexible plastics and household items (eg. shoes, furniture, clothing).

**ENERGY**
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available such as sensor lights, blinds and having appliances that are 4 star plus energy rating.
- To continue the Walk2School program that promotes sustainable transport and healthy lifestyle practices.

**BIODIVERSITY**
- To continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard, through participation in the Biodiversity in Schools program working in partnership with Werribee Zoo.
- To plant indigenous plants in the school grounds and participate in National Tree Day annually.
- To continue to have yard clean ups and litter management, such as, eating inside, no food on the oval, nude food days, lunch box audits.

**WATER**
- To involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To continue to use effective means of conserving water such as water tanks for flushing toilets.
- To be a “Water – Learn It, Live It” school and achieve milestone accreditations in partnership with City West Water.
- To choose the most appropriate water saving methods such as water tanks, water friendly gardens and having appliances that are 3 star plus.
- Regularly maintain facilities, such as leaking taps, toilets etc.

**GREEN PURCHASING**
- To develop a ‘green purchasing’ program where economically viable.
- To use more environmentally friendly products (e.g. stationery, toilet paper, tissues, cleaning products).
- To purchase fair trade products where possible (e.g. soccer balls, coffee).
- To purchase 100% recycled paper for printers, photocopiers.
- To increase the use of furniture and equipment made from second hand or recycled materials.

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**EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years in accordance with “Resourcesmart AuSSI Vic” criteria and strategies.
This policy was ratified by School Council on 18/10/11