



## Sustainability

### Basic Belief

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.

### Aim

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

### Purpose

- 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.

### Background:

In February 2015, our school was accredited as a 5 Star 'Leadership' ResourceSmart School which recognises our school's commitment to creating sustainable practices, infrastructure and integrated learning. We have found creative and efficient ways to integrate waste, water, energy and biodiversity initiatives into our everyday actions.

### Implementation

Werribee Primary School will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability. This will be achieved through the curriculum planning at each year level and organisation of whole school events, such as, Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day, guest speakers, end of lunch clean ups, etc.

Werribee Primary School will support the sustainability initiatives of:

- Student Environment Team (B.E.S.T.)
- Student Representative Council
- Sustainability Committee (for interested teachers and parents)
- Sustainability Sub Committee of School Council

In order to maintain 5 Star 'Leadership' ResourceSmart School status, the following strategies are incorporated into the regular practises of our school community and apply to all students in all classes.

### **WASTE**

- To have a zero waste policy which reinforces with students, that firstly: nude food is best and secondly if a decision is made to bring food in packaging then they take the rubbish home.
- To encourage the use of two snack shack areas where students can eat their food if they have not finished eating during the allocated time in class.
- To minimise waste by using systems, such as, recycling bins (paper/cardboard, flexible plastic), composting, rubbish free lunches, snack shacks.
- To utilise paper free communication systems such as, email alerts, SMS, Facebook, website and blog entries
- To be a drop-off point for the community to reuse/recycle mobile phones, flexible plastics and household items (eg. shoes, books, clothing).
- To utilise 'Take 3' program where students pick up three pieces of rubbish after lunch.



## ENERGY

- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To educate the community about ways to minimise energy use by using systems, such as, class energy frog journals, OWL days once a month and participation in Earth Hour.
- To choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available, such as, LED lights, sensor lights, blinds and having appliances that are 4 star plus energy rating.
- To decrease energy use through the installation of Solar Panels.
- To promote sustainable transport and healthy lifestyle practices by maintaining our status as a GOLD Ride2School school in partnership with Bicycle Victoria.
- To encourage active travel through whole school events such as, the Rollathon and National Ride2 School days annually.

## BIODIVERSITY

- To continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard by planting indigenous plants in the school grounds
- To continue to have yard clean ups and litter management, such as, eating inside, food only to be eaten in Snack Shack areas, nude food days, lunch box audits.
- To maintain community links with Werribee Zoo through annual participation in the Love Your Locals program, Common Cents Challenge to support Eastern Barred Bandicoot and media opportunities.
- To increase student involvement by offering Lunchtime Gardening Club, as well as the allocation of Garden Care Areas to each year level of the school with monthly clean up
- To promote biodiversity by annual whole school involvement Clean Up Australia and National Tree Days.

## WATER

- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To use effective means of conserving water, such as, water tanks for flushing toilets.
- To continue to maintain our status as a Silver “Water – Learn It, Live It” school in partnership with City West Water.
- To educate the community about ways to minimise water use by annual participation in the City West Water Week Poster Competition annually.
- To choose the most appropriate water saving methods such as water tanks, water friendly gardens and having appliances that are 3 star plus.
- Utilise the SWEP monitoring program to ensure systems are working efficiently. and regularly maintain facilities, such as leaking taps, toilets etc.
- To minimise water usage by encouraging students to bring drink bottles and refill them throughout the day and using interpretive signage, such as ‘Every Drop Counts’ around the school.

## 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.

## Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years in accordance with “Resourcesmart AuSSI Vic” criteria and strategies.

When First Developed and Approved: October 2011

Reviewed: September 2014

**This policy was ratified by School Council on: 19 September, 2017**