



# WERRIBEE PRIMARY SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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## RATIONALE

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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.

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## PURPOSE

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

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## OBJECTIVES

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- 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.

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## BROAD GUIDELINES

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### CURRICULUM FOCUS

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.

### ACTIVE COORDINATORS

Werribee Primary School will support the sustainability initiatives of:

- Student Environment Team
- Student Representative Council
- Sustainability Committee (for interested teachers and parents)
- Sustainability Sub Comiitee of School Council

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## IMPLEMENTATION

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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 bins, composting, rubbish free lunches, snack shacks.
- To strive for and maintain litter-free school grounds.
- To develop in-house recycling programs such as paper/cardboard, flexible plastic, 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, books, clothing).

## **ENERGY**

- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To minimise energy use by using systems, such as, energy frog journals, participation in Earth Hour and National Ride2 School days annually.
- 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, food only to be eaten in Snack Shack areas, 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 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**

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

***Endorsed by School Council 19 August 2014***

***Review Date: August 2017***