

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Declaration of Commitment:

At Western Port Secondary College, our school promotes a culture of responsibility and sustainable practices, to protect our environment and scarce resources for future generations. We will work within our College, and involve our community to continually work towards reducing our ecological footprint.

Goals:

- To continually review and improve the effectiveness of our practices to maintain our 5 Star Resource Smart Schools Accreditation.
- To minimise landfill **waste** to 0.3m³ per student per year and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To reduce the amount of **energy** to 400kWh, 1.4GJ and 0.6 tonne CO₂-e per student per year through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources.
- To increase the **biodiversity** and habitat in the school grounds by planting indigenous species and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife.
- To minimise the consumption and wastage of mains **water** to 4KL per student per year through the improvement of plumbing systems and water conservation programs.
- To continue to promote **sustainable purchasing** procedures for the school and community in order to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

Guidelines:

- **Curriculum** delivery will (National Curriculum) incorporate elements of sustainability at all year levels with a significant focus at Year 9.
- Our school will engage in **daily sustainable practices** that incorporate environmentally-friendly behaviours by utilising systems i.e. Recycle bins
- Our school will lead the **community** by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and biodiversity and will actively mentor other schools.

Implementation:

- Our school will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum and whole school events. Student learning will focus on taking action within the school and wider community.
- Our school will support an active sustainability coordination team that involves School Council, staff, student leadership, students, parents and other members of our school and local community.

WASTE

- Include the whole school community in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school through the principles of Rethink/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- Minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling and composting (e.g. rubbish free lunches, recycling bins, compost buckets and worm farms).
- Maintain litter-free school grounds.

ENERGY

- Include the whole school community in the process of developing an 'Energy Efficient' school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available.
- Maintain active participation in Bicycle Network Schools Programs e.g. Ride2School and Ride to Work Develop a program that promotes sustainable transport eg. walk-to-school.
- Increase the use of carbon neutral energy sources.

BIODIVERSITY

- Encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences e.g. curriculum, excursions and school camps.
- Enhance the College Kitchen Garden Program.
- Continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard in order to support local flora and fauna.
- Showcase native and indigenous gardens as model to the school and wider community.

WATER

- Appreciate water as a precious natural resource.
- Involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water (e.g. water tanks for flushing toilets).

GREEN PURCHASING

- Purchase environmentally-friendly paper for printers and photocopiers.
- Purchase environmentally-friendly paper alternatives for items like toilet paper, hand towels, tissues and serviettes.
- Increase the use of furniture and equipment made from second hand or recycled materials.
- Use more environmentally friendly products (e.g. for cleaning).

EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed as part of Western Port Secondary College's review cycle.
- The Annual Program Budget review will provide recommendations which may be used to affect policy change in future.
- Staff and community feedback will be sought to review the policy.
- The School Council and Sustainability Program Coordinators will review whether the school is reaching its environment targets, as outlined in 'Goals', on a yearly basis.