



PATTERSON LAKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

No. 5190

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

RATIONALE

As part of Patterson Lakes Primary School's environmental commitment we will endeavour to practise 'Resource Smart' initiatives, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, develop the ability to reuse and collect water within the school, increase biodiversity in the school gardens and encourage community practice in sustainability.

AIMS

1. Energy

To control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment; avoid unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy; educate students, staff and whole community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services and to conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption.

- Reduce the costs of energy consumption within our school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced.
- To include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school.

2. Waste

To promote a 'Resource Smart' ethic throughout the whole school community; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; to practise waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle; and to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.

- To minimise and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis.
- To reduce the cost of 'skip' pick-up.
- To include the students, staff, parents and community members in the process of developing a 'Resource Smart' school.

3. Biodiversity

To improve our outdoor natural environment by planting drought resistant trees, by revegetating our school grounds, and to educate the school community about incorporating biodiversity in our every day school life.

- To use our whole school plan for the future development of our school grounds.
- To use indigenous plants and grasses around the school property.
- To become involved in local community planting programs such as National Tree Day.
- To utilise our vegetable garden area as part of the curriculum.

4. Water

To prompt actions that will reduce water usage; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; to plant grasses and shrubs that are indigenous to our environment and don't need much water; to educate the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors and to conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption through South East Water's 'School's Water Efficiency Program' (SWEP).

- To reduce the costs of water consumption within our school.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To choose the most effective means of conserving water.
- To involve students, staff and parents in the planning of water conservation initiatives.

IMPLEMENTATION

Energy

- To promote a 'switch off' policy for equipment, lighting and heating that is not being used.
- To reinvest savings made through conserving energy.
- Students to engage in units of work relating to energy.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available, where applicable.

Waste

- To promote the reuse principle of paper in the classroom, staff room and office areas.
- To monitor a designated outdoor eating area at recess, so as to keep rubbish in one area
- To provide teacher supervised eating times to ensure any waste is disposed of correctly.
- To have a litter free lunch day once per term.
- To provide more options for recycling, e.g. introduction of recycling bins for plastics.
- To send appropriate waste to the compost/worm farm.
- Maintain a compost heap or worm farm.
- To reduce the amount of paper in the school by using emails and bulletin boards.
- To reuse garden waste as mulch.

Biodiversity

- To conduct termly inspections of the school grounds to determine which areas require attention.
- To consult with the school's gardener about the best trees to plant in our environment.
- Visit other 'Resource Smart' who have adopted the biodiversity module, to gain ideas for developing our school grounds.
- To use the vegetable garden as both a lunchtime activity and as a resource to support classroom learning.

Water

- To promote a 'water-wise- turn off' policy for plumbing fixtures.
- To plant trees and plants that require minimal watering and are indigenous to the area.
- Use water tanks to service the sprinklers in the school grassed areas, vegetable garden, senior toilets and hall toilets.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Patterson Lakes Primary School's Environmental and Sustainability Management Plan.


EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

CERTIFICATION

This policy was ratified at the School Council Meeting held at Patterson Lakes Primary School on the 16th May, 2017.

Signed.....



School Council President

Signed.....



Principal