

Flemington Primary School

POLICY FOLDER



ADMINISTRATION – Sustainability & Environmental

Rationale:

DEECD is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its operations and promoting the importance of environmental sustainability as a permanent and accountable part of working life across corporate offices and Victorian government schools.

DEECD aims to:

- Reduce the environmental impact of all departmental operations by improving energy, water and waste efficiency.
- Raise awareness throughout DEECD about whole-of-government targets, requirements and standards around environmental performance
- Improve connections between environmentally sustainable infrastructure programs and student learning to encourage behavioural change.

Sustainable living is a way of thinking about how we organize our lives, work and education system so that we don't destroy our most precious resource – our planet. It is about helping people to find solutions that improve their quality of life without storing up problems for the future or impacting unfairly on other people's lives. It is about reshaping the way we think about the future.

Aims:

- To prepare our students for a lifetime of sustainable living, through teaching, and example in day-to-day practices.
- To encourage care for the environment
- To educate and encourage students and families to adopt energy efficient and sustainable practices in their homes and daily life

At Flemington Primary School, we take a holistic approach to sustainability. It is not something extra in the curriculum but rather an approach which permeates all that we do. It is embedded in our school vision, it is part of our school ethos and woven into all areas of teaching and learning. It is a way of thinking that we seek to share with all stakeholders and the local community.

Goals:

- Engage students in 'the Journey to Sustainability' via school 'throughlines' based on sustainability and environment and term units of work focussing on Biodiversity, Plants, Water, Energy, Waste and Climate Change (*See School unit planners and VELs /AusVELS links)
- Implement water wise initiatives by reducing water usage, recycling water, installing and using water tanks to flush student toilets and water grounds and collecting water from drinking taps

- Promote energy efficiency through installation of solar panels and collection of energy through to the grid
- Monitor energy usage and adopt energy efficient practices with lighting, heating and cooling
- Implement waste reduction processes through Reduce, Reuse & Recycling
- Increase biodiversity through the school grounds via the Science specialist program, units of work and through the Facilities program
- Work with parents and families to communicate and share environmental sustainable practices
- To work in partnership with environmental and science organisations to assist with planning and to obtain units of work with professional expertise within the above areas

Implementation:

WATER

- To reduce the amount of water used where ‘savings’ can be made through awareness of water-wise actions and practises
- To audit our water use from 2010 onwards and record data
- To increase the amount of water collection via tanks
- To connect water tanks for flushing to all student toilets
- To educate students about water with planned units of work
- To purchase and use products within our school that support our
- To take our water-wise practises/actions and promote our aims to the wider community

ENERGY

- To educate and encourage families to complete the carbon footprint program and to discuss and moderate their behaviours
- To reduce the amount of energy used and identify where savings can be made through awareness of energy-efficient actions and practises
- To audit our energy use from 2010 onwards and record data
- To educate students about energy with planned units of work
- To purchase and use products within our school that support our aims
- To take energy saving strategies/practices and promote our aims to the wider community

WASTE

- To reduce the amount of waste generated within our school environment (classroom and outside areas) with systems in place to reuse and recycle whenever possible
- To implement a rubbish free lunch program and support this through no eating in the school grounds
- To audit our waste output and record the data
- To initiate paper recycling through the Moonee Valley Council and locate paper recycling bins in strategic locations
- To educate our students about waste with planned units of work
- To purchase products within our school that support our aim of reduction and to use them effectively
- To take our message about waste reduction and promote our to the wider community

BIODIVERSITY

- To increase the amount of ‘plantings’ within our school grounds and wider each year
- To increase our animal, bird and insect population by creating areas of natural habitat and shelter within our school
- To extend the relationship with our local secondary schools and promote interschool cooperation for the wider environment
- To initiate involvement with local community planting programs such as Schools Tree Day, Landcare / Planet Ark
- To maintain and care for our existing ‘flora and fauna’
- To purchase plants appropriate to our local environment/ conditions
- To encourage our wider community to participate and contribute to biodiversity and maintenance of our grounds via working bees
- To beautify specific areas within our grounds for other community members to enjoy

CLIMATE CHANGE:

- To educate and inform students about climate change and the effects this has on our world
- To research and discuss causes and catalysts for climate change and what we can do to prevent this
- To incorporate investigations of climate change into curriculum units at years 3-6 and through Science specialist classes

Targets:

During the next three year phase we aim to:

- Reduce water consumption by at least 10%
- Reduce energy consumption by at least 10%
- To reduce waste (rubbish) by 50%
- To increase our biodiversity within our school grounds by at least 20% each year

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/infrastructure/Pages/sustainabilityeducate.aspx>

http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_educators_2439.html

<http://www.ceres.org.au/>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/infrastructure/Pages/sustainabilityenergy.aspx>

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/what-you-can-do/individual/carbon-footprint.aspx>

http://www.wwf.org.au/our_work/people_and_the_environment/human_footprint/?gclid=CPKjm8qP5LMCFQhZpQodw1wA-A

<http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/>

School Curriculum planners

This policy was ratified by School Council in February 2013 and will be reviewed in line with the cyclic review.

