

Somerville Primary School

Sustainability Policy

Policy Name:	Sustainability	Date of approval:	07 / 2012
Responsible:		Expected review date:	2015

Declaration of Commitment

As part of Somerville Primary School's environmental commitment we will endeavor to practice Waste Wise initiatives, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, increase biodiversity in the school gardens and encourage community practice in sustainability. We will also include the environmental plan in all 'Key Learning Areas'.

Policy

1. Waste

To continue the development of a Waste Wise ethic within the whole school community; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; to practice waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle; ensure the school undertakes green purchasing; and to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.

2. 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.

3. Biodiversity

To improve our outdoor natural environment; by planting trees that are conducive to our environment; upgrading the play areas and making them environmentally friendly; using natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment; to educate the school community about incorporating biodiversity in our every day school life.

4. Water

To prompt actions that will reduce water usage; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; to plant trees that are conducive 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.

Objectives

1. Waste:

- > to minimize and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
- > to use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste
- > maintain a compost bin
- > to reduce the amount of paper in the school by recycling and reusing it before it gets emptied into the recycle bin

Somerville Primary School

Sustainability Policy

- > ensure green purchasing of cleaning products, stationary and other school supplies
- > to reuse garden waste as mulch; and
- > to include the students, parents and staff in the process of developing a Waste Wise school

2. Energy:

- > reduce the costs of energy consumption within our school
- > use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- > reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we create to create a healthier impact on the environment
- > choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available; and
- > to include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school

3. Biodiversity:

- > to use our garden plan for the future development of our school grounds
- > to create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy
- > to choose materials that have less impact on the environment

Objectives (cont.)

- > for each Unit to have ownership of an area in the school; and
- > to include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school

4. Water:

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

Aims and Targets

We aim to achieve the following goals and targets over the next three years to:

- > increase biodiversity in the school ground by 20%
- > reduce indoor waste by 10% - 50%, and maintain zero yard litter generated by school community
- > reduce water consumption by 10%; and
- > reduce energy consumption by 10%

Plan for Program Implementation

Curriculum Focus:

Students in the school will be involved in the planning and decision-making of environmentally focused units.

Energy:

- > to promote a 'switch off' policy for equipment, lighting and heating that is not being used
- > students to engage in units of work relating to energy

Somerville Primary School

Sustainability Policy

Waste:

- > to collect daily organic scraps to be composted
- > for compost monitors to collect waste daily and transfer it to the compost bins
- > for each class to dispose of paper into the recycle bin
- > to promote the reuse principle of paper in the classroom, staff room and office areas
- > to use recyclable paper for photocopying; and

Biodiversity:

- > to conduct an inspection of the school grounds to determine which areas require attention
- > to have 'working bees' in order to get school community involved in developing our school grounds
- > to consult with local community arborists about the best trees to plant in our environment
- > visit other 'Sustainable Schools' who have adopted the biodiversity module, to gain ideas for developing our school grounds
- > engage students and staff in the development of the biodiversity program

Water:

- > to promote a 'water-wise/turn off' policy for plumbing fixtures
- > Students to engage in units of work relating to water; and
- > to plant trees that require minimal watering

Community Involvement

We will encourage community participation in all projects undertaken, as well as, invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve our school environment.

Plan for Program Implementation (cont.)

Responsibilities / Communication

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing the above programs. The science teacher and selected students and the principal, will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program to school council and the wider school community, through the web page, Newsletters, assemblies and local media. Each of the programs will be subject to annual review by the school staff, students and School Council.

Action Plan

Our '**School Environment Management Plan**', outlines the four resource modules we will undertake over the next three years. They are **Biodiversity**, **Waste**, **Water** and **Energy**.