



# ASPENDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

## **Rationale:**

- Aspendale 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 practices in our everyday lives. We will achieve this by embedding an environmentally conscious culture within the school community through curriculum and extra curricula activities.

## **Aims:**

- 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.

## **Broad Guidelines:**

Aspendale 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, 'Emu Bob' end of lunch clean ups. As part of our PYP philosophy student learning will focus on taking action within the school and wider community.

### ACTIVE COORDINATORS

Aspendale Primary School will support the sustainability initiatives of:

- Student Environment Team
- Student Representative Council
- Global Awareness sub-committee
- Strategic Plan

## **Implementation:**

The following strategies will be incorporated into the regular practices of our school community and apply to staff and students in all grades.

## WASTE

- To minimise waste by using systems, such as, recycling bins, composting, rubbish free lunches on a daily basis
- To strive for and maintain litter-free school grounds
- To further develop in-house recycling programs such as paper/cardboard, flexible plastic, printer cartridges and other electronic waste
- To maintain the compost bins

## ENERGY

- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- To minimise energy use by participation in Earth Hour, Victorian Walk to School month 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
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

## BIODIVERSITY

- To continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard
- 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, and involve the wider school community in the maintenance of school grounds eg. working bees
- Encourage the appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences eg. excursions, school camps
- Enhance the school garden program

## WATER

- To involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation 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 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
- Involvement in the Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP)

## GREEN PURCHASING

- Increase use of furniture made from recycled materials
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning and consumable products where possible eg. handtowel

### **Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed by School Council as part of the school's strategic review cycle.
- This policy will be reviewed every 3 years in accordance with "Resourcesmart AuSSI Vic" criteria and strategies.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in.....

**May 2017**