

Flemington Primary School Environment & Sustainability Policy



1. PURPOSE AND RATIONALE:

Victorian schools use a significant amount of energy and water which account for a sizable proportion of school operating costs and environmental impact; Flemington Primary School is no exception.

The Department of Education expects the schools to operate in a manner that maintains biodiversity, minimises impact on the natural environment, and where possible reduces consumption of energy and water, consistent with the department's Environment Policy.

The sustainable management of the School's facilities and grounds benefits students by redirecting otherwise waste expenses to resources that can positively benefit their education. A focus on biodiversity enhances the School ground's natural shade and cooling, reduces pollution, provides barriers to noise, improves student connectedness with nature, and provide homes to birds, insects etc.

The scope of this policy applies to School operations, extracurricular activities (e.g. fetes, sporting carnivals), and other community users (e.g. sporting clubs, theatre groups, after-school care) of the School's facilities and grounds.

2. POLICY STATEMENT:

Flemington Primary School supports environmentally sustainable practices. Curriculum programs will help students understand the relationship between humans, living things and the natural environment.

The School shall encourage students to become responsible local and global citizens.

The School shall involve students in sustainable practices that value biodiversity, energy, water, waste, green purchasing and cultural heritage.

3. DEFINITIONS:

- **Biodiversity** – the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat.
- **Cultural Heritage** – the legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that is inherited from past generations.
- **Environment** – meaning the natural environment that encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally.
- **Green Purchasing** - the procurement of products and services that have a reduced effect on human health and the natural environment.
- **Sustainability** – avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.

4. ACTION GUIDELINES:

The School's curriculum shall incorporate the natural environment and sustainability as part of its role in Global Citizenship and its Community engagement in learning.

The School shall make use of the **ResourceSmart Schools** program that assists schools to [i] embed sustainability in everything they do, [ii] encourage real-life sustainability learning, and [iii] save money. Flemington Primary School has been collecting environmental data as part of ResourceSmart Schools since 2012 and as a minimum it should continue to report energy, waste, water and biodiversity data.

The School should consider annual participation in events recognising the value of our Natural Environment including [Earth-Hour](#), [Ride to School](#), [Clean Up Australia Day](#), [National Tree Day](#), and the [DET E-Waste Campaign](#).

Activities specific to waste, energy, biodiversity, water, green purchasing and cultural heritage are following.

4.1 WASTE

The School should:

- Minimise and recycle its waste by using recycling bins, composting and encouraging rubbish free lunches on a daily basis.
- Minimise paper usage by going paperless or printing double-sided where possible.
- Safely and responsibly dispose of electronic (e.g. computers, screens, printers) and other toxic wastes (e.g. batteries) through an accredited recycling facility – e.g. as provided by the local council or not-for-profit organisations such as Work Ventures.
- Make use of the Planet Ark [RecyclingNearYou](#) website to maximise waste recycling opportunities and to reduce the cost of disposing to landfill.
 - Recycle printer cartridges – e.g. through Planet Ark.
 - Old furniture.
- Work to complete the **ResourceSmart Schools Waste** module.

4.2 Energy

The School should:

- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an energy efficient school – e.g. student energy monitors.
- Encourage the efficient use of lighting, heating and equipment including:
 - Ensure heating, cooling and non-essential lights are turned-off outside of school operating hours.
 - Encourage maximum heating settings of 21 degrees, and minimum cooling temperatures of 24 degrees to avoid excess energy use.
- Work to complete the **ResourceSmart Schools Energy** module.

4.3 Biodiversity

The School should:

- Maintain a grounds plan to maintain and enhance school grounds biodiversity such as indigenous trees, foliage and wildlife.
- Nurture and protect established trees, and where necessary, actively replace any trees that unfortunately reach the end of their lifecycle.
- Work to complete the **ResourceSmart Schools Biodiversity** module.

4.4 Water

The School should:

- Conserve water consumption within the School buildings and grounds.
- Involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation initiatives.
- Promote the use of reusable water-bottles and drinking fountains; and discourage the purchase / use-of retail water bottles.
- Ensure School water tank water is maintained and used to the fullest extent possible to flush toilets and maintain gardens, trees and grassed areas.
- Work to complete the **ResourceSmart Schools Water** module.

4.5 Green Purchasing

The School should:

- Introduce 'green purchasing' procedures for the school community in order to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices.
- Promote the use of reusable, rather than disposable or recyclable, products – e.g. crockery, cup-ware and cutlery. Use of drinking straws should be discouraged.
- Where possible, use environmentally friendly cleaning and consumable products e.g. hand towels, toilet paper, tissues and serviettes with recycled content.
- Purchase environmentally-friendly paper (100% recycled) and ink for printing devices.

4.6 Cultural Heritage

The School should:

- Value and preserve culturally significant elements of the School's operations, facilities and grounds. This may include significant trees, the School's Gallipoli Pine, the main School entrance gates, the whole or parts (e.g. staircases) of the main school building, and other historical artefacts (e.g. photos).

5. MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW:

The reporting of waste, paper, electricity, gas and water usage and cost should be:

- Recorded in the Sustainability Victoria ResourceSmart School's website.
- Reported quarterly to School Council.
- Reported as an end of calendar year report including updates on School ground's biodiversity.

The School shall maintain an inventory of culturally and historically significant elements of the School's operations, facilities and grounds.

6. RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS:

- School Philosophy Policy
- Mission and Vision
- School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan
- School History

7. REFERENCES:

- DET Environmental Sustainability Policy (DET login required)
- DET Environmentally Sustainable Operation of Schools Policy (DET login required)
- Sustainability Victoria ResourceSmart Schools website
<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/School>

8. REVISION HISTORY:

This policy was ratified by School Council in on February 25th, 2019.

It will be reviewed as determined by School Council or every 3 years.