

# **Wooragee Primary School**

## **Green Purchasing Policy 2017**

### **Rationale:**

Wooragee Primary School is an environmentally aware school that strives to reduce our footprint on the planet, teach children to live sustainably and to be responsible caretakers of the land.

This policy aims to establish a green purchasing culture in our school community.

The school supports a culture (values, expectations and standards) and shared commitment to zero tolerance of child abuse, and arrangements that allow it to occur will not be tolerated. The school takes into consideration the diversity of the children attending the school, and their particular vulnerabilities. e.g. children with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

### **Aim:**

To promote the purchase and use of environmentally friendly resources in the school that will minimise greenhouse emissions, waste, pollution, habitat loss, toxicity and soil degradation and maximise water efficiency.

The objectives of this Green Purchasing Policy are to:

- A. Eliminate unnecessary purchasing;
- B. Reduce our impact on the environment;
- C. Reduce our impact on human health;
- D. Support the market for environmentally preferred products;
- E. Develop a green purchasing culture throughout our school community.

### **Implementation:**

Purchasing decisions need to be made on the basis of environmental considerations and value for money, rather than just the cheapest up-front purchase price.

Our purchasing decisions can improve markets for environmentally preferred products, enhance environmental quality, be resource responsible and contribute to progress toward sustainability.

Wooragee PS prefers to purchase environmentally friendly products whenever they perform satisfactorily and are available at a reasonable price.

Purchasing decisions shall be made in the context of the waste hierarchy to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle.

- **AVOID** – Identifying ways of carrying out a function or task without using materials that generate waste. An example is sending information electronically instead of on paper.
- **REDUCE** – Using less in the first place and avoiding waste. Examples of this include purchasing in bulk to reduce packaging and the purchase of printing equipment that prints double sided copies.
- **REUSE** – Using the same item more than once, and extending the useful life of products and equipment before replacing an item. Aim to re-use or repair an existing product. Ensure that new purchases are durable, have a long service life and are easy to maintain and upgrade.
- **RECYCLE** – Purchasing products that contain recycled materials or those that have or can be re-manufactured or recycled.

## **Responsibilities:**

Staff at Wooragee responsible for purchasing school resources and materials will:

- Choose energy efficient products and materials by checking that the energy rating and efficiency features are the best available for the cost over the lifetime of the product.
- Use renewable energy and reduce the purchase of fossil fuels where available.
- Choose goods that are produced locally in preference to those that have high kilometers associated with them. (reduce transport/food miles)
- Purchase paper and wood products obtained from post-consumer recycled, plantation, salvaged or renewable sources as well as being FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) approved.
- Select green cleaning products that don't result in discharges of toxic chemicals to waterways.
- Select materials and products that are free of toxic or polluting materials.
- Use products and materials that will not release toxic substances that can affect human health and pollute water, land or air at any stage of their life cycle.
- Where possible purchase products that conserve water or use water in an efficient way.
- Purchase products, materials and services that will not degrade or pollute the soil, or result in erosion through their use.
- Raise awareness about this policy and ensure that all staff, where appropriate have access to information on environmentally preferred products.
- Inform all contractors and consultants are aware of the current purchasing policy and green purchasing options and work with our school community to meet the objectives of the Green Purchasing Policy within their contracts.
- Contractors to remove all of their own waste and keep school site tidy.
- Actively promote environmental purchasing to the community.
- Share information about recycled and environmentally preferable products and specifications with the school community.
- Opt out of junk mail distribution lists.
- Set double sided printing as the default on photocopier
- Continue to offer the community our used car/tractor/truck Battery Drop to reduce toxic materials entering the water table and contaminating soil..
- Keep the school community informed of green purchasing strategies through the school newsletter and school council reports.

## **Related policies**

- Healthy Eating & Oral Health Policy
- Sustainability Education Policy

## **Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier as required.

***Ratified: March 15<sup>th</sup> 2017***

***Review Date: 2020 or earlier as required***