

Wooragee Primary School

Sustainability Education Policy 2015

Rationale:

The Wooragee Primary School community believes our education programs should teach and model sustainable living practices to ensure the planet's resources are maintained, conserved and protected where possible. Our vision, values, philosophy, curriculum and behaviours will focus on supporting our students and the school community to develop sustainable living practices.

Aim:

- To provide a safe, caring and supportive environment that considers the conservation and protection of our natural resources and promotes healthy lifestyles and sustainable living practices.
- To engage students and the school community in real-life learning opportunities that influence sustainable living behaviours now and into the future.
- To empower students to conserve energy and water resources, use organic methods to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs, reduce food miles, improve biodiversity of the school grounds and minimise waste through recycling and waste free lunch strategies.

Implementation:

- All students will have the opportunity to participate in a structured weekly Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program where they will *grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh seasonal food*.
- The school will participate in the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Program to minimise waste, save energy and water, promote biodiversity, and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.
- The school will endeavour to gain 5 Star Sustainability Certification by completing the five ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic framework; Core Module (which includes auditing, planning and developing strategies) and the four Resource Modules: Water, Energy, Waste and Biodiversity.
- Staff will be encouraged to participate in Environmental Education professional development such as ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic and network with other schools, sustainability educators, facilitators and organisations to build our capacity to plan, develop and implement sustainable living practices using real life learning activities and integrating the curriculum where possible.

- Students will be empowered to take on ‘sustainable living responsibilities’ such as:
 - ✓ Caring for worm farms, chickens, frog bog, organic produce beds,
 - ✓ Germinating and propagating plants,
 - ✓ Presenting reports (BOM weather, UV Reading, CFA Fire Danger Index, Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP), rainfall
 - ✓ Managing the school’s composting, recycling, animal husbandry (lambs, chickens, stick insects, gold fish)
 - ✓ Conducting energy audits, resource conservation, nest box program,
 - ✓ Managing our native fauna and flora creek frontage,
 - ✓ Participating in Junior Landcare activities,
 - ✓ Constructing Eco bricks,
 - ✓ Preparing and preserving seasonal food,
 - ✓ Participate in Peace Flame ceremonies.
- Participating in ResourceSmart module implementation.
- The school will endeavour to source environmental friendly goods and services such as stationery, cleaning products and kitchen supplies.
- Rubbish Free lunches will be encouraged.

Related policies and documentation

- [Sustainability Victoria – ResourceSmart Program](#)
- [School Infrastructure – Environmental Issues](#)
- [Schools Water Efficiency Program \(SWEP\)](#)
- WPS Student Welfare & Wellbeing Policy
- WPS Healthy Eating & Oral Health Policy
- WPS Staff Health & Wellbeing Policy
- WPS Strategic Plan 2014-2017
- WPS Parent Information Booklet
- <http://www.greenhub.org.au/educators/toolbox-for-environmental-change/>
- <http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/what-we-do>
- <http://seed.vic.gov.au/> (Schools Environmental Education Directory)
- <http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/> Junior Landcare
- <http://www.coolaustralia.org/> (Cool Schools)
- <http://www.eco-schools.org.au/> (Eco Schools)
- <http://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/> (Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation)
- <http://www.nudefoodmovers.com.au/> (Nude Food Movers)
- <http://www.earthfirst.net.au/EarthFirst%20-The%20Greenguide%20Directory%20for%20Earth%20Safe%20Eco%20Products> (Earth First)
- <http://schoolsrecycle.planetark.org/documents/doc-846-waste-free-lunch-guide-final.pdf> (Waste free lunch Challenge)

Evaluation:

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

Ratified: March 2015

Review Date: March 2018 or earlier as required