



# Bethal Primary School

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### PURPOSE

For Bethal Primary School to become an environmentally conscious and sustainable school that engages in a range of sustainable practices to reduce our ecological footprint across day-to-day school operations, curriculum implementation and community engagement. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into all areas of school life and develop in our staff and students a sense of ownership, respect and pride for our planet, driving them to make informed decisions to improve the environment around them. We reduce our impact on the environment in order to produce a clean, safe and healthy environment and preserve resources for future generations.

### AIMS

The Sustainability program at Bethal Primary School aims to:

- Embed sustainability across the school facilities, community and curriculum, while saving resources and money for the school through our ongoing participation in the ResourceSmart Schools program
- Achieve five-star accreditation for each of the five ResourceSmart School modules – Core, Biodiversity, Waste, Water and Energy
- Engage in daily sustainable practices that incorporate environmentally-friendly behaviours
- Minimise the amount of waste that is produced by the school going to landfill
- Increase the percentage of material and resources that are reused and recycled
- Decrease the amount of energy that the school uses through greater efficiency and better practices
- Increase the biodiversity of the school by planting indigenous species where possible, increasing the habitat areas for local wildlife and maintaining the school grounds
- Minimise the consumption of mains water at the school and to utilise other sources such as tank and stormwater to assist in this reduction
- Lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity
- Communicate regularly with our school community through the school website and newsletter about the school's sustainable practices to educate the communicate on making environmentally friendly choices
- Introduce 'green purchasing' procedures for the school in order to reduce environmental impacts.

### POLICY

The school will:

- Facilitate and encourage the implementation of a range of strategies to reduce resource use and increase our biodiversity
- Provide the necessary funding to implement these strategies on an ongoing basis

- Support an active sustainability coordination team that involves School Council, staff, student leadership, students, parents and other members of our school and local community
- Encourage community participation in our environmental projects and strategies and encourage similar strategies to be undertaken at home.

**The teachers will:**

- Ensure that the objectives outlined above are incorporated into the curriculum to ensure that all children understand the importance of sustainability
- Incorporate environmental and sustainability focuses into inquiry units across all year levels and where possible the key learning areas of Literacy and Numeracy
- Encourage children to become environmentally aware and involved in sustainable activities
- Focus student learning on ways they can take action within the school and wider community
- Model appropriate sustainable practices to the children at school.

**The students will:**

- Participate in all activities and strategies that help to increase the school's sustainability
- Become actively involved in, or support, the practices and activities of the School Sustainability Team
- Assist with litter reduction, water and energy conservation through habitual practices
- Support and encourage their parents to adopt similar sustainable practices at home.

**The parents will:**

- Support the objectives and strategies outlined in this policy
- Model appropriate sustainable practices to the children at home
- Encourage children to become environmentally aware and involved in sustainable activities.

**For Energy, the school will:**

- Reduce the use of energy consumption within the school by promoting a 'switch off and save' policy for technological equipment, lighting and heating/cooling.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Engage students in units of work relating to energy and investigate the best ways to conserve energy
- Involve students and staff in the process of developing and maintaining an Energy Efficient school
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

**For Waste, the school will:**

- Minimise rubbish and recycle our waste throughout the school, as much as possible, on a daily basis
- Promote the reuse principle of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office
- Ensure students take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner
- Promote rubbish free lunches and reward those who participate regularly
- Assign students to monitor rubbish free lunches and each term award the class who has the most rubbish free lunches
- Maintain the compost bins and worm farms and have students monitors collect food waste weekly and transfer it to the compost bin
- Maintain litter-free school grounds
- Engage students in units of work relating to waste and resource management
- Involve students and staff in the process of developing a Waste Wise school.

**For Biodiversity, the school will:**

- Run and maintain the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program by growing and harvesting a variety of fruits, vegetables and herbs

- Use a garden plan for the future development of our school grounds
- Consult local community groups, such as Hume City Council and CERES, on ways to improve our garden (e.g. Where to plant, what to plant)
- Utilise our garden areas to its full extent, incorporating outdoor learning opportunities and wellbeing activities, fostering an appreciation of the natural environment
- Organise for each year level to have ownership in the upkeep of an area of school grounds
- Engage students in units of work relating to biodiversity
- Involve community members in maintenance of school grounds.

**For Water, the school will:**

- Reduce the water consumption within the school by promoting a ‘water-wise turn off’ policy
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives
- Engage students in units of work relating to water conservation
- Assign students to monitor water usage and report wastage
- Plant trees and plants that require minimal watering.

**For Green Purchasing, the school will:**

- Increase the purchasing environmentally friendly paper for printing and photocopying
- Increase the purchasing of environmentally-friendly paper alternatives for items like toilet paper, hand towels, tissues and serviettes
- Increase the use of furniture and equipment made from second hand or recycled materials
- Increase the use of recycled and sustainable use of student supplies
- Use more environmentally friendly products (e.g. for cleaning)
- Purchase and install low energy lighting (CFL and LED) across the school where possible

**MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- [ResourceSmart Schools | Sustainability Victoria](#)
- [CERES School of Nature & Climate](#)
- [Greener Government School Buildings Program](#)
- [Home - SWEP \(myswep.com.au\)](http://myswep.com.au)

**REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION**

This policy was last updated on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 and is scheduled for review in 2024.