



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Philosophy and Purpose

Sale Primary School believes it has a responsibility to be a leader in the community in sustainable living through practice and education of the school community. We value the environment and are conscious of the ecological footprint we leave.

Sale Primary School will lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

General Principles

- To reinvest savings made through conserving energy, water and reducing waste.
- For students to engage in units of work relating to waste, energy, biodiversity and water.

Guidelines

- Develop an awareness of Sustainability issues within our school
- Encourage Sustainable practices within the school community
- Develop a positive attitude towards sustainability among students, staff and the school community
- The implementation of the Sale Primary School Throughlines Unit Outlines 'Living in a Sustainable World' in all classrooms through the inquiry approach
- The Throughlines Units will be included in all yearly planners for all year levels

Curriculum Focus

- Our Throughline "Living in a sustainable world" will provide in-depth learning about sustainability issues across the school.

Implementation

- Participate in the AuSSiVIC WasteWise School's Program, in order to become a 5 Star School through completion of the Core, Waste, Energy, Biodiversity and Water Modules
- Develop student leadership groups within the school
- Promote sustainable practices through avenues such as the school's Newsline and assemblies
- Involve students, staff and wider community
- Networking with other schools and community support such as the Wellington Shire Council
- Monitoring of Sustainability through the Integrated Studies Committee

Evaluation

The sustainability program and policy at Sale Primary School will be reviewed annually by the Integrated Studies Committee.

Status: **Ratified November 2011**

APPENDIX 1

Aims, Targets and Implementation

Energy

- To promote a 'Switch off and Save' culture for technological equipment, lighting and heating/cooling
- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an energy efficient school
- Reduce energy consumption within the school, and therefore reduce greenhouse gas emissions through efficient use of resources and equipment
- Educate students, staff and whole community about the best practice for use of energy, consuming equipment and services and to conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption

Waste

- To include the school community in the process of developing a Waste Wise school following the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle
- Students to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner. This may include the establishment of a monitor system
- Have a student leadership group working on sustainability, i.e. rubbish free lunch promotion
- To promote rubbish free lunches within the student, teacher and parent community
- To maintain the compost bins/worm farms
- Ensure the school endeavours to undertake green purchasing
- To reduce the cost of waste and litter management
- To minimise landfill waste produced by the school and increase the percentage of material that is reused and recycled
- Use recycled paper for printers, photocopiers, etc
- Promote the reuse principle of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office
- To encourage a "carry in carry out" practice among the school community
- All students to be provided with eating time before recess and lunch inside the classroom (where possible)

Biodiversity

- To utilise our garden area to its full extent
- To involve community members in maintenance of school grounds
- For all children to be involved in learning about biodiversity and sustainability through involvement in our school garden
- Educate the school community about incorporating biodiversity in our every day school life and work towards more native (indigenous) plantings in our school grounds
- To conduct an inspection of our school grounds to determine areas for potential biodiversity and sustainability projects, including creating a garden plan for the future development of our school grounds
- To continue "working bees" which involve school community in developing our school grounds
- To visit other "Sustainable schools" to gain ideas for developing our grounds and attend related
- Continue involvement in community revegetation projects
- Engage students and staff in the maintenance of our gardens
- To grow and harvest a range of vegetables/herbs/fruit

Water

- To promote actions that will reduce water usage within the wider school community
- To appreciate water as a precious natural resource
- Future ornamental plantings should be with drought tolerant plants
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- To involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives
- To promote a 'water-wise turn off' culture
- To assign students to monitor water usage and report wastage

Community Involvement

- Encourage community participation in environmental projects undertaken, as well as, invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve our school environment
- Promote sustainable living through educating the school community through our students
- All people within our school will be informed and accept responsibility for implementing these programs
- The Integrated Studies Committee committee in conjunction with the Principal will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program to the whole school community, through school newsletters and the annual report. The parties involved will provide reports to staff and School Council outlining the goals, aims, costing, savings and other relevant issues

We aim to achieve the following goals and targets over the next three years:

1. To establish a vegetable garden, worm farms and compost bins
2. To reduce overall waste by 20-50% and move towards recycling materials other than paper
3. To reduce water consumption by 10%.
4. To reduce energy consumption by 20%.