



SUSTAINABILTY POLICY 2018

School Vision:

At Chewton Primary School, a continued exploration and improvement of environmentally sustainable practices is embedded in our school curriculum and reflected in the 2017 School Strategic Plan. We believe that fostering a positive attitude and appreciation of sustainable environmental practice is vital to the development of our students and complements our school motto – ‘Nurturing the whole child in every child.’

Goals:

- To develop an **environmentally conscious culture** at Chewton Primary School and its surrounding community.
- To improve **biodiversity** by increasing our school’s **habitat quality index score as close to 75 as possible** by planting indigenous species of plants and increasing the habitat area for local and indigenous wildlife.
- To reduce the amount of **energy** through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources:
Electricity - 250kWh per student per year
Gas - 0.9GJ per student per year
Greenhouse Gas - 0.4 tonnes CO2 per student per year
- To minimise **landfill waste output to 0.3m³ per student per year** and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To minimise the consumption of mains **water to 4KL per student per year** through maintain improvements of plumbing systems and water conservation programs.
- To ensure our ‘green **purchasing**’ policy is implemented at our school and the wider community to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

Guidelines:

- **Curriculum** delivery will incorporate elements of sustainability at all year levels.
- The school will engage in **daily sustainable practices** that incorporate environmentally-friendly behaviors by utilizing systems eg. recycle bins, standby/shutdown systems
- The school will lead the **community** by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.
- The school will use **ResourceSmart Online** tool to update data, complete audits and record sustainability progress.

Implementation:

- The school will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events. Student learning will focus on taking action within the school and wider community.
- The school will support an active sustainability (ResourceSmart) coordination team that involves School Council, staff, student leadership, students and parents. Student leaders will be established at the beginning of the school year to continue working towards our goals. Student leaders will be involved in the input of data online, auditing of school operations and equipment, analysis and contribute to policy and behaviour change.
- Our Business manager will forward information about billing to student leaders to allow input and updating of water, energy, waste and other resource usage.
- The school will continue to purchase teaching resources that promote sustainability education.

BIODIVERSITY

- Undertake habitat assessments to gather information about biodiversity and identify areas for improvement.
- Encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences e.g. curriculum, excursions and school camps.
- Continue to develop the school vegetable garden program.
- Continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard in order to support local flora and fauna.
- Showcase native and indigenous gardens as model to the school and wider community.
- Reduce invasive weeds.
- Continue to compost all of our waste products including food and garden waste
- Promote our composting facility as a community drop off point when possible.

ENERGY

- Undertake energy audits to gather information about energy usage and identify areas for improvement.
- Continue to implement programs that promotes sustainable transport (eg. walk-to-school) and undertake audits to measure improvement.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available
- Remind staff and students at the beginning of each term re energy saving practice

WASTE

- Undertake waste and litter audits to gather information and identify areas for improvement.
- Include the whole school community in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school through the principles of 'Rethink/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'.
- Minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling and composting (e.g. rubbish free lunches, recycling bins, compost buckets and worm farms).
- Maintain litter-free school grounds.
- All catering and social events to be as waste free as possible
- No bottled water to be used at social events or meeting purposes
- Ban the use of all plastic straws from school purchases, events and those attached to drink containers.
- Hold recycle events such as second hand books and clothing stores as part of our school program.

WATER

- Undertake water audits to gather information about usage and identify areas for improvement.
- Appreciate water as a precious natural resource.
- Involve students in water quality program such as 'Water Watch' and 'River Detectives.'
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water (e.g. water tanks for flushing toilets).

GREEN PURCHASING

- Refer to Green Purchasing Policy.

EVALUATION

- The Annual Program Budget review will provide recommendations which may be used to affect policy change in future.
- The School Council and Sustainability Program Coordinators will review whether the school is reaching its environment targets and policy goals.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 4