

# **Environmental Sustainability Policy**



**Williamstown High  
School**

A Williamstown High School education provides a dynamic learning culture that promotes integrity, innovation and the individual. As a school community we value:

- Excellence and creativity in our achievements and ambitions.
- Integrity and honesty in our actions and relationships.
- Diversity in our curriculum, in each other and in our community.
- Strong and open communication between our school and our homes, and between our teachers, our students and our families.
- A commitment to social justice and a passion to protect and improve our environment and our community.

### **RATIONALE**

Williamstown High School made a commitment to be an environmental sustainable school in 2006 when the Bayview Campus opened the new building on the old site of Point Gellibrand Girls High School. This school won the best design award for its environmental innovations. The Bayview Campus won school design awards in two categories -: best development of a secondary school and best overall design. The Pasco Campus won a Resource Smart grant in 2013. At both campuses curriculum was introduced to highlight and focus on the environment both in the local and international community.

Williamstown High School has a vision of being a sustainable school by 2030. Both campuses are endeavoring to be environmentally aware and sustainable by 2030. We will aim to reduce waste, water and energy usage and also increase biodiversity in the school grounds.

Students will develop feelings of responsibility and pride in improving the environment at their school. Through this, the wider school community will also be encouraged to become environmentally aware in their everyday lives.

Williamstown High School aims to educate students to be responsible in their actions towards a sustainable environment. We demonstrate this in our curriculum and our own use of energy and water. The school's buildings and grounds are working towards plants and structures that suit the local area and provide areas for the students to enjoy their grounds.

We follow the 3 Rs reduce, reuse, recycle with recycling of paper and waste.

In the next three years between 2014-2017 the school intends to

### **Water**

- Reduce water consumption and save the school money
- Involve students and staff in planning water conservation initiatives
- Assign students to monitor water usage and report wastage.

### **Waste**

- Continue to operate the specific waste and recycling bins around the school and to promote good environmental practices.
- Ensure the whole school community 's purchases are environmentally friendly
- Encourage students to be responsible for recycling their waste.
- Recycle and reuse paper and lessen the amount of paper that is being used in the school.
- Use waste matter to maintain the worm farms.(BV campus)

### **Biodiversity**

- Create an environment that can be enjoyed by the entire school community
- Ensure that our outdoor environment is improved through planting appropriately
- Include the wider school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in the school.

### **Energy**

- Reduce the cost of energy consumption
- Conduct an energy audit and maintain records
- Include the wider school community in the process of developing an energy efficient school

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Curriculum Focus**

There will be an environmental and sustainability theme that is evident across the Years 7 to 12 curriculum. This will exist in specific curriculum areas and/or when environmental and sustainability themes are being studied. Our sustainability and environmental curriculum will be scaffolded across the year levels to enable and encourage depth and breadth of understanding. There will be specific times of the year such as during our sustainability expo when dedicated time will be given to investigate and understand this vital issue in greater depth. When opportunities arise, we will engage the services of appropriate and relevant environmental groups to strengthen our environmental curriculum focus. Below are some specific targets for each area:

### **Water**

- Development of a water wise policy for plumbing fixtures.
- Environment Crusaders to engage and develop units of work relating to water conservation.
- Students to monitor water usage and report wastage through Horticulture curriculum and Environmental Crusaders group.
- The Administration and the SRC will ensure that all students are aware for the need to use less water in the school and to see that no taps/flushes are left on.
- Planting of trees that require minimum water.

### **Waste**

- Provide compost facilities and related education to the campus to enable the collection of food waste which will be used into our worm farms.
- Promote the reuse principle of paper and the use of less paper in the school.
- Provide and promote educational understanding and land fill, paper and plastic bins across the campus.
- Conduct survey to establish how much waste is created each day on the campus through on line surveys.

### **Biodiversity**

- Grow and harvest a range of vegetables/herbs to be utilized by cooking classes and the wider community through our horticulture curriculum.
- Engage students and the wider community in the process of understanding and maintaining our marine park- The Jawbone and school based wetlands
- Engage students to look at professions in Environmental Science/ Architecture/ Horticulture

### **Energy**

- Promote a 'switch off and save' policy for equipment, lighting and heating /cooling throughout the school.
- Students engage and investigate work relating to energy and energy saving.
- Students and parents will investigate the best ways to conserve energy.
- School is investigating the purchase of more solar panels across the school.

## **SPECIFIC PROCEDURES**

- To achieve the objectives identified in this policy, staff and students need to be encouraged, supported and work in union for a common goal. This incorporates curriculum opportunities, dedicated and appropriate distribution of resources.
- Excursions will be planned for and implemented to inspire students and our community to continue their passion for a sustainable school.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

We will encourage community participation and partnerships in environmental projects and invite parents with expertise or interest to help maintain and improve our school environment. We will also promote sustainable living through educating the school community through our students.

## **EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed by School Council in line with our three year review cycle. In addition we will conduct an annual review of our processes, procedures and achievement with Resource Smart to become recognised as a Resource Smart School.

**This policy was last ratified by School Council on 8 September 2015.**