

Environment and Sustainability Policy



Williamstown High School

Reviewed in 2019



Environment and Sustainability Policy

Development process

1. Rationale

Williamstown High School's vision is to continuously improve each year as 2030 approaches, to become a sustainable school, in line with the school's values of "commitment to excellence and a passion to protect and improve our environment and community.

We aim to reduce waste, water and energy usage and also increase biodiversity in the school grounds and wider community.

Students at Williamstown High School 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.

2. Purpose

Williamstown High School aims to reduce its ecological footprint and to educate students on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

3. Implementation

In the next three years between 2020-2022 the school will aim to:

Energy

- **Reduce the use of energy consumption within the school by at least 10%**
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an Energy Efficient school.
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste

- **To reduce our waste generation throughout the school by at least 10%.**
- To include the school community in the process of developing a Waste Wise school.
- Encourage students to be responsible for recycling their waste with activities such as those run by the Environmental Group.
- Maintain the worm farms that the Environmental Group will be responsible for and also use the worm juice and mulch in the Kitchen Garden.

Biodiversity

- **To increase indigenous biodiversity by more than 10%.**
- To utilise our garden area to its full extent in a range of curriculum areas
- Include the wider school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in the school.

Water

- **Reduce water consumption across the school by at least 5%**
- Involve students and staff in planning water conservation initiatives
- Assign students to monitor water usage and report wastage.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible

Green Purchasing

- Purchase and utilise when appropriate recycled materials.
- Use more environmentally friendly products (compostable materials).

4. Specific procedures

Curriculum Focus

There will be an environmental and sustainability theme that is evident across the 7 to 9 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 in greater depth.

The Year 9 Immersion program offers the opportunity for students to focus on environmental issues and lead the way to display this to the whole school. Our Years 10-12 offers Environmental Science and the VCAL program focuses on environmental issues.

Community Involvement

We will continue to engage our community partners in environmental projects, maximizing their expertise and interest to help maintain and improve our school environment. We will also promote sustainable living through educating the school community through our students.

Our school will continue the commitment to Clean Up Australia, World Environment Day and World Oceans Day as well as National Tree Planting Day. When opportunities arise, we will engage the services of appropriate and relevant environmental groups to strengthen our environmental curriculum focus.

Below are some specific strategies:

Water

- Development of a water wise processes for new plumbing fixtures.
- Students to minimise the water usage through Horticulture curriculum and Environmental Group's usage on the Kitchen Garden at the Bayview Campus.
- Planting of plants, trees and shrubs that require minimum water (indigenous and natives).
- Schools ongoing participation in School Water Efficiency Program (SWEP).

Waste

- Provide and promote educational understanding and land fill, paper and plastic bins across the school.
- Foster a mindset of zero littering on the school grounds and the broader environment.
- Provide compost facilities and related education to both campuses to enable the collection of food waste for the worm farms and the compost systems.
- Promote the reuse principle of paper and the use of less paper in the school.
- Conduct waste surveys to establish level of waste and trial strategies to minimize across the school.
- Implement across the school "Take 3 for the Sea" program.

Biodiversity

- Grow and harvest a range of vegetables /herbs to be utilized by food technology and the wider community when appropriate.
- Engage students and the wider community to protect and lessen our ecological footprint on the Jawbone and school based wetlands.
- Plant indigenous and native flora across both campuses.

Energy

- Promote a 'switch off and save" initiative for equipment, lighting and heating /cooling throughout the school.
- Continue to install (where appropriate) additional solar panels at both campuses and promote their impact with a visual display.
- Continue to install energy reduction lighting systems throughout the school.
- Students and parents will investigate the best ways to conserve energy.

Green Purchasing

- Where ever possible, purchase equipment, resources and assets that are environmentally friendly.
- School canteen provider to use environmental friendly packaging.

5. 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 ResourceSmart School.
- School council and the broader community will be informed at least twice a year on the school's progress of strategies and targets.

6. Definitions & references

www.melbournewater.com.au

SWEP Program (Identifies our water usage)

Resource Smart-<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/services-and-advice/schools>

Hobsons Bay Teacher Environment Network

Take 3 From the Sea: <https://www.take3.org/>

Environment and Facilities Committee (Subcommittee of School Council) common understanding of the **“environment”**

Is everything that is around us and when referencing the environment in this policy we are specifically referring to the interactions between animals, plants, soil, water, and other living things. We have an ecological focus where we look to minimise the impact on and to understand the interactions and interconnections between various elements of a school.

Environment and Facilities Committee (Subcommittee of School Council) common understanding of **“Sustainability”**

Is a balancing act and at WHS we are looking to meet the needs of the present without compromising the well-being of future generations. As a school we will look to apply environmental protections, fulfill our social responsibility and when appropriate apply economic practices.

7. Consultative process

Campus Principal completed activities with School Council to develop common understanding of environment and sustainability.

Environmental Leader worked with Environmental Student Leaders at both campuses and relevant stakeholders to review and develop revised targets and policy.

Draft policy tabled at edpol term three and term four of the 2019 school year

Ratification:

This policy was ratified by school council on 29 October 2019