



## Environment Policy

### Declaration of Commitment

As part of Rosanna Golf Links Primary School's environmental commitment we will endeavor to practice waste wise initiatives, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, increase biodiversity in the school gardens and encourage community practice in sustainability. We will also include the environmental plan in all the AUSVELS (Australian Victorian Essential Learning Standards)

### Policy

#### 1. Energy

To control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment; avoid unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy; 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.

#### 2. Waste

To continue the development of a Waste Wise ethic within the whole school community; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; to practice waste wise principles of rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle; and to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.

#### 3. Biodiversity

To improve our outdoor natural environment; by planting trees that are conducive to our environment; upgrading the play areas and making them environmentally friendly; using natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment; to educate the school community about incorporating biodiversity in our every day school life.

#### 4. Water

To prompt actions that will reduce water usage; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; to plant trees that are conducive to our environment and don't need much water; to educate the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors and to conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption.

### Objectives

#### 1. Energy

- Reduce the costs of energy consumption within our school
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we create to create a healthier impact on the environment
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available
- To include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school

#### 2. Waste

- To minimize and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
- To use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste
- Continue to maintain the Waste Wise canteen by using recyclable packaging
- To send all food waste to supplement feed the animals
- Maintain 2 compost bins and a worm farm.
- To reduce the amount of paper in the school by recycling and reusing it before it gets emptied into the recycle bin

- To reduce the frequency of 'skip' pick-up
- To reuse garden waste as mulch

### **3. Biodiversity**

- To use our garden plan for the future development of our school grounds
- To create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy
- To choose materials that have less impact on the environment
- To maintain the Vegetable garden and employ organic principles
- To include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school

### **4. Water**

- To reduce the costs of water consumption within our school
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water i.e. install dual flush cisterns
- To involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives
- To recycle water wherever possible.

## **Implementation**

### **Curriculum Focus**

Students in the school will be involved in the planning and decision-making of environmentally focused units, as part of the bi-annual Scope and Sequence.

### **Energy**

- To promote a 'switch off' policy for equipment, lighting and heating that is not being used
- To re-invest savings made through conserving energy
- Students to engage in units of work relating to energy
- To have Energy Monitors in each class

### **Waste**

- For compost monitors to collect waste daily and transfer it to the compost bays and worm farm
- For each class to dispose of paper into the recycle bin
- To promote the reuse principle of paper in the classroom, staff room and office areas
- To use recyclable paper for photocopying
- To shred paper and use in compost bays
- To educate and appropriately use our 3 bin system in the yard; recycle, landfill and compost
- All students from 1-6 are involved in daily 'pick up 5 in 5' which is monitored by classroom teachers

### **Biodiversity**

- To have 'working bees' in order to get school community involved in developing our school grounds
- To consult with local community arborists about the best trees to plant in our environment
- Visit other 'Sustainable Schools' who have adopted the biodiversity module, to gain ideas for developing our school grounds
- To consult with local businesses about the most effective and environmentally friendly materials to use
- Engage students and staff in the development of the biodiversity program

- To grow and harvest native plants and vegetables

### **Water**

- To promote a 'water-wise/turn off' policy for plumbing fixtures
- To use tank water for the flushing of student toilets and watering of the veggie garden
- Students to engage in units of work relating to water
- To plant trees that require minimal watering
- Recycle water from the drinking taps and Art Room
- To Participate in the 'Water Watch' program

### **Community Involvement**

We will encourage community participation in all projects undertaken, as well as, invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve our school environment.

### **Responsibilities / Communication**

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing the above programs. The Sustainability Strategic Team and the principal, will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program to the whole school community, through monthly Newsletters and local media. The parties involved will provide reports to staff and School Council outlining the goals, aims, costing, savings and other issues relating to the above programs. Each of the programs will be subject to annual review by the school staff, students and School Council.

### **Action Plan**

Our '**Sustainability and Environmental Management Program**', outlines the resource modules we will undertake over the next four years. They are; **Core, Biodiversity, Waste, Water** and **Energy**.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the RGLPS policy review cycle.