



Sustainability and Environment Policy

Rationale

At Rosanna Golf Links Primary School, we have a commitment to sustainability. This policy has been developed as part of the Resource Smart Schools program which we joined in 2009. Resource Smart Schools is a Victorian Government initiative that will help our school benefit from embedding sustainability in everything we do. Our school will take action to minimize waste, save energy and water, promote biodiversity and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainability Victoria have funded us to participate in Resource Smart Schools and receive facilitation and support from CERES. This policy is linked directly to our School Environmental Management Plan and contains actions that are critical in helping us to maintain our status as a '5 Star Sustainable School', as per our AIP goals.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide a summary of our School Environmental Management Plan
- To support and maintain our Resource Smart Schools '5 Star Sustainable School' accreditation
- Educate the wider school community to practice sustainable behaviours within school and for life.

Scope

This policy relates to the wider school community of Rosanna Golf Links Primary School, included but not limited to students, staff, parents and visitors.

Actions

Rosanna Golf Links Primary School is committed to continuous improvement in sustainable practices. By raising environmental awareness in our community, we aim to educate and promote sustainable and environmentally friendly actions throughout the wider school community and beyond. The areas of focus as determined by Resource Smart Schools and Sustainability Victoria are Energy, Waste, Biodiversity and Water.

As outlined in the three-year School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) documentation, actions to be implemented and maintained across the school include:

1. Energy

- to promote a 'switch off' policy for equipment, lighting and heating that is not being used
- to promote appropriate aircon and heating temperature settings
- to re-invest savings made through conserving energy; and
- students to engage in units of work relating to energy

2. Waste

- to collect daily food scraps
- for compost monitors to collect waste daily and transfer it to the compost tumblers and worm farm
- for each class to dispose of paper into the paper recycle bin once both sides are used
- to promote the reuse principle of paper in the classroom, staff room and office areas

- to use carbon neutral certified recyclable paper for photocopying; and
- to promote the use of our waste management systems to reduce the landfill produced by our school
- encourage our school community to continue to adhere by our Rubbish Reduction Policy.

3. Biodiversity

- to conduct an inspection of the school grounds to determine which areas require attention
- to rejuvenate and/or maintain areas such as nesting boxes, butterfly garden and frog pond to promote stable habitats
- 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; and
- to plan for and conduct planting which support the survival of local flora and fauna
- to involve students in watering program to establish new plantings

4. Water

- to promote a 'water-wise/turn off' policy for plumbing fixtures
- to re-invest savings made through conserving water i.e. install dual flush cisterns
- students to engage in units of work relating to water; and
- to plant vegetation that requires minimal watering once established

Review

Rosanna Golf Links Primary School policies, including the Sustainability and Environment Policy and the Rubbish Reduction Policy, can be found via the link: <http://www.rosanna-golflinks-ps.vic.edu.au/our-school/school-policies/>

Further information and resources

This policy will be reviewed in 2022 as part of the School Environmental Management Plan update.