



# ***SUSTAINABILITY POLICY***

## **Rationale**

Seabrook Primary School aims to become a ResourceSmart School by reducing our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into all areas of the curriculum and instilling a sense of ownership of and pride in improving the environment. We will lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

## **Purpose**

To embed an environmentally conscious culture within the school community through curriculum and extra curricula activities.

## **Objectives**

- To minimise waste produced by the school and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To reduce the amount of energy used by the school through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources, such as solar panelling.
- To increase the biodiversity of the school by planting indigenous species and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife.
- To minimise the consumption of water at the school through the improvement of plumbing systems and conservation programs.
- To undertake a 'green purchasing' program to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

## **Broad Guidelines**

### **CURRICULUM FOCUS**

Seabrook Primary School will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability. This will be achieved through the curriculum planning at each year level and organisation of whole school events, such as, Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day, guest speakers, end of lunch clean ups, vegetable planting, class and assembly discussions about cleanliness and litter control, and incorporating a focus on sustainability through the subject matters within each inquiry theme.

### **ACTIVE COORDINATORS**

Seabrook Primary School will support the sustainability initiatives of:

- Student Environment Team
- Sustainability Committee (for interested teachers and parents)

## **Implementation**

The following strategies will be incorporated into the regular practises of our school community and apply to all students and teachers in and across all grades.

### **WASTE**

- To minimise rubbish and recycle our waste throughout the school, as much as possible, on a daily basis.
- To strive for and maintain litter-free school grounds.
- To include the school community in the process of developing a Waste Smart school.
- Students to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner.
- To continue to have yard clean ups and litter management, such as, eating inside, food only to be eaten in courtyard areas, nude food days.
- To promote rubbish free lunches and reward those who participate regularly.
- To maintain the compost bin/worm farm.
- To be a drop-off point for the community to reuse/recycle mobile phones.

### **ENERGY**

- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an Energy Efficient school.
- To minimise energy use by encouraging students to participate in Earth Hour.
- To choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available, such as, sensor lights, blinds and having appliances that are 4 star plus energy rating.
- To continue to encourage the 'Walk or ride to School' program that promotes sustainable transport and healthy lifestyle practices.

### **BIODIVERSITY**

- To continue to increase biodiversity in the schoolyard, by continuing to plant native plants around the school grounds.

### **WATER**

- To reduce the water consumption within the school.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To use effective means of conserving water, such as, water tanks for use on the school grounds and vegetable gardens.
- To choose the most appropriate water saving methods such as water tanks, water friendly gardens and updating appliances that are 3 star plus.
- Regularly maintain facilities, such as leaking taps, toilets etc.

### **GREEN PURCHASING**

- To develop a 'green purchasing' program where economically viable.
- To use more environmentally friendly products (e.g. stationery, toilet paper, tissues, cleaning products).
- To partly purchase 100% recycled paper for printers, photocopiers where possible.
- To continue the use of furniture and equipment made from second hand or recycled materials.

## **Community Involvement**

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

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing these programs. The Sustainability committee group in conjunction with the Principal will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program to the whole school community, through school newsletters and the annual report. The parties involved will provide reports to staff and School Council outlining the goals, aims, costing, savings and other relevant issues.

## **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years in accordance with Resourcesmart Schools criteria criteria and strategies.