



Rationale /Purpose:

As part of Menzies Creek Primary School's environmental commitment we will endeavour to practise Waste Wise initiatives, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, develop the ability to reuse and collect water within the school, increase biodiversity in the school gardens and encourage community practice in sustainability.

Aims:

- 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 practise waste wise principles of refuse, reduce reuse and recycle; and to reduce the cost of waste and litter management. To maintain the school recycling centre.
- 3) **Biodiversity:** To improve our outdoor natural environment; by planting trees that are indigenous to our local environment, by revegetating local areas in association with John's Hill Land care group, 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 purchase a water tank to collect rainfall off our roof, to plant trees that are indigenous 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 maintain our SWEP accreditation.

Objectives:

1. Energy

- To include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient School
- 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 where applicable

2. Waste

- To include the students and staff in the process of developing a Waste Wise school
- To minimise and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
- To use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste
- To send all food waste to the chooks or worm farm
- Maintain a compost heap or 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 cost of 'skip' pick up
- To reuse garden waste as mulch where possible

3. Biodiversity

- To create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy
- To use our whole school/farm plan for the future development of our school grounds
- To include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school
- To plant indigenous plants where possible
- To remain involved in local community planting programs with the local and state authorities such as Parks Victoria, Land care and DSE

4. Water

- To involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives
- 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, example tanks and containers under bubblers

Targets:

We aim to achieve the following goals and targets over the next three years:

- a) Develop a plan to maximise biodiversity in the school grounds
- b) To reduce yard hard waste by food wrappers being sent back home
- c) To reduce water consumption by the use of water tanks
- d) To reduce energy consumption by the installation of solar power

Implementation:

Curriculum Focus

Students in the school will have ownership in the decision making initiated from our units.

Energy

- Students to engage in units of work relating to 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 into environmental initiatives
- There will be alternative power sources

Waste

- To collect food scraps
- For bin monitors to collect waste daily and transfer it to the chooks, recycle bins or compost
- For each class to dispose of paper into the recycle bin
- To promote the reuse principle of paper in the classroom, staffroom and office areas
- To create a designated outdoor eating area at recess, so as to keep rubbish in one area
- To eat inside at lunchtimes
- To extend nude food lunches to every day to encourage waste wise lunch boxes

Biodiversity

- Engage students and staff in the development of the biodiversity program
- To conduct an inspection of the school grounds to determine which areas require attention

- To have ‘working bees’ in order to get school community involved in developing our school grounds
- Visit and receive visitors from other ‘Sustainable Schools’ who have adopted the biodiversity module, to gain ideas for developing our school grounds

Water

- Students to engage in units of work relating to water
- To promote a ‘water wise turn off ‘ policy for plumbing fixtures
- To re-invest savings made through conserving water
- To plant trees and plants that require minimal watering

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.

Resources

We will always endeavour to source information and resources through local shire, indigenous nursery and other organisations e.g. Land care, CERES.

Responsibilities and Communication

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing the above programs. The various committees, School Council Sustainability Sub Committee, Environmental Studies teacher and Principal will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program to the whole school community, through the school newsletter and, local media.

Policy passed by School Council – April 2010

Policy to be reviewed within three years- February 2013