

Rowville Primary School Environmental Policy



Water Conservation Sub-Policy

Background:

Our current generation of students are the key to initiating responsible behaviour for water usage. At Rowville Primary School we recognise the importance of water conservation to the future of Australia, in relation to economic prosperity, quality of life and protection of our natural heritage. The school has already taken significant steps towards water conservation with the installation of rainwater tanks and drought-resistant gardens. Reducing the amount of water used within the school provides benefits to the environment and wider community, as well as financial savings to the school.

Purpose:

- To develop an awareness of the principles and practices of water conservation among students, staff, the broader school community, and the wider community.
- To implement systems throughout the school which enable and support water conservation.

Guidelines for Implementation:

- Environmentally responsible water management will be guided by participation in the ResourceSmart Schools Project. The school will seek accreditation as a ResourceSmart School in the category of water.
- Students, staff and the broader school community will be encouraged to support a “water wise” culture.
- Using the VELS framework and within the guidelines provided by DEECD, the school curriculum will provide education at all year levels regarding the importance of conserving water and protecting natural water systems.
- Maintain rainwater tanks for student toilets and vegetable garden.
- Continue to plant native and drought-resistant plants throughout the school gardens.
- Implement the recommendations provided in the water audit report.

Related Policies:

1. Environmental Sustainability
2. Waste Management
3. Energy Conservation
4. Biodiversity

References to support this policy:

1. http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_educators_3351.html
2. Water Audit Report

Rowville Primary School Environmental Sustainability Sub-Policy

Background:

Current consumption of natural resources by Australians is unsustainable. “If every resident of the planet consumed natural resources at the same rate as the average Australian citizen, by 2050 we would need at least two extra planets like Earth.” (Greg Bourne, CEO, WWF-Australia, 2005). In order to safeguard the liveability of the planet for future generations, it is important to equip children with strategies for the wise use of community resources.

Rowville Primary School is committed to providing a nurturing learning environment where children:

- Are aware of the relationship between human activities and the health of environment
- Respect the environment and are motivated to engage in environmentally beneficial practices
- “Think globally, act locally, respond personally”, recognising the impact of their activities on the global environment
- Are empowered with the knowledge and skills to protect the environment
- Aim to reduce their ecological footprint

Purpose:

- To develop an awareness of environmental responsibilities and practices among students, staff, the broader school community, and the wider community.
- To implement systems within the school that enable and support:
 - minimisation of waste transferred to landfill
 - conservation of water
 - reduction of energy consumption and greenhouse emissions
 - biodiversity within the school and local environments
- To engage in issues associated with conservation of the environment

Guidelines for Implementation:

- The progression of the school towards sustainability will be guided by participation in the ResourceSmart Schools program. Specifically, the school will progressively obtain accreditation as a ResourceSmart School in the areas of: energy, water, waste and biodiversity.
- Students, staff and the broader school community will be encouraged to support and participate in the ResourceSmart Schools program with the aim of being accredited as a ResourceSmart 5 star school
- The school will provide opportunities for environmental education to staff, students and the broader community.
- Using the VELS framework and within the guidelines provided by DEECD, the school curriculum will provide environmental education at all year levels with a focus on knowledge, understanding, skills, and values.
- Students will have the opportunity to take on leadership, monitor and auditor roles involving caring for the environment.

- Auditing and evaluation of environmental practices and systems within the school will be ongoing, and progress reports will be made available to the school community.
- Funding will be sought for installation of environmentally sustainable infrastructure.
- Relationships with government and non-government organisations in the broader community will be established in order to share resources, access local expertise and engage in joint projects.
- The school community will celebrate and coordinate environmental activities to coincide with national initiatives, such as “Clean Up Australia Day”.
- The school will initiate projects in conjunction with special events, such as “Arbour Week”.

Related Policies:

5. Waste minimisation
6. Water conservation
7. Energy Conservation
8. Biodiversity

References to support this policy:

http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_educators_3351.h

Rowville Primary School Biodiversity Sub-Policy

Background:

At Rowville Primary School our school grounds provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn about and contribute to biodiversity. Biodiversity refers to the variety of living things in an ecosystem. Maintaining the Earth's spectacular variety of animal and plant species provides many benefits to areas such as agriculture, science and medicine, as well as being of aesthetic and cultural importance.

Purpose:

- To develop an awareness of the importance of biodiversity among students, staff, the broader school community, and the wider community.
- To establish and maintain school grounds which host a diverse collection of plants and provide habitat for a variety of animals.
- To develop appreciation, respect and care for our local school environment.

Guidelines for Implementation:

- Improvements to biodiversity within the school grounds will be guided by participation in the ResourceSmart Schools Project. The school will seek accreditation as a ResourceSmart School in the category of biodiversity.
- Using the VELS framework and within the guidelines provided by DEECD, the school curriculum will provide education at all year levels regarding the importance of biodiversity.
- Create outdoor learning opportunities involving plants and animals.
- Continue to support the vegetable garden program.
- Involve students in regular audits of plants and animals within the school grounds.
- Increase the variety of plants throughout the school gardens.
- Investigate opportunities to provide local habitat for threatened species
- Understand local biodiversity by linking with local groups and experts for guidance and advice.

Related Policies:

9. Environmental Sustainability
10. Waste Management
11. Water Conservation
12. Energy Conservation

References to support this policy:

http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_educators_3351.html

Rowville Primary School Energy Conservation Sub-Policy

Background:

At Rowville Primary School we recognise the importance of energy conservation, particularly in relation to climate change, as evidenced by conducting an energy audit during 2007. Reducing usage of energy sourced from fossil fuels within the school provides significant benefits to the environment and global community, as well as financial savings to the school. The school environment provides many opportunities for students to learn about energy conservation and take action to reduce the school's energy usage.

Purpose:

- To develop an awareness of the principles and practices of energy conservation among students, staff, the broader school community, and the wider community.
- To implement systems throughout the school that enable and support:
 - Reduced usage of electricity and gas.
 - Replacement of electricity derived from fossil fuels with electricity generated through sustainable sources, such as solar and wind.
- To minimise the school's greenhouse emissions and impact on climate change.

Guidelines for Implementation:

- Environmentally responsible energy usage will be guided by participation in the ResourceSmart Schools Project. The school will seek accreditation as a ResourceSmart School in the category of energy.
- Students, staff and the broader school community will be encouraged to support a "climate friendly" culture.
- Using the VELS framework and within the guidelines provided by DEECD, the school curriculum will provide education at all year levels regarding the importance of conserving energy and reducing greenhouse emissions.
- Progressively implement the recommendations provided in the energy audit report received from Carbonetix in February 2008.
- Nominate light and computer "switch-off" monitors for each classroom.
- Apply for funding for a photovoltaic system to generate solar electricity.
- Re-invest savings made from reduced energy consumption into energy-efficient infrastructure.

Related Policies:

13. Environmental Sustainability
14. Waste Management
15. Water Conservation
16. Biodiversity

References to support this policy:

1. http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_educators_3351.html
2. Energy Audit Report provided by Carbonetix (PDF via email from Linton Hartfield received 11-2-2008).

Rowville Primary School Waste Minimisation Sub-Policy

Background:

At Rowville Primary School we recognise the importance of being a “waste wise” organisation. Reduction in the amount of waste generated by the school community provides significant benefits to the environment and financial savings to the school. The school setting provides many opportunities for children to learn about wise waste management.

Purpose:

- To develop an awareness of the principles and practices of waste minimisation among students, staff, the broader school community, and the wider community.
- To enable and support:
 - Minimisation of waste produced by the school community.
 - Prevention of school ground litter reaching waterways.
 - Maximisation of recycling of paper, cardboard and plastics.
 - A healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of litter.
 - Reduced consumption of natural resources.

Guidelines for Implementation:

- Environmentally responsible waste management will be guided by participation in the ResourceSmart Schools Project. The school will seek accreditation as a ResourceSmart School in the category of waste.
- Students, staff and the broader school community will be encouraged to support a “waste wise” culture.
- Using the VELS framework and within the guidelines provided by DEECD, the school curriculum will provide education at all year levels regarding the waste minimisation principles of re-think, reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.
- Implement recycling systems throughout school for paper, cardboard and plastic.
- Introduce regular rubbish-free lunch days.
- Maintain an effective composting system.
- Implement “waste wise” procedures for the school canteen.
- Reduce paper usage by offering the school newsletter and other suitable communications to families via email.
- Purchase suitable recycled products; e.g., paper.

Related Policies:

17. Environmental Sustainability
18. Water conservation
19. Energy Conservation
20. Biodiversity

References to support this policy:

http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_educators_3351.html

Rowville Primary School Biodiversity Sub-Policy

Background:

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Purpose:

- To develop an awareness of the importance of biodiversity among students, staff, the broader school community, and the wider community.
- To establish and maintain school grounds which host a diverse collection of plants and provide habitat for a variety of animals.
- To develop appreciation, respect and care for our local school environment.

Guidelines for Implementation:

- Improvements to biodiversity within the school grounds will be guided by participation in the ResourceSmart Schools Project. The school will seek accreditation as a ResourceSmart School in the category of biodiversity.
- Using the VELS framework and within the guidelines provided by DEECD, the school curriculum will provide education at all year levels regarding the importance of biodiversity.
- Create outdoor learning opportunities involving plants and animals.
- Continue to support the vegetable garden program.
- Involve students in regular audits of plants and animals within the school grounds.
- Increase the variety of plants throughout the school gardens.
- Investigate opportunities to provide local habitat for threatened species
- Understand local biodiversity by linking with local groups and experts for guidance and advice.

Related Policies:

21. Environmental Sustainability
22. Waste Management
23. Water Conservation
24. Energy Conservation

References to support this policy:

http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_educators_3351.html