



Sustainability Policy



PURPOSE

At Winters Flat Primary School, a continued exploration and improvement of environmentally sustainable practices is embedded in our School Curriculum and reflected in the 2019-2022 School Strategic Plan. We believe that fostering a positive attitude and appreciation of sustainable environmental practice is vital to the development of our students and complements our school motto – Care for Self, Care for Others, and Care for Environment.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all students

POLICY

Aims:

- To develop an **environmentally conscious culture** at Winters Flat Primary School and its surrounding community.
- To improve **biodiversity** by planting indigenous species of plants and increasing the habitat area for local and indigenous wildlife.
- To reduce the amount of **energy** through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources,
- To minimise **landfill waste** and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled, and composted at school through our worm farms and compost bays.
- To minimise the consumption of mains **water** through the improvement of plumbing systems and water conservation programs.
- To introduce '**green purchasing**' procedures for the school community in order to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

Guidelines:

- **Curriculum** delivery will incorporate elements of sustainability at all year levels using our Whole School Cross Curriculum Priorities Scope & Sequence.
- The school will engage in **daily sustainable practices** that incorporate environmentally-friendly behaviours by utilising systems e.g., recycle, compost, soft plastic, and wastepaper.
- The school will lead the **community** by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water, and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.
- The **ResourceSmart Online** will be utilised to measure progress in reaching our targets, as well as completing modules in the Resource Smart framework. Examples of implementation will be provided in the comments on each ResourceSmart checklist in ResourceSmart Online to serve as a progressive action plan. Results from each audit will be added to 'Annual (Baseline) Data'.

Implementation:

- The school will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events. Student learning will focus on taking action within the school and wider community, utilising the student leaders.
- The school will support an active sustainability (Resource Smart) co-ordination team that involves School Council, staff, student leadership, students, and parents. Student leadership will be established at the beginning of the school year through and will continue working towards our goals. Senior students will be

involved in the input of data online, auditing of school operations and equipment, analysis and contribute to policy and behaviour change.

- The Business Manager will forward information about billing to the ResourceSmart team to allow input and updating of water, energy, waste, and other resource usage.

Biodiversity:

- Undertake habitat assessments to gather information about biodiversity and identify areas for improvement.
- Encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences e.g., curriculum, excursions, and school camps.
- Enhance the school vegetable garden program, through the continuation of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.
- Continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard in order to support local flora and fauna.
- Showcase native and indigenous gardens as a model to the school and wider community.

Energy:

- Undertake energy audits to gather information about energy usage and identify areas for improvement.
- Develop a program that promotes sustainable transport (e.g., walk-to-school) and undertake audits to measure improvement.
- Include the whole school community in the process of developing an 'Energy Efficient' school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Students are encouraged to wear warm clothes during winter so heating can be reduced.
- Heater thermostats should not be turned up over 20c and cooling below 18c.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available.
- Increase the use of carbon neutral energy sources.

Waste:

- Continue to support our 'Care for Areas', where each class is assigned to a zone of the school grounds.
- Continue to promote our school wide 'Nude Food Policy' and encourage those students who bring rubbish to take it home with them.
- Undertake waste and litter audits to gather information and identify areas for improvement.
- Include the whole school community in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school through the principles of 'Rethink/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'.
- Minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling and composting (e.g., rubbish free lunches, recycling bins, compost buckets and worm farms).

Water:

- Undertake water audits to gather information about usage and identify areas for improvement.
- Appreciate water as a precious natural resource.
- Involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water (e.g., water tanks for flushing toilets).
- Continue to work with community programs (e.g., Coliban Water) to allow the students to partake in incursions, excursions, and competitions about Environmental Education.

Green Purchasing:

- Refer to Green Purchasing Policy.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	30 th September 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2027