

Sustainability Policy

RATIONALE

Our school community is developing an understanding of, and concern for, stewardship of the natural environment and the knowledge & skills through local action to contribute to ecologically sustainable development.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As part of St Albans Secondary College's commitment to sustainability, we will endeavour to promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, increase biodiversity, practice Waste Wise initiatives, and encourage community practice in sustainability. Through the school curriculum delivery students in the school will be involved in the planning and decision making of environmentally focused units.

IMPLEMENTATION

BIODIVERSITY

Aim

To improve our outdoor natural environment by selecting species to enhance and preserve the environment of St Albans and the school.

Objectives

- To use our garden plan for the future development of our school grounds.
- To create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy.
- To choose materials that have less impact on the environment.
- To include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school.
- To plant trees to create shade areas.

Implementation

- Conduct an inspection of the school grounds to determine which areas require attention.
- Plant advanced trees along west side of school for shade.
- Consult with landscape specialists about the best plants to plant in our environment.
- Consult with local council about the use and supply of environmentally friendly materials.
- Engage students and staff in the development of the biodiversity program.
- Create a display area for native grasses and wetland environment.
- Where practicable use native and indigenous plants in our gardens

ENERGY

Aim

To control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment.

To, where practicable, use alternate energy generating systems (eg. Solar Energy) to reduce our dependence on coal/gas generators.

To replace existing lighting systems, cooling & heating systems and hot water systems with energy efficient alternatives.

Objectives

- To educate students, staff and the whole community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services.
- To conduct an energy audit and address areas of concern.
- To reduce the costs of energy consumption within our school (monetary & greenhouse).
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school.

Implementation

- Re-educate the school community in energy use.
- Promote a closed-door policy to conserve energy use (heaters and air conditioners).
- Promote a "switch off" policy for equipment, lighting and heating that is not being used.
- Install energy reduction power savers, timer switches and LED lighting where possible to reduce energy costs.
- Re-invest savings made through conserving energy.
- Engage students in units of work relating to energy.
- To use natural heat and light where possible as well as passive heating and cooling.

WASTE

Aim

To continue the development of a Waste Wise ethic within the whole school community and to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing environment through the reduction of waste and litter.

Objectives

- To provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste, litter and refuse*. *(See Note 1)*
- To practice waste wise principles of reduce, reuse, recycle and to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.
- 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 and set up receptacles for reusing paper.
- To develop the Waste Wise canteen by using recyclable packaging.
- 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.
- To include the students and staff in the process of developing a Waste Wise school.

Implementation

- Conduct a waste audit to assess how much the school is spending on waste disposal.
- Continue paper recycling program.
- Introduce the **Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** concept.
- Investigate the issue of kerbside collection with local council and donations of bins.
- Implement aluminium and PET collection within the school.
- Recycle any savings in waste collection back into waste management.
- Investigate recycling possibilities with companies who deal in this area.
- Start PD and a publicity campaign for the whole school community.
- Incorporate environmental waste ideas into the curriculum.
- Investigate waste wise issues in the Canteen.
- Promote the reuse principle of paper in the classroom, staffroom and office areas.
- Use recyclable paper for photocopying.
- Increase use of electronic data storage, communication and document development to reduce paper waste.

NOTE 1: *Refuse:* the idea here is to refuse any products that are over-packaged or poorly packaged, such as glass bottles for soft drinks.

WATER

Aim

To prompt actions that will reduce water usage and to appreciate water as a precious natural resource.

Objectives

- To educate the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors and to conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption.
- 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, ie install dual flush cisterns.
- To involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives.
- To plant trees that are conducive to our environment and don't need much water.

Implementation

- Conduct audit of water use.
- Promote a "water-wise/turn off" policy for plumbing fixtures.
- Reinvest savings made through conserving water, ie install dual flush cisterns.
- Engage students in units of work relating to water.
- Plant trees that require minimal watering.
- Mulch in gardens to conserve water and use wetting agent to encourage absorption.
- Incorporate new irrigation drip systems into our garden beds to reduce water use.
- Update old irrigation systems to new systems that use water more efficiently.

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.

RESPONSIBILITIES/COMMUNICATION

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing the above programs. The Sustainability Committee, Sub-Committees and a Principal Class Officer, will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program to the whole school community, through Snippets, Staff meetings and local media. The parties involved will provide reports to staff and School Council outlining the goals, aims, costing, savings and other issues relating to the above programs. Each of the programs will be subject to annual review by the school staff, students and School Council.

ACTION PLAN

Our **'Sustainable Schools Four Year Planner'** outlines the four resource modules we will undertake over the next three years. They are **Biodiversity, Energy, Waste and Water**.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...	November 2016
---	---------------