

At PCS I grow... So we can!

GREEN EVENTS POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Poowong Consolidated School school contact details PH: 03 5659 2356.

RATIONALE

The Green Events Policy provides Poowong Consolidated School with a structure to promote the sustainable use of resources and reduce negative impacts of school events on the environment and human health.

School sustainability vision and principles

Poowong Consolidated School's vision is to empower students to acquire, demonstrate, articulate and value knowledge and skills that will support them, as life-long learners, to participate in and contribute to the local community, as well as the global world.

Poowong Consolidated School is committed to a whole-school approach to becoming a 'sustainable school' and demonstrates good environmental practice in day-to-day operations; including minimizing the consumption of resources, and maximising the amount of resources reused and recycled. The school recognises that apart from the broader environmental benefits, good environmental practice can have a direct financial benefit for the school and can positively influence the behaviour of students and the broader school community.

Aims

- To keep waste and litter to a minimum at school events with the aim of making all school events waste free, including Social Events, Committee Meetings, Staff and Students led events.
- To investigate how school events can have a minimal impact on the environment.
- To minimise resource use at school events.
- To promote the value of living sustainably during school events.
- To demonstrate the 5R language around zero waste across all events: Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot.

Implementation

Advertising

- Consider electronic advertising of the event where possible.
- Ensure printed materials are not laminated so they can be recycled.

- Communicate sustainability actions implemented at the event to attendees and any contractors/vendors (such as bring a keep cup and refillable bottle).
- Promote active transport options.

Green purchasing

- Consider the school's existing Green Purchasing Policy when making purchases for the event.
- Consider sustainable fundraising options such as second-hand stalls, and sustainable consumables.
- Consider reducing the purchase of disposable items such as showbags and favours.

Water

- Liaise with the water supplier to establish ways to reduce water usage at the event.

Waste

- Ban single use plastic at the event (as per Victorian legislation February 2023).
- Liaise with local council/waste contractor to ensure sufficient bins at the event.
- Set up a 'waste station' to include recycling, composting, food scraps and landfill and include interpretive signage to ensure correct bins are used.
- Use decorations that are reusable/recyclable.

Energy

- Monitor energy use, particularly from outside vendors, to minimise resource use.
- Encourage outside vendors to use their own solar energy source where practical.

Biodiversity

- Ensure natural habitat areas of the school grounds are protected.

Community leadership/sustainability promotion

- Promote sustainability actions implemented at this event to the wider community.
- Include stall holders and stakeholders in the promotional activities.
- Use the opportunity to highlight the school's broader sustainability achievements.

Links and documents related to this policy

- Sustainability Policy
- Green Purchasing Policy
- School Environmental Management Plan
- Victoria's Environment Protection Amendment (Banning Single-Use Plastic Items) Regulations 2022

- ResourceSmart Schools Online: my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au
- Sustainability Victoria: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schools

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2024 Recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 1 year