

At PCS I grow... So we can!

## GREEN PURCHASING 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 purpose of this Green Purchasing Policy is to provide a purchasing structure that supports Poowong Consolidated School in reducing negative impacts on the environment and human health as well as promoting the sustainable use of resources. Poowong Consolidated School aims to minimise waste, pollution, habitat loss and maximum water efficiency through education, research and a thriving green purchasing culture in our school environment when purchasing products.

### 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 eliminate any unnecessary purchasing.
- To make purchases based on the waste hierarchy and circular economy principles.
- To establish a green purchasing culture.
- To support staff in purchasing products that maximise energy and water efficiency and minimise waste, pollution and habitat loss.

### Waste hierarchy

**Rethink:** Identify ways of carrying out a function or task without using materials that generate waste e.g. send information electronically instead of on paper.

**Reduce:** Use less in the first place to avoid waste e.g. purchase in bulk to reduce packaging and print double-sided copies of documents rather than single-sided.

**Reuse:** Use the same item more than once and extend the life of products and equipment before replacing them. Aim to re-use or repair existing products. Ensure new purchases are durable, have a long service life and are easy to maintain and upgrade.

**Recycle:** Purchase products that contain recycled materials or those that have or can be re-manufactured or recycled.

**Rot:** Purchase products that use packaging that can be composted on site.

## Implementation

Where possible, and in line with the above waste hierarchy, our school will purchase products that:

- maximise energy and water efficiency and minimise waste, pollution and habitat loss
- are environmentally preferred products when they perform satisfactorily and are available at a reasonable price
- are paper and wood products obtained from post-consumer recycled, forest stewardship council (FSC) certified, salvaged or renewable sources
- Are produced locally in preference to those that have high kilometres associated with their manufacturing and transportation
- have a high star energy rating and efficiency features, or the best available within budget considering the lifetime of the product
- use renewable energy (if available) not originating from fossil fuels
- conserve water or use water in an efficient way
- will not release toxins that can affect human health and pollute or degrade water, soil or air at any stage of their life cycle.

## Links and documents related to this policy:

- Sustainability Policy
- Green Events Policy
- School Environmental Management Plan
- ResourceSmart Schools Online: [my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au](http://my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au)
- Sustainability Victoria: [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schools](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schools)

## Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the School Council to confirm/enhance internal control procedures.
- The Annual Program Budget review will provide recommendation, which may be used to affect policy change in future.
- Staff, students and community feedback will be sought to review the policy.
- The School Council and Sustainability Program Coordinators will review whether the school is reaching its environment targets, as outlined in 'Aims', on a yearly basis.

## 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