

At PCS I grow... So we can!

SUSTAINABILITY 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

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.

1 Guidelines

- 1.1 Poowong Consolidated is participating in the ResourceSmart Schools Victoria.
- 1.2 Opportunities to incorporate 'sustainability' into the school curriculum are explored and implemented at all grade levels.
- 1.3 The sustainable use of energy and environmental assets - particularly the effective and efficient consumption and reduction in use of energy, water and non-renewable resources - is promoted at all levels within the school.
- 1.4 Biodiversity, energy use and environmental asset consumption are all considered in decisions about changes to the school's buildings and grounds.
- 1.5 The cost of implementing sustainability initiatives is balanced against the potential for long-term cost savings and other benefits for the school and school community.
- 1.6 The school accepts its role in modelling responsible behaviour and in encouraging the broader school community to adopt good environmental practices.

2 Implementation

Energy

- 2.1 Consumption of energy, paper and other environmental assets by the school is minimised by implementing strategies such as:
 - electronic school newsletter
 - use of passive heating / cooling options where ever practical

- upgrading existing infrastructure, such as low energy lights, over time
- 2.2 Greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel to and from school by school staff and families are reduced by implementing strategies such as:
- encouraging safe travel by bicycle and scooter
 - use of school bus
 - discouraging car travel

Waste

- 2.3 Waste generation within the school is minimised by implementing strategies such as:
- nude food program
 - reuse and recycling bins
 - composting bins

Water

- 2.4 Water consumption by the school is minimised by implementing strategies such as:
- installation of water tanks
 - upgrading existing infrastructure, such as toilet cisterns, over time
 - regular maintenance checks
 - use of drought tolerant plants

Biodiversity

- 2.5 Biodiversity improvement at the school is increased by implementing strategies such as:
- Encouraging an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences
 - Enhance the school vegetable garden program
 - Continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard in order to support local flora and fauna
 - Showcase native gardens as model to school and wider community

Green Purchasing

- 2.6 Where ever possible, the school makes environmentally-friendly choices when purchasing:
- consumable items, including: paper, printer toners and stationery
 - capital items, including: office equipment, building renovation and construction
- 2.7 The school’s newsletter and website are used to report the school’s environmental performance and to generate awareness of sustainability and environmental issues within the broader school community.
- 2.8 The school has a signed memorandum of understanding with ResourceSmart Schools Victoria.

3 Review

- 3.1 The school will conduct annual audits for energy, waste, water and biodiversity.
- 3.2 The Sustainable “Green Team” sub-committee reviews and sets environmental objectives and targets, giving consideration to ‘sustainable school’ targets.
- 3.3 The Sustainable “Green Team” sub-committee reviews the success of sustainability initiatives on an annual basis.
- 3.4 The School Council reviews the sustainability policy every three years.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2026 Recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 years