

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact our office administrative team, on (03) 5248-1400.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to outline the actions our school will undertake to improve environmental sustainability and address climate change.

To support the development of your school's Environmental Sustainability Plan, please refer to the department's [Environmental Sustainability in Schools Policy](#) and guidance to understand how your school can reduce its environmental impact through a whole-school approach. Your completed plan can be used to guide action on climate change in your school.

## VISION

Our school takes care of its environment and the environment of the local community. We do this by educating students about environmental sustainability, and taking actions including reducing litter, planting native gardens, and reducing our carbon emissions. We believe that every opportunity to take care of our environment is a learning opportunity.

Our school has joined the [Sustainability Victoria's ResourceSmart School program](#) to get assistance in reducing the environmental impact of our school operations and inspiring our school community.

We will provide students with opportunities to garden at school and learn about plants and animals while they do it. We teach our students about the local environment, natural hazards, and how plants can help to mitigate those hazards.

Our vision is to foster students as future leaders of our community to become ethical decision makers who understand how they can impact the environment around them.

## RATIONALE

### Context:

#### ***Where students may not have knowledge of healthy food***

Environmental sustainability matters to our school because it gives us an opportunity to create gardens and grow fruits and vegetables. Our community garden provides an opportunity to connect with parents and teach students about healthy and sustainable food sources.

#### ***Where a school is subject to high temperatures***

Environmental sustainability is important to our school as we are impacted by high temperatures. We plant native trees and gardens which create shade and are drought resistant to conserve water. As we care for our garden, we teach students about the natural environment.

### ***Where there is significant student demand for climate action***

We know that students at our school want to take action on climate change. Our school will demonstrate we are responsive to their needs by reducing the environmental impact of school operations through changes to operations and infrastructure. We will empower them by creating opportunities to listen to their ideas and take further climate action.

#### **Location:**

##### ***Where a school is in an urban location***

Local pollution from traffic is a key concern of our school community. We will take action to do what we can to mitigate traffic pollution by planting native trees and shrubs around our school to help improve air quality. Planting trees and caring for gardens provides additional opportunities to learn about the environment.

##### ***Where a school is in a regional location***

Our school is located near bushland – students know that the local environment offers risks as well as opportunities. Learning about fire, floods, climate change and the environment as a whole in a safe way will improve student wellbeing and safety.

#### **Values:**

***Schools should explain how environmental sustainability and climate action align with its school values.***

**Respect** – we will respect our environment by taking personal responsibility to reduce our carbon emissions, waste and ensure we don't litter.

**Community** – we will improve our school in a way that makes our community a better place to live work and play.

**Reconciliation** – we will improve our understanding of Aboriginal culture by learning from Traditional Owners about how we can better care for the land we are on.

**Wellbeing** – we will support student wellbeing by showing them that they can make an impact on their local environment and reduce the impact of school operations.

**Safety** – we will improve student safety by creating a natural environment which supports clean air and gives them shaded places to play outside.

## **SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE**

The following lists the names and roles of our committee:

School Captains-	Student Voice & Agency, recommendations and actions relating to college environmental matters.
Student Leadership Action Meetings (SLAM)-	Student Voice & Agency, recommendations and actions relating to college environmental matters.
School Leadership Team-	Strategic college recommendations and actions relating to college environmental matters.
Facilities Team:	Strategic college recommendations and actions relating to college environmental matters.

## **COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training

- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

*Department of education policies and resources:*

- [environmental sustainability in schools](#)
- [single use plastic ban](#)
- [sustainable facilities](#)
- [koorie teaching resources](#)
- [marrung aboriginal education plan](#)

Additional plans, key documents and policies that support and/or are aligned to your school's environmental sustainability plan include:

- Statement of school values and school philosophy
- Inclusion and diversity policy
- Student wellbeing and engagement policy
- Annual implementation plan
- Emergency management plan

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2025