



ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Boroondara Park Primary School

PURPOSE:

Boroondara Park Primary School recognises that the environment is integral to the quality of our student's lives. We endeavour to reduce our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives.

AIM:

To provide environmental education through a whole school approach in which students understand their role in the physical surroundings as members, as well as have direct contact with the environment and practice in which they can make informed decisions about their physical surroundings.

To embed an environmentally conscious culture within the school community through curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

OBJECTIVES:

- To minimise waste produced by the school and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To reduce the amount of energy used by the school through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources, such as solar panelling.
- To increase the biodiversity of the school by planting indigenous species and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife.
- To minimise the consumption of water at the school through the improvement of plumbing systems and conservation programs.
- To undertake a 'green purchasing' program to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life
- To maintain involvement in the Resource Smart program and progress by achieving stars in Biodiversity, Waste, Water, Energy.
- To apply for grants that will support the environmental education programs of the school
- To collaborate with community agencies and friends and families of the school to achieve the environment objectives of the school
- To support senior students of the Environment Pillar to lead initiatives
- To maintain input from a gardener who supports the environmental focus of the grade 5 students as well as maintaining and improving garden spaces in line with the broader policy

- To support a Sustainability Co-ordinator in their role of working with students, teachers from teams, parents, community members and organisations to continue to develop and broaden the aims of the Environment Policy
- To promote student voice and agency through the Environment program recognising it as an important part of the program given the potential for student-led initiatives and work with the broader community
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IMPLEMENTATION:

WASTE

- Ensure litter-free school grounds.
- Operate in-house recycling programs such as paper/cardboard, flexible plastic, printer cartridges and other electronic waste.
- Reduce the amount of paper the school consumes by using email instead of hard copies
- Reduce the amount of recycling required.
- Reduce the amount of landfill produced
- Continue to have yard clean ups and litter management, such as, eating inside, food only to be eaten in eating areas, nude food days and promotion to reduce packaging in lunch boxes.

From Resource Smart core module

- collect data on weekly waste (compost data collected by students)
- skip data for landfill collected by bill tracking
- students to be involved in educating the school and wider community of waste reduction targets, effective recycling and compostable materials.
- communication to the wider community to take place through newsletters and assembly presentations

ENERGY

- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Minimise energy use by using systems such as participation in Earth Hour each school week and National Ride2 School days annually.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available, such as, sensor lights, blinds and having appliances that are 4 star plus energy rating.
- Continue the Walk2School program that promotes sustainable transport and healthy lifestyle practices as well as the points as outlined in our 'Active School' policy
- Continue with the Dr. Cranky bike program

From Resource Smart core module

- To reduce per student electricity consumption
- To reduce per student gas consumption
- To track energy use data by tracking billing data

- Communicate progress toward reducing energy consumption to the school and wider community

BIODIVERSITY

- Continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard through participation in the 'Biodiversity in Schools' program.
- Plant indigenous plants in the school grounds and participate in National Tree Day annually.

From Resource Smart core module

- Increase habitat quality assessment score every year from baseline. Measured by Biodiversity Audit.

To improve our score in the Biodiversity Audit BPPS needs to aim for the following :

- The planting of indigenous/native ground covers and shrubs
- Leaving rocks&/or trees on the grounds that will provide habitat for animals
- To minimise use of chemical spray where possible
- To label plants where possible
- To provide a composting area on-site
- To provide worm farms
- To provide a bird bath/frog bog/bug hotel/ nesting boxes /lizard lounge if possible
- To allow native plants to regenerate when possible
- To leave leaf litter and fallen branches if possible
- To maximise use of mulch in gardens
- To manage soil erosion with plantings if possible
- To support productive vegetable gardens / herb / bush tucker gardens
- To include animals such as chickens and guinea pigs

WATER

- Involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Use effective means of conserving water, such as water tanks for flushing toilets.
- Be a "Water – Learn It, Live It" school and achieve milestone accreditations in partnership with our water company.
- Choose the most appropriate water saving methods such as water tanks, water friendly gardens and having appliances that are 3 star plus.
- Regularly maintain facilities, such as leaking taps, toilets etc.

From Resource Smart core module

- To reduce per student water consumption

GREEN PURCHASING

- Implement a 'green purchasing' program where economically viable.
- Use environmentally friendly products (e.g. stationery, toilet paper, tissues, cleaning products).

- Purchase fair trade products where possible (e.g. soccer balls, coffee).
- Purchase 100% recycled paper for printers and photocopiers.
- Increase the use of furniture and equipment made from second hand or recycled materials

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last updated on 9 June 2021 and is scheduled for review in April 2025.