



# Cranbourne East Primary School Sustainability Policy 2014

## **RATIONALE**

Everyone at Cranbourne East Primary School is working together to become the most sustainable school community that we can be. Staff and students are positive role models for sustainability within our community and strive towards preservation of a healthy environment for all, both now and in the future. Cranbourne East Primary School develops responsible, resilient and respectful citizens who make informed decisions to reduce their impact on the environment.

## **AIMS**

- To develop an environmentally conscious culture at Cranbourne East Primary School and its surrounding community.
- To minimise landfill waste to 0.3m<sup>3</sup> per student per year and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To reduce the amount of energy to 400kWh, 1.4GJ and 0.6 tonne CO<sub>2</sub>-e per student per year through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources.
- To increase the biodiversity and habitat quality score of the school grounds by planting indigenous species and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife.
- To minimise the consumption of mains water to 4KL per student per year through the improvement of plumbing systems and water conservation programs.
- To introduce 'green purchasing' procedures for the school community in order to reduce environmental impacts, including notices and articles of such procedures in our school newsletter to educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

- Our school will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events. Student learning will focus on taking action within the school and wider community.
- Our school will support an active sustainability coordination team that involves School Council, staff, student leadership, students, parents and other members of our school and local community.

## **WASTE**

- Include the whole school community in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school through the principles of Rethink/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- Minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling and composting (e.g. rubbish free lunches, recycling bins, compost buckets and worm farms).
- Maintain litter-free school grounds.

## **ENERGY**

- Include the whole school community in the process of developing an 'Energy Efficient' school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available.
- Develop a program that promotes sustainable transport eg. walk-to-school.
- Increase the use of carbon neutral energy sources.

## **BIODIVERSITY**

- Encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences e.g. curriculum, excursions and school camps.
- Enhance the school vegetable garden program.
- Continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard in order to support local flora and fauna.
- Showcase native and indigenous gardens as model to the school and wider community.

## **WATER**

- Appreciate water as a precious natural resource.
- Involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water (e.g. water tanks for flushing toilets).

## **GREEN PURCHASING**

- Provision of environmentally-friendly paper for printers and photocopiers.
- Provision of environmentally-friendly paper alternatives for items like toilet paper, hand towels, tissues and serviettes.
- Increase the use of furniture and equipment made from second hand or recycled materials.
- Use more environmentally friendly products (e.g. for cleaning).

## **EVALUATION**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of Cranbourne East Primary School's review cycle.
- The Annual Program Budget review will provide recommendations which may be used to affect policy change in future.
- Staff, student 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.

Ratified by School Council: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013