



ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Rationale

St Patrick's College is a Catholic educational community founded upon the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. The College promotes a sense of community through encouraging a variety of stakeholders to have an active involvement in the curricular and co-curricular programmes of the College, in particular through the use of the College's excellent education facilities and equipment.

The College recognises its responsibility to manage this beautiful land, traditionally cared for by the Wautherong people, to whose elders past and present we pay our respects. The College also acknowledges the Christian Brothers who have had custodianship of the land for the last 117 years. The College provides opportunities for our students to further develop environmental programs and practices in four key areas: Water, Energy, Waste and Biodiversity.

Scriptural Context

'The Lord God took the man and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and take care of it'. Genesis 2:15

Policy

St Patrick's College supports the concept of environmental custodianship of the land by actively promoting awareness of the issues involved amongst staff, students and the wider college community. St Patrick's College is committed to a whole school approach to environmental sustainability.

Guidelines

"St Patrick's College is committed to providing a caring and productive learning environment for all students.

St Patrick's College aspires to develop students who are positive contributors to our global community, with a passion for life-long learning and a respect for the environment, ready with the skills and motivation to take positive action in caring for our planet.

St Patrick's College is committed to a whole school approach to environmental sustainability. Careful use of our resources such as water and energy will lead to many gains for the school such as financial savings and environmental improvements. School actions will help to educate the wider community on how to live more sustainably.

St Patrick's College will endeavour to develop environmental programs and practices in following four key areas:

Water

- To reduce the amount of water used where 'savings' can be made through awareness of water-wise actions and practises
- To audit our water use from 2009 onwards and record data
- To increase the amount of water collection via tanks
- To educate students about water
- To purchase products within our school that support our aim of reduction and use them effectively

Energy

- To reduce the amount of energy used within our school where 'savings' can be made through awareness of energy-efficient actions and practises
- To audit our energy use from 2009 onwards and record data
- To purchase products within our school that support our aim of reduction and use them effectively
- To examine and apply for grants, where appropriate, for renewable energy sources.

Waste

- To reduce the amount of waste generated within our school environment (classroom and outside areas) with systems in place to reuse and recycle whenever possible
- To audit our waste 'output' from 2009 onwards and record data
- To purchase products within our school that support our aim of reduction and to use them effectively

Biodiversity

- To increase our animal, bird and insect population by creating areas of shelter within our school
- To continue our involvement with local community planting programs
- To maintain and care for our existing 'flora and fauna'
- To purchase plants with consideration of our local environment/ conditions in mind
- To encourage our wider community of parents to participate and contribute to biodiversity (and maintenance) within our grounds via working bees
- To beautify specific areas within our grounds for other community members to enjoy

Status of Policy: Ratified by the College Board, June 2009

Review: 2014