Policy for Sustainability at The Knox School

Declaration of Commitment

As part of The Knox School’s environmental commitment we will practise Waste Wise initiatives, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, increase biodiversity in the school gardens and encourage community practice in sustainability. We will also include the Sustainability Plan in all Curriculum Learning Areas.

General Guidelines for Achieving Objectives:

Curriculum

The primary vehicle for sustainability will be our curriculum with a clear focus on attainment of quality outcomes across three key areas.

Knowledge and understanding:
Children will learn:
- About the complexity of our ecosystem and how it works (e.g. the role of water cycle, climatic change, etc.)
- About human impact on the environment (e.g. pollution, global warming, species extinction etc.)
- About economically sustainable development through practical experience and studying emerging technology.

Skills:
Using an inquiry approach to learning children will:
- Learn how to observe, identify, assess and seek solutions to problems relating to sustainability.
- Become flexible thinkers, using lateral thinking skills to seek solutions to problems regarding sustainability.
- Understand how to use simple technology to achieve desirable outcomes for sustainability.
- Draw conclusions from their experiences and learn how to apply these to new situations for improvements in sustainability.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of their work and thinking.

Values and attributes:
By accepting responsibility for their own actions and developing understandings of those of the wider community they will be encouraged to:
- Develop a strong commitment to the creation and maintenance of a sustainable environment.
- Gain an enhanced respect for and understanding of the earth’s eco-systems and climate.
Management of planning and resources

Planning:
- The school community will commit to detailed planning for sustainability and register with Resource Smart Schools and CERES to achieve a sustainability rating in at least one module of the programme.

Resource Management:
- The principal energy, water and waste resources on the school’s campus will be monitored to ensure that usage is reduced to minimum levels without compromising efficiency, comfort and safety.
- A whole school approach will be implemented to ensure that best practice is sought and adopted with continuous improvement as an underlying principal.

Site Management:
- All site management, particularly that pertaining to usage of water, energy, waste management and biodiversity will be carried out according to the established principles of economically sustainable development.
- Advice will be sought from the Knox Municipal Council and the school’s consultants and architects in constructing cost effective, sustainable policies and processes to be used at The Knox School.

Community Relationships:
- Policies and practices that involve students, staff, and parents will be developed in creating a sustainable school.
- Partnerships with local community organisations, businesses and other schools will be sought in order to advance learning experiences and improve sustainable achievements.
- We aim to share resources, engage local expertise, seek government funding, involve service clubs and committed residents in building our programme for a sustainable school.

Four core areas for sustainability

Bio diversity
We will improve our outdoor natural environment; by planting trees that are conducive to our environment; upgrading the play areas and making them environmentally friendly; using natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment; to educate the school community about incorporating biodiversity in our every day school life.

Objectives:
- To create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy
- To choose materials that have less impact on the environment
- For each sub-school to have ownership of an area in the school
- To include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school

We can do this by:
- Building and maintaining a Frog bog
- Monitoring blind creek
- Building a Lizard lounge
- Creating bird flight paths and “bird scaping” the school gardens
- Creating plantings of indigenous and native flora
- Building kitchen gardens in the planters of the Amphitheatre
**Energy**
To control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment; avoid unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy; educate students, staff and whole community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services and to conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption.

**Objectives:**
- Reduce the costs of energy consumption within our school by 10% in 2010
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we create to establish a healthier impact on the environment
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available
- To include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school

**We can do this by**
- Increasing our use of Solar panels and feeding power to the energy grid
- Using energy efficient lighting- continuing our retro-fit programme
- Implementing an education and consciousness programme for saving energy - for all in our community to take responsibility for energy savings.

**Water**
To prompt actions that will reduce water usage; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; to plant trees that are conducive to our environment and don’t need much water; to educate the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors and to conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption.

**Objectives**
- To reduce the costs of water consumption within our school
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water.
- To involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives

**We can do this by**
- Publishing The Knox School water savings for the whole school community
- Installing additional water storage tanks – applying for funding applications
- Including an education programme in all faculties – water wise at school
- Establishing plantings in the school garden with “low to no water” needs
- Building swales for clean water harvesting of Storm-water

**Recycling and Waste**
To continue the development of a Waste Wise ethic within the whole school community; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; to practise waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle; and to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.

**Objectives**
- To minimise and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
- To use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste
- Maintain a compost heap in Junior School and Senior College
- To reduce the amount of paper in the school by recycling and reusing
- To reduce the cost of ‘skip’ pick-up
- To reuse garden waste as mulch
- To include the students and staff in the process of developing a Waste Wise school
We can do this by

- Developing the Visy Paper Recycling scheme at TKS in each sub-school
- Recycling aluminium cans
- Reducing litter in the school grounds and buildings
- Mulching waste from the Hospitality Centre into compost

Funding applications

Pending

Visy – Landcare grants

Finalised

45 thousand litre water tank for Junior School

Clubs, Friends groups etc

The Knox School Environment Club
Recycling and Waste – School Leaders, Junior Middle and Senior. Heads of School