

CRESWICK NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENTAL /SUSTAINABILITY POLICY
2008

The rural setting of Creswick North Primary provides opportunities for our school to further develop environmental programs for our students.

Greater emphasis has been placed on the teaching of, learning and daily practises within this area from ASISTM grant funding – November 2007. Our school, together with our neighbouring schools, Creswick Primary and St Augustine's Primary are working toward Five Star Sustainable School Accreditation.

Our aim is to:

- Engage students in 'the pathway to sustainability' via units of work based on Water, Energy, Waste and Biodiversity. (*See School unit planners and related VELs links)
- Practise Water wise initiatives by reducing water usage, promote energy efficient savings, improve waste reduction (reuse and recycling practises) and increase biodiversity within our school grounds
- Improve Science, Technology and Mathematics outcomes (ASISTM)
- Plan with staff and students from neighbouring schools and as a collegiate group, influence/change/improve existing practises within our wider Creswick communities via school links
- To work in partnership with environmental and science organisations to assist with planning and to 'resource' units of work with professional expertise within the above areas

Objectives:

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 2007 onwards and record data
- To increase the amount of water collection via tanks
- To connect tank water for flushing to outdoor student toilets
- To educate students about water with planned units of work within all grade levels
- To purchase products within our school that support our aim of reduction and use them effectively
- To take our water-wise practises/actions and promote our aims to the wider Creswick community of parents, businesses and other citizens

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 2007 onwards and record data
- To educate students about energy with planned units of work in all grade levels
- To purchase products within our school that support our aim of reduction and use them effectively
- To apply for Solar in Schools Grant
- To take energy saving strategies and promote our aims to the wider Creswick community of parents, businesses and other citizens

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 2007 onwards and record data
- To educate our students about waste with planned units of work in all grade levels
- To purchase products within our school that support our aim of reduction and to use them effectively
- To take our message about waste reduction and promote our aims to the wider Creswick community of parents, businesses and other citizens

BIODIVERSITY

- To increase the amount of 'plantings' within our school grounds and wider Creswick community each year
- 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 - Landcare / Planet Ark
- 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

Plan for Program Implementation:

WATER

- On-going education and actions. Our students and staff will adopt water wise strategies and practises to reduce water usage within the art room, toilets, at bubble taps and through reporting of any 'leakages'
- We will audit our water usage using water accounts from 2007 and record data on SETS for future comparison
- We will maintain our current 2 x *** litre tanks and purchase additional tanks in the future to increase our water storage capacity
- We will connect the tank water for flushing to the outdoor student toilets
- We will use mulch on garden beds
- We will educate our students about Water using a planned, cyclic approach throughout their schooling life to embed practise and actions (*see current planners and VELs links-Water in Everyday Life, Clean Water Essential for Life, Health of Local Aquatic Ecosystems) Students will participate in activities related to Water Week (*October)
- We will adopt an 'environmentally friendly' approach to purchases made for cleaning products – in particular within classrooms, the office and staffroom areas
- We will seek ways to educate our wider community to support, and adopt our water-saving messages via school visits, special event days, newsletters, advertising posters, surveys and media publications

ENERGY

- On-going education and actions to reduce the amount of energy we use. Our students and staff will adopt the 'switch-off' policy for all equipment, lighting, heating and cooling that is not being used. We will seek ways to reduce energy, using practical approaches where possible- wearing jumpers in classrooms and keeping heating and cooling temperatures on cooler days between 18-22 Degrees Celsius and warmer days between 26-22 Degrees Celsius respectively (*check cooling facts again)
- We will use Departmental guidelines for 'switch-off' during school holiday breaks
- We will purchase 'energy-saving' equipment and devices to assist with our understanding of where energy savings can be made such as Luxmeters, Timers, Usage Meters, Thermometers, Power-Mates
- We will audit our energy usage using energy accounts from 2007 onwards and record data on SETS for future comparison
- We will educate our students about Energy, using a planned, cyclic approach throughout their schooling life to embed practise and actions. (Term 1/2009) We will participate in Earth Hour/World Environment Day and Energy week activities (Earth Hour = May?* World Environment Day = June Energy Week = August)
- We will adopt an 'environmentally friendly' approach to purchases made – taking note of energy ratings and using products effectively and efficiently
- We will apply for the Solar in Schools Grant
- We will seek ways to educate our wider community to support, and adopt our energy-saving messages via school visits, special event days, newsletters, advertising posters, surveys and media publications

WASTE

- On-going education and actions to reduce the amount of waste produced. Students and staff will continue daily collection of school waste using the 'bin system' and student monitors from all grade levels - (2008)
Red = paper recycling
Blue= items that can be recycled. (At the end of the day these items are placed in recyclable bin-yellow lid for Hepburn Shire fortnightly collection)
Clear = non-recyclable (rubbish)
1 x labelled container for compost
1 x labelled container for chook scraps or worm farm
1 x outside bucket (to collect compost and chook scraps when food is eaten outside)
- We will continue our cardboard for recycling collection (2008)
- We will continue to reuse paper for printing purposes where possible – classrooms and office areas
- We will continue to reuse paper for the fax machine – office area
- We will encourage students and staff to be always mindful of photocopy paper usage
- We will continue our **** paper recycling collections
- We will continue to monitor and graph outside 'rubbish' collected each week within our school grounds and discuss progress
- We will audit our waste 'output' from 2007 onwards from Hepburn Shire collections and Skip (Environmental Solutions) pick-up accounts and record data on SETS for future comparison
- We will educate our students about Waste, using a planned, cyclic approach throughout their schooling life to embed practise and actions (T2/2009)
We will participate in Clean-Up Australia campaign focussing on areas 'close to our school' (*month?)
- We will encourage students to adopt 'wrapper' free lunch-boxes (for food contents) as often as possible - bringing food and drinks in reusable containers with minimal packaging
- We will use environmentally friendly practises at Special Event days and celebrations – making purchases that limit the amount of waste produced - for example using ceramic plates instead of using disposable paper plates, juice in bottles instead of individual packages, reusable cups instead of disposable plastic cups
- We will introduce an 'eating area' outside to contain rubbish (and eating of food) to a selected area of the playground
- We will seek ways to educate our wider community to support, and adopt our waste-reduction message via school visits, special event days, newsletters, advertising posters, surveys and media publications

BIODIVERSITY

- We will audit areas of our school grounds that need attention and plan for future development also – to further beautify our school grounds
- We will continue annual ‘plantings’ within our school grounds each year on Tree Planting Day together with annual ‘plantings’ at local family farms throughout the year – (July)
- We will continue to monitor and care for our new and existing plants keeping them in optimal condition
- We will purchase plants and trees considering local environmental conditions
- We will increase our animal/ bird/insect population by creating areas of shelter such as nesting boxes for birds and possums and using plants that attract insects
- We will continue to develop our vegetable patches - using a log book of planted seasonal vegetables and herbs , success of our plantings and future suggestions. We will use any produce in the student elective on Cooking
- We will plant some fruit trees within our grounds
- We will complete our chook shed and hatch (and purchase) chickens. Students will care for their welfare and collect eggs
- We will continue to operate the worm farm using the Can-O-Worms system toward purchasing a larger structure in the future
- Students will continue to work the compost bin
- We will educate our students about Biodiversity, using a planned, cyclic approach throughout their schooling life to embed practise and actions (TBA)
- We will seek ways to encourage our wide community to assist with keeping our grounds in optimal condition via working bees and assisting with future projects around the vegetable patch and eating area project (* see N Thorp plan for area improvement)

Aims & Targets:

During the next three year phase we aim to:

- Reduce water consumption by at least 10%
- Reduce energy consumption by at least 10%
- To reduce waste (rubbish) by 50%
- To increase our biodiversity within our school grounds by at least 20% each year