



## CHELSEA HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

**POLICY NO. CUR011 (Previously #91)**

Sustainability Policy

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**Date approved by School Council:** 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

### RATIONALE

At Chelsea Heights Primary School, we make informed choices to reduce our resource use in a way that minimises environmental impact. Our sustainability program helps us reduce our ecological footprint and enhance the educational experience. Living sustainably also helps our school reduce and redirect financial outlay to benefit teaching and learning

### AIMS

- To develop an environmentally conscious culture.
- 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.
- To minimise landfill **waste** produced by the school and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To increase the **biodiversity** of the school by planting indigenous species and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife.
- To minimise the consumption of mains **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.

### GUIDELINES

#### **Active Coordinators:**

Chelsea Heights Primary School will continue to support the initiatives of:

- Student Action Teams
- Student Environment Captains
- School Council Committees

**Curriculum Focus:** Chelsea Heights Primary School will actively incorporate the four key aspects of sustainability (energy, water, waste and biodiversity) in the curriculum.

#### **1. WASTE**

- To include the whole school community in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school.
- To minimise waste and maximise recycling and composting (e.g. rubbish free lunches, recycling bins, compost buckets and worm farms).

- To maintain a litter-free school grounds.

## **2. ENERGY**

- To include the whole school community in the process of developing an 'Energy Efficient' school.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available.
- To develop a program that promotes sustainable transport e.g. walk-to-school.
- To increase the use of carbon neutral energy sources.

## **3. BIODIVERSITY**

- To encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through experiences e.g. excursions and school camps.
- To develop community ownership over biodiversity in the school ground through:
  - An education program about how plants support biodiversity.
  - 'Pride areas' for each year level as classroom responsibility.
- To continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard and encourage the community to explore and enjoy the plants and animals of this environment e.g. frog pond and lizard habitat.
- To participate in community events to help support local biodiversity e.g. National Tree Day, wetlands programs, water conferences.

## **4. WATER**

- To involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To choose the most effective means of conserving water (e.g. water tanks for flushing toilets).
- To participate in community events to help support local waterways e.g. wetlands programs, water conferences, coastal programs.

### **Green Purchasing:**

- To work towards the purchase of 100% recycled paper for photocopiers and toilet paper.
- To use more environmentally friendly products (e.g. for cleaning).
- To uphold commitment to purchasing furniture and equipment made from second hand or recycled materials.
- To increase the use of fair trade and organic products (e.g. staff room, events).

### **EVALUATION:**

- This policy will be reviewed on a 3 year cycle.