

### **PURPOSE**

Stratford Primary School believes it has a responsibility to be a leader in the community in sustainable living through practice and education of the school community. We value the environment and are conscious of the ecological footprint we leave.

Stratford Primary School will lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

- To reinvest savings made through conserving energy, water and reducing waste.
- For students to engage in units of work relating to waste, energy, biodiversity and water.

### **AIM**

- Develop an awareness of Sustainability issues within our school.
- Encourage Sustainable practices within the school community.
- Develop a positive attitude towards sustainability among students, staff and the school community.
- The implementation of the Stratford Primary School Sustainability Units in all classrooms through the inquiry approach.

### **CURRICULUM FOCUS**

- Our Sustainability Units will provide in-depth learning about sustainability issues across the school.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

- Participate in the AuSSiVIC WasteWise School's Program, in order to become a 5 Star School through completion of the Core, Waste, Energy, Biodiversity and Water Modules.
- Develop student leadership groups within the school.
- Promote sustainable practices through avenues such as the school's newsletter 'Stratchat' and assemblies.
- Involve students, staff, parents and wider community.
- Networking with other schools and community support such as the Wellington Shire Council, Landcare and Bug Blitz.

### **EVALUATION**

The sustainability program at Stratford Primary School will be reviewed annually by the staff.

## APPENDIX 1

### ***Aims, Targets and Implementation***

#### ***Energy***

- To promote a 'Switch off and Save' culture for technological equipment, lighting and heating/cooling.
- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an energy efficient school.
- Reduce energy consumption within the school, and therefore reduce greenhouse gas emissions through efficient use of resources and equipment.
- 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.
- Use of SETS to track electricity, gas, paper, water and waste bills.

#### ***Waste***

- To include the school community in the process of developing a Waste Wise school following the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Students to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner. This may include the establishment of a monitor system.
- Have a student leadership group working on sustainability, i.e. rubbish free lunch promotion.
- To promote rubbish free lunches within the student, teacher and parent community.
- To maintain the compost bins/worm farms/paper recycling.
- Ensure the school endeavours to undertake green purchasing.
- To reduce the cost of waste and litter management.
- To minimise landfill waste produced by the school and increase the percentage of material that is reused and recycled.
- Use recycled paper for printers, photocopiers, etc.
- Promote the reuse principle of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office.
- To encourage a "carry in carry out" practice among the school community.
- All students to be provided with eating time before recess and lunch inside the classroom (where possible).

#### ***Biodiversity***

- To utilise our garden area to its full extent.
- To involve community members in maintenance of school grounds.
- For all children to be involved in learning about biodiversity and sustainability through involvement in our school garden.
- Educate the school community about incorporating biodiversity in our every day school life and work towards more native (indigenous) plantings in our school grounds.
- To conduct an inspection of our school grounds to determine areas for potential biodiversity and sustainability projects, including creating a garden plan for the future development of our school grounds.
- To continue "working bees" which involve school community in developing our school grounds.
- To visit other "Sustainable schools" to gain ideas for developing our grounds and attend related professional development.
- To prepare a management plan for the red gum grassy woodland area within the school grounds.
- Continue involvement in community revegetation projects.
- Engage students and staff in the maintenance of our gardens.

- To grow and harvest a range of vegetables/herbs/fruit.
- Use produce grown in our kitchen during cooking lessons, swap produce with other Stephanie Alexander schools and sell surplus produce to raise funds to support the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.

### **Water**

- To promote actions that will reduce water usage within the wider school community.
- To appreciate water as a precious natural resource.
- Future ornamental plantings should be with drought tolerant plants.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives.
- To promote a 'water-wise turn off' culture.
- To use water tanks installed in the school grounds.

### **Community Involvement**

- Encourage community participation in environmental projects undertaken, as well as, invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve our school environment.
- Promote sustainable living through educating the school community through our students.
- All people within our school will be informed and accept responsibility for implementing these programs.
- The Stratford Primary School staff will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program to the whole school community, through school newsletters and the annual report. The parties involved will provide reports to School Council outlining the goals, aims, costing, savings and other relevant issues.
- To encourage partnerships between school, Landcare, Bug Blitz, Wellington Shire Council and Shakespeare on the River Festival, Gippsland Water.

We aim to achieve the following goals and targets over the next three years:

1. To reduce overall waste by 20-50% and move towards recycling materials other than paper.
2. To reduce water consumption by 10%.
3. To reduce energy consumption by 20%.