

# All Saints Catholic Primary School

# Sustainable Living Policy

## Preamble

Pope Francis in Laudato Si' ...

- states that humans are uniquely created and called to exercise responsible stewardship over creation on behalf of the loving Creator (§67-68).
- argues that “ecological education” – which should provide information and seek to form habits – must occur everywhere in society: “at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis ... political institutions and various other social groups ... [and all] Christian communities” (§213- 214).
- affirms that in light of ecological degradation and climate change, justice, and solidarity, i.e., commitment to the common good must be understood as “intergenerational” (§159)
- calls for “personal and communal” conversion away from consumerism and “collective selfishness,” and invites persons toward lifestyles animated by sound ecological virtues, i.e., “good habits,” that must be developed in persons by both secular and faith communities (§202-215).
- points out “consumer movements” like boycotts “prove successful in changing the way businesses operate, forcing them to consider their environmental footprint and their patterns of production” (§206).

*From God's hands, we have received a garden; we cannot leave a desert to our children. We need a new ecological approach that can transform our way of dwelling in the world, our styles of life, our relationship with the resources of the Earth and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life.*

*Pope Francis – Laudato Si' 2015*

*Climate change is a reality. We are experiencing these changes every day. In our small ways, we can pull together and act boldly to change the world. So, this is the moment. This is our time to do it now and most importantly together.*

*Sister Rainer of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary – COP26 2021*

The All Saints Catholic Primary School Sustainable Living Policy incorporates our vision for a sustainable environment, our Mission to be stewards of the Earth, our Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and our Ecologically Aware Procurement Policy (EAPP).

# Vision & Mission

## At All Saints we believe that:

- creation is a gift from God which requires equitable sharing and wise stewardship.
- ecological education provides the background for wise and moral decisions.
- it is our responsibility, as stewards of the earth, to conserve and protect natural resources.
- we should think globally and act locally with great regard for our ecology.
- we should make positive contributions to society and our environment.

## At All Saints we will strive to:

- instil a sense of respect for all of God's creation amongst our community.
- foster responsibility for the natural environment and become active members of the community.
- provide an innovative, encouraging, and nurturing environment that fosters individual growth, awareness, and action towards a sustainable future.
- integrate sustainability, ecological awareness, and environmental education through the entire curriculum.
- integrate sustainability, ecological awareness, and environmental education through school management practices.
- develop responsible, resilient, and respectful people who make informed decisions to reduce their impact on the environment.
- become positive role models for ecological change and environmental sustainability.
- become leaders in demonstrating exemplary practices in all areas of sustainability – biodiversity, energy and water usage, waste reduction and management and ecologically aware procurement.

# Implementation and Focus

All Saints Catholic Primary School will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events. Student learning will focus on taking action within the school and wider community.

We will support an **Ecological and Environmental Sustainability Team (EEST)** that will include student and staff representatives, and invite families, and members of our school and local community (volunteers) to be involved.

## **Biodiversity**

We will encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences of native and endemic flora and fauna. Care and maintenance of our school food garden, bush food garden, chicken house/yard and sanctuary garden (including the frog pond) will support learning programs and be integrated into the daily life of our school.

## **Waste**

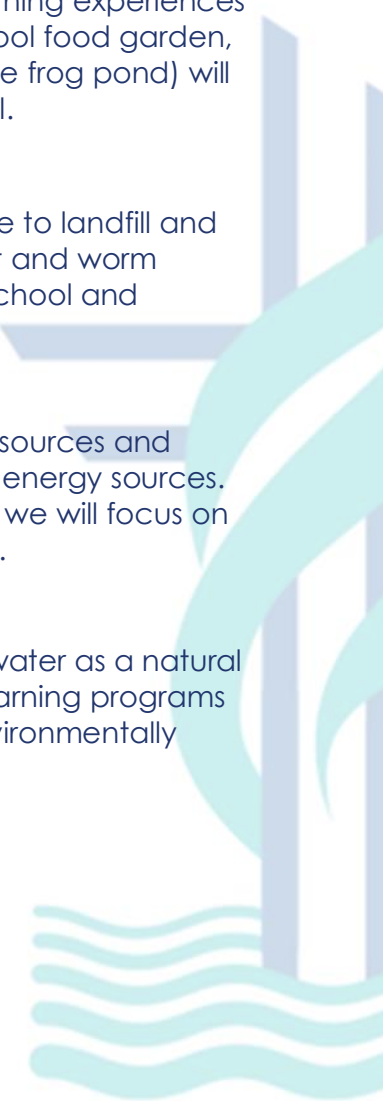
We will develop and maintain a 'Waste Wise' philosophy of minimising waste to landfill and maximising reduction, reusage and the recycling of our resources. Compost and worm systems may be used in these practices. We will continue as a Nude Food school and encourage the community to use less single use packaging.

## **Energy**

We will continue to develop as an 'Energy Efficient' school where we use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible and increase the use of carbon neutral energy sources. Learning programs will incorporate data collected from our Solar Array and we will focus on decreasing wasted electricity using a whole school approach – Switch it off.

## **Water**

We will further develop our capacity to be Water wise. We will appreciate water as a natural and precious resource and work toward water conservation and re-use. Learning programs will encourage responsible use of our water resources and efficient and environmentally responsible equipment – taps, toilets & tanks.



# Sustainability Curriculum

All Saints will strive to embed a focus on ecological sustainability across areas of the curriculum and incorporate an environmental focus into the inquiry units across all year levels. Part of the role of the Ecological and Environmental Sustainability Team (EEST) will be to explore, create and deliver units of work relating to each of the resource areas.

## Biodiversity

- Students will engage in curriculum that promotes biodiversity at All Saints.
- Students will engage in learning that is strongly linked to our Catholic identity as stewards of God's creation, caring for our environment.
- Students will work with teachers and volunteers to grow and harvest food to be used in cooking classes, with a view for excess produce to be made available to the community.
- Students will engage in the care and maintenance of our food gardens, chickens, and sanctuary garden.

## Waste

- Students will engage in curriculum, learning what it is to be 'Waste Wise'.
- Students will cover units of work about different waste streams and where their waste goes at a local and global level.
- Students' learning will also cover the reuse of products where possible, increased recycling processes and reduction of our waste output.

## Energy

- Students will engage in curriculum around what it is to be 'Energy Efficient.'
- Students will engage in curriculum around diverse kinds of energy including green and sustainable energy sources.
- Students will have the opportunity to investigate the best ways to conserve energy at a local and global level.

## Water

- Students will engage in curriculum around what it is to be 'Water Wise.'
- Students will engage in units of work relating to water as a resource.
- Students will investigate our sources of water. They will also look at ways to reduce our water consumption and reuse water appropriately.

# Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (to be initiated 2023/4)

All Saints Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that our sustainability practice and policies are relevant and contemporary. Our Environmental Management Plan will be reviewed and updated biennially. This review will involve the Ecological and Environmental Sustainability Team (**EEST**) as well as Leadership, staff and Curriculum Leaders. Updates and progress will be communicated with the school community.

A Sustainability Audit will form part of our Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and will assist us to document our school's position as an ecologically sustainable place of learning. Annually, we will assess current infrastructure, daily operations and community engagement which will allow for us to identify opportunities for improvement.

Environmental Management Plan at a Glance Infographic (Appendix A)

## Ecologically Aware Procurement Policy (EAPP) (to be initiated 2023/4)

All Saints Catholic Primary School is committed to the use and purchase of environmentally and socially responsible materials, products, and services, which are fit for purpose, safe and within budget constraints. The object of the **EAPP** is to provide a scaffold for purchasing services and supplies that are ecologically sound, to enable All Saints to minimise impact on the environment, and to change purchasing behaviour toward sustainable choices.

All purchases are expected to support our commitment to environmental responsibility through the guidelines and procedures contained in this policy. It is the responsibility of all staff to be aware of potential impacts that a service or a product's life cycle may have on environmental and human health and to use a **Responsible Procurement Checklist** when purchasing goods, materials, or services.

### Through the EAPP the school aims to:

- Educate and encourage environmentally and socially responsible purchases.
- Reduce the ecological footprint of the school.
- Eliminate unnecessary purchasing.
- Reduce waste to landfill.
- Improve environmental & human health.
- Support sustainable long-term markets for recyclable materials.

### For example:

- Purchasing recycled copy paper
- Ensuring that cleaning contractors only use cleaning products and packaging with reduced environmental impact
- Ensuring that all office machinery & kitchen equipment purchased is energy-efficient
- Reusing classroom resources that are no longer needed (don't bin it)

Our EAPP will be reviewed and updated as with other policies. This review will involve the Ecological and Environmental Sustainability Team (EEST) as well as Leadership, staff and Curriculum Leaders. The ratified policy will be distributed to the school community as usual.

Supporting Documents:

- Appendix A Environmental Management Plan at a Glance.....7

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: November 2023  
(Principal on behalf of School Board)

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: November 2023  
(Chairperson on behalf of School Board)

Date to be reviewed: November 2026



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AT A GLANCE



## Biodiversity

### Goals:

- Commit to indigenous & native plantings. Continue to nurture the Frog Pond sanctuary to encourage macroinvertebrates.
- Continue to develop and maintain Bush Foods garden to support Indigenous studies and the Kitchen Garden programs.
- Encourage support for and rejuvenate the Chicken and Egg program



## Waste

### Goals:

- Commit to Nude Food school wide including staff.
- Further develop the 10c deposit recycling program for charity and encourage staff, parent & community participation.
- Create awareness of recycling programs amongst staff and expand across classrooms.
- Establish a four bin system within the school consisting of general waste, hard recycling, paper and organics bins and increase the knowledge of the process.



## Water

### Goals:

- Continue using Water saving taps.
- Audit water tanks and increase usage.
- Plant water wise indigenous plants to reduce usage.
- Increase knowledge on the benefits of water conservation



## Energy

### Goals:

- Encourage a reduction in usage. Switch it off. Participate in Earth Hour as a whole school.
- Install management system for Solar panels to support curriculum program.
- Increase knowledge on the benefits of renewable energy.



## Procurement

### Goals:

- Commit to environmentally aware and socially responsible purchases.
- Reduce purchases overall - reuse existing resources.
- Support sustainable businesses and promote amongst community.



## Curriculum

### Goals:

- Commit to environmental curriculum programming for individual year levels.
- Whole School commitment to Clean-Up Australia Day each year.
- Support environmental programs around the school. E.g. Learn to recognise Bush Foods and indigenous plantings in our gardens and know their uses.
- Encourage increased interaction between local traditional custodians and our school, increasing knowledge of Indigenous practices.
- Excursions/Incursions to focus upon sustainability, waste & water management, renewable resources etc.

The All Saints Catholic Primary School Sustainable Living Policy details our *Vision* for a sustainable environment incorporating our *Mission* to be stewards of the Earth through:

- our Ecological and Environmental Sustainability Team (EEST)
- our Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and
- our Ecologically Aware Procurement Policy (EAPP).