



Declaration of Commitment

At Upper Yarra Secondary College, our school works together to understand and improve sustainability in day-to-day operations, curriculum and community. We reduce our impact on the Earth in order to produce a clean, safe and healthy environment and preserve resources for future generations.

Goals

- To develop an environmentally conscious culture at Upper Yarra Secondary College and its surrounding community.
- To minimise landfill **waste** to 0.3m³ per student per year and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To reduce the amount of **energy** to 400kWh, 1.4GJ and 0.4 tonne CO₂-e per student per year through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources.
- To increase the **biodiversity** and habitat quality score of the school grounds by planting indigenous species and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife.
- To minimise the consumption of mains **water** to 2KL per student per year through the improvement of plumbing systems and water conservation programs.
- To introduce '**green purchasing**' procedures for the school community in order to reduce environmental impacts and educate community on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

Guidelines

- **Curriculum** delivery will incorporate elements of sustainability at all year levels.
- Our school will engage in **daily sustainable practices** that incorporate environmentally-friendly behaviours by utilising systems i.e. Recycle bins
- Our school will lead the **community** by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

Implementation

- Our school will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events such as Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Planting Day and Green Machine in options. Student learning will focus on taking action within the school and wider community.
- Our school will support an active sustainability coordination team that involves School Council, staff, student leadership, students, parents and other members of our school and local community.

Waste

- Include the whole school community in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school through the principles of Rethink/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- Minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling.
- Create a compost system at school for food waste.
- Maintain litter-free school grounds by using waste education and daily enviro-monitors.

Energy

- Include the whole school community in the process of developing an 'Energy Efficient' school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Ensure that lights, heaters and coolers are switched off when rooms are not in use.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available.
- Publish energy use at school in the school newsletter.

Biodiversity

- Encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences e.g. curriculum, excursions and school camps.
- Create a vegetable garden.
- Maintain areas planted with indigenous plants.
- Continue to remove noxious weeds from school grounds.
- Continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard in order to support indigenous plants and animals.
- Showcase native and indigenous gardens as model to the school and wider community.

Water

- Appreciate water as a precious natural resource.
- Continue to monitor SWEP and find the cause of any water spikes.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water (e.g. water tanks for flushing toilets).
- Publish water use at school in the school newsletter.

Green Purchasing

- Purchase environmentally-friendly paper for printers and photocopiers.
- Purchase environmentally-friendly paper alternatives for items like toilet paper, hand towels, tissues and serviettes.
- Use more environmentally friendly products (e.g. for cleaning).

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle.
- The Annual Program Budget review will provide recommendations which may be used to affect policy change in future.
- Staff and community feedback will be sought to review the policy.
- The School Council and Sustainability Program Coordinators will review whether the school is reaching its environment targets, as outlined in 'Goals', on a yearly basis.