

Sustainability Policy 2022

Policy Statement

Anula Primary School encourages all staff and students to engage in actions that will sustain and further develop a healthy and positive physical and learning environment for all. We call on parents and the wider community to actively support our sustainability and regenerative practices and encourage the discussion and adoption of them beyond school. In caring for our natural environment, we acknowledge that we also influence the other two pillars of UN sustainability – society and economy.

Aims

Our aim is to ensure respect, understanding, critical thinking and decision making in regards to the environment is developed and maintained across the school community through these broad areas:

Energy

- Monitor and manage energy use, such as turning off lights when not in the room
- Maintain rechargeable battery system
- Encourage transport to and from school to be by bike, foot, pooled vehicle

Waste

- Collect and dispose of waste productively, such as composting and paper recycling
- Reduce waste through the actions of rethinking, reducing, reusing, recycling, repurposing such as discouraging single-use plastic
- When conducting or hosting school events special consideration needs to be given to providing and using items that are biodegradable, washable or recyclable to reduce the amount of waste produced that affects the environment and is not inline with our sustainability policy.
- Maintain regular waste and emission audits

Water

- Encourage conservation of water

Food

- Educate students and families to the benefits of producing their own food
- Maintain and develop edible and useful plant gardens and use the produce for cross-curricula activities and school events

Biodiversity

- Maintain and increase biodiversity of living things, such as planting more natives suitable to Top End growing conditions and creating habitats for insects, birds and small animals

Green Purchasing

- Purchase products made with natural or recycled materials
- Purchase products that minimise environmental impact such as buying local or Australian made

Communication

- Disseminate information regularly through platforms such as the School Council, School Portal, Newsletter, Seesaw and Facebook to promote sustainability and regeneration initiatives and their progress.

Implementation

Biodiversity

- Build diversity of plants and animals around the school by developing and maintaining a wide range of plants and habitats
- Continue to develop and maintain edible and useful plant gardens
- Use and/or sell produce within the school community to help maintain garden projects and reduce food waste
- Educate students and families to the benefits of producing their own food

Energy

- Monitor power usage to identify patterns of use and areas for improvement
- Encourage staff and students to turn off lights when not in a room
- Use low energy bulbs
- Shut down computers when not in use
- Turn off power points when not in use
- Encourage staff and students to come to school in alternative modes of transport and promote through activities such as Wheelie Day

Waste

- Maintain a composting system within the school
- Collect 10c bottles and cans
- Recycle paper and cardboard products
- Discourage bringing to and purchase at school of, foil and single-use plastics
- Discourage bringing of Poppers to school, for example, by limiting them to one day per week
- Encourage and set up collections as appropriate for waste to be reduced, reused, recycled and repurposed
- Promote decision making (rethinking), for example, needs versus wants
- Conduct at least one waste and emission audit per semester with results shared with whole school community

Water

- Monitor and adjust water use according to weather and time of year
- Purchase, instal and maintain water saving devices such as timed taps
- Plan, obtain funding and instal water collection and storage initially around basketball courts to use on gardens in dry season
- Educate the school community around the appropriate use of half flush toilets

Green Purchasing

- Purchase products where possible made with natural or recycled materials
- Purchase products that minimise environmental impact by taking into consideration the making, packaging and transportation of the product
- Purchase cleaning products and soaps with less chemicals

Resourcing

School Council and Leadership at the end of each school year discuss and plan ahead to ensure this policy can continue to be implemented and resourced for the following year. Financial consideration should be given within the parameters of the projected budget, to employ an appropriately skilled person to assist to run garden classes and an environment budget allocated to deliver the initiatives and implementation of this policy. A staff sustainability group is encouraged and where possible a dedicated staff member with allocated time is responsible for promoting and maintaining sustainability initiatives involving active student participation and innovation.

Curriculum Focus

Anula Primary is committed to embedding sustainability and regenerative practices into daily classroom routines and cross-curricular programming. This will be done through collaborative planning, whole school approaches and support from the Sustainability Action Group and School Leadership.

Community Involvement

Anula Primary actively works with the school community to implement and sustain the initiatives outlined in this policy and introduce new ones as required. The School Council is committed to working with the school and its wider community to regenerate our environment and reduce the school's environmental footprint now and into the future.

Evaluation

Leadership will ensure that initiatives stemming from this policy are monitored and reviewed each year and will refer to staff, students and wider school community when doing so, for example by including them in the School Review and Planning cycle.