

# *Pinewood Primary School*

## ***School Environment Management Plan***

### ***Rationale***

This School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) outlines Pinewood Primary School's commitment to sustainability. It has been developed as part of the ResourceSmart Schools initiative, a program of Sustainability Victoria and the Victorian government.

Pinewood Primary School aims to become a Sustainable School through the implementation of a broad range of environmentally sustainable practices. Our school will take action to minimise waste, save energy and water, promote biodiversity and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

School leadership will work with the Sustainability Committee, staff, students and the broader Pinewood community to encourage everyone to take responsibility for their actions when making choices that impact on our environment.

Our SEMP is made up of the following:

- Rationale
- Sustainability Policy
- Green Procurement Policy
- Sustainability Snapshot
- Date of next review

## *Sustainability Policy*

### **AIM**

To become a Sustainable School by reducing Pinewood's environmental impact or 'footprint'. More specifically we aim to

- Implement sustainable practices at Pinewood in the areas of energy and water use, waste disposal, creation of wildlife habitat and the purchasing of products and services.
- Include, where practical, themes of sustainability within the curriculum.
- Foster a sense of whole school responsibility for Pinewood as a Sustainable School.

### **GUIDELINES**

#### ***Energy***

- Reduce overall energy consumption.
- Use electrical resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an energy efficient school.

#### ***Waste***

- Minimize weekly amounts of waste going to landfill.
- Recycle school waste where possible.
- Include the school community in the process of developing a 'waste wise' school. Implement practices such as organic waste collection, composting, co-mingled waste collection and rubbish free lunches.
- Students to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner.
- Promote rubbish free lunches and (reward those who participate regularly).
- Maintain compost bins/worm farm.

#### ***Biodiversity***

- Involve students and school community members in the creation of new wildlife habitat within the school grounds.
- Maintain existing wildlife habitat.

#### ***Water***

- Reduce school water consumption.
- Install efficient appliances
- Implement water conservation practices.

### **AIMS & TARGETS:**

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

1. Reduce waste by 50%.
2. Reduce water consumption by 40%.
3. To reduce energy consumption by 30%.
4. Increase the amount of high quality wildlife habitat within school grounds.

## **IMPLEMENTATION:**

### ***Energy***

- Promote a 'switch off and save' policy for heating/cooling, lighting and information technology through information and competitions.
- Include energy conservation in relevant science and inquiry units.
- Form educational relationships with United Energy (Head Office at Pinewood Shopping Centre)

### ***Waste***

- Provide food scraps collection containers to each classroom and staffroom.
- Purchase composting bins and worm farms for food scrap collections.
- Collect and compost garden waste.
- Join City of Monash co-mingled waste collection scheme.
- Promote a green procurement policy for purchasing products and services.
- Promote the 'Reduce, reuse, recycle' principle in classrooms, staffroom and office.

### ***Biodiversity***

- Consult local council regarding local indigenous plants and animals.
- Plant indigenous species, where possible, within the school grounds.
- Involve community members in planting and maintaining our gardens.

### ***Water***

- Promote water conservation within the school community.
- Include water conservation in relevant science and inquiry units.
- Landscape school grounds with low maintenance /water-using plants.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

We will encourage student and parent participation in environmental projects.

The school community will be informed of progress and involved in planning through a sustainability group.

Communicating with the Principal and School Council the Sustainability Committee will be responsible for keeping records and reporting progress to the whole school community.

## **EVALUATION:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle

# Pinewood Primary School

## ***Green Procurement Policy***

### **Aims**

Pinewood Primary School is committed to sustainable practices within the school community. We will endeavour to purchase 'green' products and services in order to reduce impacts on the environment and human health.

Pinewood also aims to inform and encourage the wider school community about green procurement initiatives through newsletters, school website and school curricula.

### **Guidelines**

Where feasible Pinewood will pursue the following,

- Encourage purchasing officers to support our commitment to environmental responsibility. Where practical, anyone purchasing goods or services on behalf of the school will consider a balance of environmental and social factors against price, availability and performance.

The following principles have been established for purchasing officers.

- Minimise unnecessary purchasing
- Minimise waste through avoid-reduce-reuse-recycle
- Minimise habitat destruction (e.g. old growth forests used for paper production)
- Minimise soil degradation
- Minimise greenhouse gas emissions
- Maximise energy efficiency
- Maximise water efficiency
- Maximise value for money
- Maximise Fair Trade opportunities
- Maximise the purchase of eco- labelled/ environmentally preferred products/ services
- Maximise education for sustainability opportunities through curriculum and community links
- Maximise local purchases

### **Actions/ Implementation**

This policy will be reviewed every three years. The next review will be in June 2019.

## Sustainability Snapshots

### Current

As of early 2016 Pinewood is currently undertaking the following sustainable practices.

Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signage promotes a 'switch off when you leave' policy for technological equipment, lighting and heating/cooling.</li><li>• Students engage in units of work relating to energy use and conservation.</li></ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buckets placed under drinking taps and water used in gardens.</li><li>• Rainwater tanks for all buildings. Water used on vegetable gardens and some toilets.</li><li>• Bore water used for watering school oval in summer.</li><li>• Drought tolerant native gardens have been established and mulched.</li></ul>
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Office paper recycling – four wheelie bins available for filling each week.</li><li>• Green waste collected by gardener and composted in designated area.</li><li>• Six composting bins have been purchased for classroom food scraps collection and composting.</li><li>• Worm farms are operating with staff room /out-of-hours care food waste.</li></ul>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Native and indigenous plants have been established.</li><li>• Vegetable garden established.</li></ul>
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental and sustainability focus incorporated into the appropriate Science and Inquiry Units across all year levels.</li></ul>

## Future directions

Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For students, further signage and competitions to promote energy conservation.</li> <li>• Further development of units relating to energy use and conservation.</li> <li>• For staff, education regarding actions arising from United Energy audit in Dec 2015.</li> <li>• Implement, where feasible, United Energy audit recommendations.</li> <li>• Review electricity provider and investigate solar power options.</li> <li>• Communicate energy conservation successes and initiatives via school newsletter.</li> </ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buckets placed under drinking taps and water used in gardens.</li> <li>• Further planting and mulching of drought-tolerant native garden.</li> <li>• Join SWEP program to monitor water use.</li> <li>• Communicate water conservation successes and initiatives via school newsletter.</li> </ul>
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce co-mingled recycling bins via City of Monash.</li> <li>• Classroom food waste to be collected and composted in green waste zone.</li> <li>• 'Nude food' policy to be encouraged for students. Re-usable food containers to be encouraged.</li> <li>• Implement Green Procurement policy. Promote reduce, re-use, recycle throughout the school.</li> <li>• Communicate waste successes and initiatives via school newsletter.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous plantings to be extended.</li> <li>• Further vegetable gardens to be established.</li> <li>• Seek out grant opportunities in habitat creation.</li> </ul>
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review environment and sustainability opportunities in Science and Inquiry Units across all year levels.</li> <li>• Seek out partnerships between the school and external programs (local government, state government, community groups, private providers)</li> </ul>

## Review of SEMP

### Three years (2019)