

➔ building awareness

MOUNT WAVERLEY Youth get behind green program

PINWOOD Primary School has gone green to reduce its environmental footprint. The Mount Waverley school is participating in the So-Eco for Schools and United Energy Sustainable Schools Program, which encourages water saving, waste and energy reduction and biodiversity promotion. Students wore green and had crazy hair to show their sustainability commitment.



Pinewood Primary School environment captains Neha and Marcus with principal Karen Jenkin. Photo: STRAITSTIMES.COM

An article appearing in the Waverley Progress Leader helps to spread the word about the United Energy & So-Eco Sustainable Schools Program at Pinewood Primary School.

➔ ResourceSmart Schools



ResourceSmart Schools provides a great framework to help schools embed sustainability across their systems, operations and curriculum.

On 15th October, So-Eco ran a ResourceSmart online coaching session with the Pinewood PS Sustainability Committee to explain exactly how it all works. Greg Tate, Sustainability Coordinator said, "The online coaching session showed us how easy it is to load and access our energy data. We can't wait to track our progress and reduce our energy bills."

➔ upcoming events

- Whole School Survey - to be circulated to all parents and staff to find out what they think about sustainability at school and what they're doing at home
- Energy Audit - United Energy are preparing an audit to help identify energy use at the school and ways to reduce it
- School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) - developed by the Sustainability Committee to outline sustainability goals and vision
- Action Plans - to provide the Committee and Student Enviro Team with actions to achieve energy savings and bring about effective behaviour change across the school



Lona Parry and Clare Nolan from So-Eco for Schools undertaking a Sustainability Review at Pinewood Primary School with the help of the Student Enviro Team - Occa, Josie, Sarah, Aadarsh, Vonara & Jonathan

Students lead Sustainability Review

A blustery but thankfully warm day saw the Student Enviro Team and So-Eco for Schools undertake a Sustainability Review at Pinewood PS. The Review helps the school to understand what current sustainable practices are already in place, how effectively these are working and what improvements can be made. The Review alongside the audit, can then help to develop Action Plans which target the school's specific needs and goals.

The Team spent a morning sharing insights into their student led activities and current initiatives around the school. Some of these included:

- * A student competition using energy mascot Sparky to check lights are turned off when classrooms are not in use
- * Water tanks feeding the toilets and kitchen garden
- * Native plantings and mulching to reduce water consumption
- * Signage in classrooms to encourage lights to be switched off
- * Recycling bins which the students are responsible for collecting

The Review highlighted just how proud the students are of their school's achievements to date and their excitement about the opportunities to do more.

Enviro Team student Sarah summed up the day: "We've got so many water tanks and power points. There are always lights and computers on and we must use so much electricity. I think we can switch a lot more things off."