

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

PURPOSE

Tecoma Primary School is working towards becoming a 5 Star Sustainable School in partnership with Sustainability Victoria.

ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) is a program offered by Sustainability Victoria that supports Victorian schools to embed sustainability across the school facilities, community, and curriculum, while saving resources and money for the school.

As a Sustainable School, we encourage our community to take ownership and pride in our environment. We aim to achieve this through efficient and considered use of resources, responsible waste reduction and management, develop and promotion of biodiversity and integration of sustainability across the curriculum. We will advocate for sustainability and support our school and educators on their journey towards sustainable living.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, students and parents enrolled at Tecoma Primary School and will work alongside of local communities such as suppliers and collection depots.

POLICY

The Sustainability Sub-Committee will consist of staff and parents who will form working groups for the key areas (as outlined by RSS): Biodiversity, Curriculum, Energy, Waste, Water, Kitchen Garden.

Each working group will have a parent and a staff representative who will be responsible for coordinating an annual Action Plan and entering data for corresponding modules into the ResourceSmart Schools website.

We aim to:

- Embed a proactive approach to conservation and environmental issues
- Promote sustainable practices through the school community regarding responsible energy usage, water conservation, waste management and environmental awareness
- Monitor and practise sustainable usage of energy and water
- Monitor and minimise waste and implement efficient waste management systems
- Work towards attaining all 5 sustainable stars: Core, Water, Waste, Energy and Biodiversity.

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Each year the school will:

1. Assign one or more staff member(s) as the Sustainability Leader, as well as providing one member from each Year Level as a representative to be a part of the Sustainability Curriculum Team. This team will be responsible for:
 - organising the Environment Team and student monitors in implementing their roles
 - integrating sustainable practices and environmental education into the school curriculum
 - communicating with members of the Sustainability Sub-Committee
 - developing relationships with and supporting other schools in sustainability

- attending and organising staff professional development in sustainability
2. Provide opportunities for students through the Year 6 Leadership program, and class Environmental Monitors to assist in implementing sustainable routines and practices
 3. Elect a School Council member to act as the Sustainability Sub Committee Convenor and represent the sub-committee on School Council. The Convenor will arrange meetings (at least quarterly) and organise the parent volunteers into working groups
 4. Encourage/implement a Walking to School program and nominate a coordinator who is responsible for overseeing the initiative
 5. Facilitate a Kitchen Garden Program as part of the Grade 6 Environment program and nominate a staff member as the coordinator. The role of the coordinator is organising parent helpers, and planning, resourcing and implementing the Kitchen Garden Program for grade 1 and 2 students.
 6. Promote sustainability in the community through school events, children's activities, Newsletter articles and networking.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED POLICIES

For further information see the following website:

- ResourceSmart Schools website at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au
- Tecoma Primary School's Waste Management Policy (to be written)
- Green Procurement Policy
- Sustainability Purchasing Procedure (to be written)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

<i>This policy has a review cycle of 2-3 years</i>	This policy was approved by School Council on 8 th August 2025 and is scheduled for review in August, 2027 .
<i>Reviewed by</i>	<i>Phil Darbyshire, Lisa Hoskins-Faul, Chelsey Robins, Lisa Dell & Kellie Sullivan</i>
<i>Approved by</i>	Principal – Brooke Cross School Council President – Lisa Dell