

DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1. Rationale

Environmental sustainability is crucial to the survival of our species. The Chatham school community, including parents, teachers, staff and student must become aware of the long term effects of failing to protect the natural environment as well as the challenges in establishing environmental sustainability. All should develop environmentally responsible attitudes and habits, and appropriate knowledge to act to enhance environmental sustainability at Chatham and in the wider community.

2. Declaration of Commitment

As part of Chatham Primary School's commitment to a sustainable and healthy environment we will practice waste management and reduction, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, increase biodiversity in the school grounds and encourage the school community to act to improve environmental sustainability.

The school administration will exercise leadership by adopting environmentally responsible management practices. This will include incorporating the Chatham Environmental Sustainability Strategic Action plan in the annual Chatham Strategic Plan, and delivering environmental education in all 'Key Learning Areas'.

3. Policy

3.1 Energy

The school will work to control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment; avoid unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy; educate students, staff and whole community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services. We will conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption.

3.2 Waste

To reduce our consumption of resources and minimise the impact and cost of waste on our community, Chatham will reduce its waste through a range of initiatives, and practicing the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle wherever possible.

3.3 Biodiversity

To improve our natural environment, and encourage biodiversity, Chatham will plant, rather than build shade. This will be done by planting trees and shrubs encourage native birds and animals, and are conducive to our environment. We will educate the school community about the importance of biodiversity in a healthy environment.

3.4 Water

To reduce water use, Chatham will reduce where possible and minimise water use. Students and the community will be encouraged to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; and the school will educate the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors. An annual water audit will be undertaken and a record of water consumption will be maintained.

4. Objectives

4.1 Energy:

- reduce the costs of energy consumption within our school
- use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we create to create a healthier impact on the environment
- choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available; and
- to include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school

4.2 Waste:

- to minimize and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
- to use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste
- to reduce waste in the canteen through environmentally responsible purchasing
- collect food waste for compost
- maintain a compost heap
- to reduce paper used in the school by recycling and reusing
- to reduce the cost of 'skip' pick-up
- to reuse garden waste as mulch; and
- to include the students and the school community in developing a action plan to reduce waste

4.3 Biodiversity:

- to incorporate biodiversity plans in all future development of our school grounds
- to create a healthy and interesting natural environment for students, staff and parents to enjoy
- planting of trees and shrubs to encourage biodiversity
- to involve the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school

4.4 Water:

- to reduce water use and waste in our school
- to reduce the costs of water consumption within our school
- to use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- choose effective means of conserving water i.e. water tanks for toilets, and vegetable gardens; and
- to include the school community in the planning of water conservation initiatives

5. Aims and Targets

We aim to achieve the following goals and targets over the next three years (2009- 2012) to:

- increase biodiversity in the school ground by 50%
- reduce indoor waste by 10% - 50%, and reduce yard litter by 90%
- reduce water consumption by 10%; and
- reduce energy consumption by 10%

6. Community Involvement

We will encourage community participation in all projects undertaken, as well as, invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve our school environment.

7. Responsibilities

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing the Chatham Sustainability Policy. The School Council, with the support of the Sustainability and Environment Committee, Junior School Council and the Environment Leaders, and the School's Sustainability Leader will be responsible for keeping the school and local community informed through the website, newsletters and local media about the implementation of sustainability initiatives.

8. Action Plan

Chatham's Chatham Environmental Sustainability Strategic Action plan will cover the four resource modules we will undertake as part of the AuSSI (Resource Smart Schools) Program. They are Biodiversity, Waste, Water and Energy.