



MacKillop College

Policy: Environment Care and Sustainability

Introduction

Pope Francis has asserted in his papal encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, that the Earth “is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.” Mindful of the sacredness of our environment and our interconnectedness with all of God’s creation, MacKillop College is committed to environmental stewardship and acting in an environmentally responsible manner. MacKillop seeks to educate the members of its community about sustainable living and environmental stewardship through active citizenship projects, the inclusion of sustainability issues in the curriculum and community outreach projects.

Environmental care and sustainability at MacKillop College incorporates a commitment to a reduction in our ecological footprint through the adaptation of sustainable practices. Such practices include:

- care of learning and teaching spaces and recreational spaces
- incorporation of waste wise initiatives
- promotion of energy efficiency
- reduction in water usages
- increases in biodiversity in the school gardens
- ongoing encouragement of community practice in sustainability

Principles

MacKillop College is committed to:

- educating the College community about sustainability
- encouraging members of the College community to treat their environment with care and respect
- increasing biodiversity
- reducing the consumption of energy and water
- reducing waste
- using, conserving and disposing of resources appropriately

Objectives

MacKillop College aims to:

- develop and sustain a culture of shared responsibility for the environment
- decrease energy consumption through greater efficiency and better practices
- increase biodiversity by planting indigenous species and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife
- increase the percentage of materials that are reused and recycled
- maintain a clean and tidy environment
- minimise and dispose of waste appropriately
- minimise mains water consumption and utilise tank and recycled water where possible
- keep the College free of graffiti

Implementation

i) Principal commitment

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that:

- the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice
- a range of strategies to support and promote environmental responsibility and sustainable practices are encouraged
- appropriate staff are employed to maintain the school environment such as cleaners, maintenance and gardeners

ii) Staff commitment

Staff are responsible for ensuring that they:

- comply with all school policies, procedures and guidelines
- support the education of College community members about the importance of sustainability and related initiatives
- assist in keeping the school environment neat and tidy
- incorporate the objectives of this policy into the curriculum where appropriate to ensure that all students understand the importance of sustainability
- encourage students to become more environmentally aware and actively involved in sustainable activities
- model appropriate sustainable practices

This policy works in conjunction with the following documents:

1. Green Purchasing Guidelines
2. Environmental Care of Conduct

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)

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