



Policy Number:	COLLEGE 23
Policy Name:	Environmental & Green Policy
Contact Officer:	Deputy Principal
Date Approved by Leadership:	September 12, 2019
Date of Next Review:	September 2020
Related Policies:	Environmental Management Plan

PREAMBLE

God is at the centre of our College...Mercy is the heartbeat of the Gospel. We encourage every student to grow in the fullness of life and realise their potential through the bread we break at school, the bread of relationships and the bread of conversation. Let us engage the heart and bring faith to life and life to faith (Thomas Groome).

LEGISLATION

This policy takes into account relevant legislative requirements within the state of Victoria, including the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards as set out in *Ministerial Order No. 870*. This policy applies to St Joseph's College staff, including employees, volunteers, contractors and clergy.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 St Joseph's College aims to be more environmentally sustainable now and in the future.
- 1.2 As a part of our College's environmental commitment we have joined the Victorian Government's initiative "Resource Smart Schools" with many other schools in Victoria. This program provides a basic framework to work towards becoming a sustainable school.
- 1.3 To meet our environmental commitment, we will endeavour to practice Waste-Wise initiatives, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, increase biodiversity in the College gardens and encourage community practice in sustainability.
- 1.4 We also aim to enrich our curriculum by incorporating environmental sustainability modules into different areas of studies across all year levels.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 Energy

Mission - 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 the community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services and to conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption.

Objective

- Reduce the costs of energy consumption within our College.
- 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.

- Implement green purchasing where possible.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available.
- Include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school.

2.2 Waste

Mission - To continue the development of a *Waste-Wise* ethic within the whole College community; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; to practice Waste-Wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle; and to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.

Objective

- To minimise and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis.
- To use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste.
- Maintain a compost heap at least for the food and technology classes.
- To reduce the amount of paper in the College by recycling and reusing it before it gets emptied into the recycle bin.
- To reduce the cost of 'skip' pick-up.
- Implement our Green Purchasing Policy where possible, refer Section 5 in this document.
- To reuse garden waste as mulch.
- To include the students and staff in the process of developing a Waste-Wise school.

2.3 Biodiversity

Mission - To improve our outdoor natural environment; by planting trees that are conducive to our environment; upgrading the play areas and making them environmentally friendly; using natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment; to educate the College community about incorporating biodiversity in our every day school life.

Objective

- To use our garden plan for the future development of our College grounds.
- To create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy.
- To choose materials that have less impact on the environment.
- Implement Green Purchasing where possible.
- To include the whole College community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school.
- To include improving biodiversity in the College's master plan.

2.4 Water

Mission - To prompt actions that will reduce water usage; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; to plant trees that are conducive to our environment and don't require much water; to educate the whole College community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors.

Objective

- To reduce the costs of water consumption within our College.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water, i.e. install dual flush cisterns.
- To involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives.

3. **AIMS AND TARGETS**

We aim to achieve the following goals and targets over the next three years (2020 - 2023):

3.1 Energy

- Installation of additional 40kw of solar to Mercy Campus to achieve maximum solar power generation.

- Installation of light sensors to all storerooms, bathrooms, toilets, change-rooms, grounds sheds, maintenance sheds & workshops, Year 11 & 12 Common Rooms, staff social areas.
 - Installation of internal & external LED Lights for security and outdoor lighting.
 - Installation of tempered hot water systems.
- 3.2 Waste
- Installation of outdoor bin structures for normal waste and recycle bottles & cans.
 - Installation of indoor bins including classrooms for paper & cardboard recycling.
 - Installation of recycle locations for old glasses, clothes and mobile phones.
- 3.3 Biodiversity
- Development of grounds masterplan including guidance for sustainable plants.
- 3.4 Water
- Review and installation, if required, of water saving toilet cisterns.
 - Review and installation, if required, of water saving shower heads.
 - Review and installation, if required, of rain water systems.
 - Review and installation of electronic watering system.

4. PLAN FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION (Curriculum Focus)

- 4.1 Energy
- To promote a 'switch off' policy for equipment, lighting and heating that is not being used.
 - To re-invest savings made through conserving energy.
 - Students to engage in units of work relating to energy.
 - To promote renewable energies such as solar to our College community.
- 4.2 Waste
- Ensure food technology students empty the food waste into the composting bins.
 - For each class to have recycling tray or bin.
 - For each class (Homeroom) to take responsibility to dispose of paper and cardboard into the recycle bin.
 - To promote the reuse principle of paper in the classroom, staff room and office areas.
 - To promote designated outdoor eating areas, so as to keep rubbish within these areas.
 - Review the Canteen's use of materials to minimise waste.
 - Use recyclable materials for functions.
 - Maintenance staff to promote recycling and minimising waste.
- 4.3 Biodiversity
- To conduct an inspection of the College grounds to determine which areas require attention.
 - Visit other 'Sustainable Schools' who have adopted the biodiversity module, to gain ideas for developing our College grounds.
 - To consult with local businesses about the most effective and environmentally friendly materials to use.
 - Engage students and staff in the development of the Biodiversity Program.
 - To grow and harvest native and exotic plants.
- 4.4 Water
- To promote a Water-Wise (turn off) policy for plumbing fixtures.
 - To promote Water-Wise strategies to staff and students.
 - To re-invest savings made through conserving water, i.e. install dual flush cisterns.
 - Students to engage in units of work relating to water.

5. PURCHASING GUIDELINES

5.1 Purchasing decisions need to be made on the basis of environmental considerations and value for money, rather than just the cheapest up-front purchase price. Our purchasing decisions can improve markets for environmentally preferred products, enhance environmental quality, be resource responsible and contribute to progress towards sustainability.

5.2 The College prefers to purchase environmentally preferred products whenever they perform satisfactorily, adhere to Occupational Health & Safety requirements and are available at a reasonable price.

5.3 Purchasing decisions shall be made in the context of the waste hierarchy to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle.

- AVOID – Identifying ways of carrying out a function or task without using materials that generate waste. An example is sending information electronically instead of on paper.
- REDUCE – Using less in the first place and avoiding waste. Examples of this include purchasing in bulk to reduce packaging and the purchase of printing equipment that prints double sided copies.
- REUSE – Using the same item more than once, and extending the useful life of products and equipment before replacing an item. Aim to re-use or repair an existing product. Ensure that new purchases are durable, have a long service life and are easy to maintain and upgrade.
- RECYCLE – Purchasing products that contain recycled materials or those that have or can be re-manufactured or recycled.

5.4 The College will minimise greenhouse gas emissions, habitat destruction, toxicity, soil degradation and maximise water efficiency by purchasing:

- Energy efficient products and materials by checking that the energy rating and efficiency features are the best available for the cost over the lifetime of the product;
- Renewable energy and reduce the purchase of fossil fuels;
- Goods that are produced locally in preference to those that have high kilometres associated with them;
- Paper and wood products obtained from post-consumer recycled, plantation, salvaged or renewable sources as well as being FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) approved;
- Green cleaning products that don't result in discharges of toxic chemicals to waterways;
- Materials and products that are free of toxic or polluting materials;
- Products and materials that will not release toxic substances that can affect human health and pollute water, land or air at any stage of their life cycle;
- Products that conserve water or use water in an efficient way;
- Products, materials and services that will not degrade or pollute the soil, or result in erosion through their use.

6. OTHER IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

6.1 To help achieve the above policy objectives the College will:

- Establish a staff education program to raise awareness about this policy;
- Ensure that all staff, where appropriate have access to information on environmentally preferred products;
- Require that all contractors and consultants are aware of this Environmental & Green Policy and work with our College community to meet these objectives;
- Establish a system to track and report on the outcomes of this policy;
- Actively promote environmental purchasing to the community;
- Encourage staff to find and share information about recycled and environmentally preferable products and specifications;
- Encourage innovativeness among staff for environmental purchasing;
- Develop an Environmental Management Plan.