



# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

## Introduction

As a Catholic community, Penola College has a moral obligation to prioritise active stewardship of God's creation. This is in line with a rich tradition within the Catholic Church, first promoted by St Francis of Assisi, and recently highlighted by Pope Francis in his encyclical '*Laudato Si*'.

Accordingly, we at Penola Catholic College aim to reduce our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into all areas of College life, and instilling a sense of pride in improving the environment within our community. We will lead the wider community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and our use and care of the school grounds and surrounding areas.

## Guidelines

### Student Involvement

- Empower students in the processes for policy development and implementation of sustainable living practices within the College.

### Curriculum

- Encourage the incorporation of units with an environmental focus at every year level.

### Energy

- Reduce the use of energy consumption within the school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

### Waste

- Minimise paper usage.
- Recycle waste wherever possible.

## **Biodiversity**

- Utilise garden areas to their full extent.
- Plan gardens in a way that increases biodiversity.
- Grow produce at school.

## **Water**

- Reduce water consumption within the school.
- Plan water conservation initiatives.
- Maximise use of water tanks.
- Utilise recycled and grey water wherever possible.

## **Aims and Targets**

Targets for energy and waste reduction will be set by the College Executive based on audit data as part of a long-term sustainability action plan.

## **Implementation**

### **Student Involvement**

- Appoint a student captain of sustainability at both campuses each year.
- Include students in a College sustainability committee
- Support a student environment action team across both campuses

### **Curriculum**

- Implement the sustainability focus from the National curriculum in all subject areas.
- Incorporate an environmental focus into the inquiry unit at Year Nine.
- Include a stewardship unit in every year level in Religious Education.
- Actively promote and support subjects such as Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Geography, and Environmental Science at VCE levels

- 

### **Energy**

- Promote a 'switch off and save' policy for all equipment.
- Move to timer switches in all buildings.
- Where possible, use green energy.

### **Waste**

- Monitor and report on the waste rates of the College
- Promote the appropriate disposal of waste
- Maximise recycling rates through active monitoring and promotion of recycling.

- Reduce paper use in the College by promoting the use of online versions of documents
- Use recycled paper for printers and photocopiers.
- Set printing and photocopying defaults to double-sided options.
- Promote the reuse principle of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office.

### **Biodiversity**

- Maximise the biodiversity of the plants on our College grounds.
- Grow and harvest a range of vegetables/herbs to be utilised in cooking classes or sold as part of student business/fundraising initiatives.

### **Water**

- Promote a 'water-wise turn off' policy.
- Maximise the use of water tanks.
- Plant trees and plants that require minimal watering.

### **Community Involvement**

We will promote sustainable living to the whole community by raising awareness about environmental issues and conservation initiatives in our students. Moreover, the College will promote sustainable living through the school website and at all College community events.

The various committees and Principal will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of sustainability programs to the whole school community, through school newsletters and the annual report. The parties involved will provide reports to staff and School Council outlining the goals, aims, costing, savings and other relevant issues.