



FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Approved June 2019

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Sustainability is defined as '[meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs](#)'.

To this end Frankston High School is committed to becoming a sustainable school so that students' futures are not compromised. The school aims to achieve this goal by adhering to the following guidelines.

Education

A school's primary mission is to educate. It is important that sustainability is taught across curriculum with emphasis and importance. Sustainability is required by the Victorian Curriculum and teachers will use this as a guide to informing their educational content and pedagogy when delivering sustainability related curriculum. In short, sustainability will be taught practically and honestly in different modes across classes. An audit to acknowledge and ascertain the extent of sustainability in each faculty will be conducted annually, with an audit overview to be composed by the head of each faculty and passed on to the school sustainability coordinator by the end of term 1.

Staff education is equally important and regular professional development must be provided.

Procurement

This needs to be regulated and assessed annually by the sustainability coordination role. This will occur in the form of an annual audit of faculties conducted by each faculty head in February. The assessment would include, but not be limited to, monitoring resources procured for use within the school and, based on current knowledge and level of affordability, making recommendations for better choices in terms of long term sustainability. Within reason, as long as the item is similar to the original item request (or a better long term option), it should be purchased as a replacement over the originally requested item/s. Where a product is more expensive, but will very likely last a lot longer, the more expensive product should be purchased, as the long-term cost benefits will outweigh any short-term gain. Procurement covers every area within the school:

- Faculties
- Office supplies
- Photocopying needs
- Student book lists
- Uniform
- Transport & excursions
- Facility infrastructure
- Student and staff resources
- Computer technology
- Canteen supplies
- Materials (wood, sports equipment etc.)

Energy & Resource Use

Frankston High School will strive to decrease consumption of energy and water, and reduce the generation of litter and disposal of waste to landfill. This will be achieved through monthly tracking of invoices, the identification of key areas where resource use is highest, and the subsequent planning to decrease this use. Use of the ResourceSmart Schools tracking system will be a major component of this. School services officers who deal with the payment of school bills are responsible for inputting invoice data into the ResourceSmart system, to track Frankston High School's resource use and the costs associated with them.

Communication with the school community to instil awareness that a cooperative approach to better energy and resource use is essential will need to be ongoing and regular.

Biodiversity

Frankston High School will always maintain 'green' areas as they are essential to students' mental and physical wellbeing and as a way of broadening understanding of the need to live sustainably within our environment. Our aim is to ensure the gardens are bio diverse from a native perspective. This will help ensure low water use and thriving species over the long term. Biodiversity should also be catered for with the use of a reasonable sized 'vegetable' garden. This will aid an increase in student knowledge. In terms of planning for climate change mitigation, priority should be given to trees that provide significant shade, are drought tolerant, do not easily drop limbs and do not easily ignite when exposed to fire.

Publicity & Opportunity

It is important to acknowledge the accomplishments by our students, staff and school community in achieving sustainable goals and to provide opportunities to succeed in this field. We must endeavour to involve students, staff and the greater school community in aspects of sustainability. Successes, and even failures, will be publicised to help promote sustainability as a school priority.

Evaluation

At regular periods this policy may need to be further developed or updated. Its relevance and uptake is crucial and will need to be reviewed and evaluated. This is to take the form of a subcommittee responsible for the evaluation, as well as a staff, student and school community survey to judge whether the policy is effective and where efforts need to be extended.

Declaration of Commitment

As part of Frankston High School's environmental commitment, we will endeavour to practice waste wise initiatives, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, increase biodiversity in the school gardens and encourage practice in sustainability. We will also aim to ensure students are aware of environmental impacts by ensuring it is embedded in curriculum across disciplines.