SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Overview

RedGum – The Waldorf School of Central Victoria, is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment. We also desire to maintain a culture that is considerate, nurturing, inclusive and respectful to the surrounding environment and those who live here. This policy outlines the environmental and sustainable expectations that apply to any member of staff, student, visitor and parent or guardian of an enrolled student who attends RedGum – The Waldorf School of Central Victoria (RedGum or the School).

Vision and principles

RedGum acknowledges the critical role sustainability plays in maintaining the health of the Earth's ecosystems. As an institution, we are committed to becoming a model of sustainability, not only through conscious resource management but by actively embedding environmental awareness into every aspect of our educational approach. By managing resources efficiently, minimising waste, and embracing eco-friendly practices, we strive to create an environment that sets an example for our community and encourages everyone to adopt sustainable lifestyles. Our goal is to inspire students, staff, and families to think critically about their environmental impact and take meaningful action to preserve the Earth for future generations.

In our commitment to sustainability, we also honour and draw upon the deep cultural knowledge of the First Nations peoples and their profound relationship with the land. The wisdom passed down through generations offers us valuable insights into living in harmony with nature, respecting the land, and understanding the interconnectedness of all life. By acknowledging this knowledge, we aim to foster a more inclusive and respectful relationship with the natural world.

We believe that fostering a positive attitude toward sustainability is essential for the holistic development of our students. Encouraging them to appreciate the beauty and fragility of the environment helps to instil a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the Earth. This mindset not only contributes to the well-being of our local community but also equips our students with the values and skills needed to face the environmental challenges of the future. By cultivating a sustainable school culture, we are helping to reduce our collective ecological footprint and ensure that future generations inherit a planet that is healthier, more balanced, and more resilient.

Aims

- To educate our students, their parents and the wider community in responsible energy usage, water efficiency, waste management and environmental awareness.
- To protect the environment through a proactive approach to conservation and environmental issues.
- To practise and promote resource efficiency and practise effective waste minimisation.
- To increase the biodiversity of the local environment.
- To reduce resource costs and carbon footprint.
- To promote the value of living sustainably and using natural materials wherever possible.
- To achieve and maintain star accreditation status in accordance with the ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) program, led by Sustainability Victoria.

Implementation

Living sustainably is the responsibility of all. Maintaining a safe, clean, sustainable school is the responsibility of RedGum staff, students and parents/carers.

RedGum will implement the following to help promote and live sustainably:

- To educate our students, their parents and the wider community in responsible energy usage, water efficiency, waste management and environmental awareness.
- To ensure curriculum delivery incorporates elements of sustainability at all year levels.
- Support Sites and Grounds Team and the Eco Club to create a sustainable site;
- Engage in sustainable actions that are promoted through the RSS framework;
- Lead in exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage;
- Develop and use the school grounds to increase local biodiversity;
- Continue to monitor the school's progress towards meeting resource saving targets
- Continue to develop and maintain the School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)
- Continue to run and promote 'green events' (refer to Green Events Policy)
- Promote sustainability by reporting achievements to the school and local community at assembly and through social media
- Include 'Sustainability and Environment' as a standing agenda item for the school council/board and report results annually (at least).
- Continue to support local businesses and groups such Newstead Natives and the NCCMA.

Links and documents related to this policy

- RedGum Green Events Policy

- RedGum Green Purchasing Policy
- ResourceSmart School Memorandum of Understanding
- School Environmental Management Plan
- ResourceSmart Schools Online: my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au
- Sustainability Victoria: https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/our-work/resourcesmart-schools

Document Control

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1.1	January 2026	New name and logo	H Ashwell