



# School Environmental Management Plan – 2016

## Valkstone Primary School

### Declaration of Commitment:

Valkstone Primary School recognises the importance of providing a safe, secure and sustainable learning environment. We will endeavour to reduce our ecological footprint by managing our waste and resources efficiently and by encouraging biodiversity through the development of our school grounds. We will provide students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for them to act in a more sustainable, responsible and environmentally friendly way of living.

### Aims

- To provide a safe, secure and sustainable school environment.
- To provide opportunities for students to develop worthwhile skills and values relating to our environment locally, nationally and globally.
- To fully utilise community expertise, and to provide opportunities for community involvement in the ongoing development and improvement of our physical environment.
- To promote the adoption of the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle at school and into the wider school community.
- To reduce our energy consumption within the school and use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To reduce water consumption and promote 'water wise' practices.
- To promote biodiversity through the selection of appropriate plants, environmentally friendly play equipment and the care and upkeep of our chickens.

### Implementation

- Utilise the ResourceSmart program to embed sustainability into the whole school curriculum as well as daily management and operations.
- Our school will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events. Student learning will focus on taking action within the school and wider community.
- Our school will support an active sustainability coordination teacher team and also a student Green Team

### WASTE

- Educate students to adopt effective recycling strategies and to dispose of their landfill and compostable rubbish appropriately.
- Monitors to collect food waste daily and compost.
- To promote the reuse of paper in the classroom, staffroom and office.
- Students to actively participate in Waste Free school lunches.
- Minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling and composting (e.g. rubbish free lunches, recycling bins, compost buckets and worm farms)
- Maintain litter-free school grounds

## **ENERGY**

- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- To be actively involved in programs that promotes sustainable transport eg. walk-to-school, ride to school
- Investigate active measures we can take to reduce our reliance on energy systems and conserve energy.
- To promote switching off lights when leaving rooms.

## **BIODIVERSITY**

- Encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences e.g. curriculum, excursions and school camps
- Enhance our vegetable garden and connected learning.
- School Council will develop, through a process of wide community consultation, a long term strategic plan focussing on the development and enhancement of our school's physical environment.
- Environmental agencies, experts and interest groups will have input into our strategic plan development, and will be utilised at times during specific projects and working bees.
- The strategic plan will be based on principles of sustainability and conservation.
- Educate students on biodiversity and engage students, staff and the wider community in the process of maintaining our school grounds to ensure the ongoing commitment, involvement and success of our sustainable garden initiatives.
- An Environment subcommittee of School Council will be responsible for the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Our strategic plan and its goals will form part of the school curriculum, and will include student involvement in grounds development, projects and maintenance.
- Features of the strategic plan will include the provision of active and passive play areas, adequate shade areas, exciting playgrounds interspersed between gardens and native vegetation, frog pond and wetlands area, vegetable garden, outside learning spaces, plus sand spaces.

## **WATER**

- Appreciate water as a precious natural resource
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Educate students on water conservation and promote 'water wise' practices.
- To promote a water-wise turn off approach within the school.

## **GREEN PURCHASING**

- Purchase environmentally-friendly paper for printers and photocopiers
- Purchase environmentally-friendly paper alternatives for items like toilet paper, hand towels, tissues and serviettes
- Increase the use of furniture and equipment made from second hand or recycled materials
- Use more environmentally friendly products (e.g. for cleaning)

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT**

- We will encourage community participation in environmental projects undertaken, as well as, invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve our school environment. We will also promote sustainable living through educating the school community through our students.
- Team Green and the Environment Curriculum Team within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing these programs with information and events.

## **EVALUATION**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.
- Progress relating to the strategic plan will be annually reported to School Council and the community by the Grounds and Buildings and Education sub-committees.
- Parent Opinion Survey
- Review progress in ResourceSmart program towards the 5 star sustainability accreditation.





Ratified by School Council:

To be reviewed:

# Valkstone Primary School SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

Updated: **May, 2016**

This Sustainability Snapshot forms part of our **School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)**.  
In our Snapshot, we are documenting workplace, infrastructure and daily operations and  
community engagement plus identifying opportunities for improvement.

Resource Area	Targets
<p><b>BIODIVERSITY</b></p> 	<p><b>50% reduction in weeds</b> <b>Aspirational, 30% Improvement</b></p>
<p><b>ENERGY</b></p> 	<p><b>Energy use below 250 kWh per student</b> <b>400kg CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas per student, per year</b> <b>Aspirational 50% reduction</b></p>
<p><b>WASTE</b></p> 	<p><b>0.25 m<sup>3</sup> of landfill waste per student, per year</b> <b>Aspirational 50% reduction</b></p>
<p><b>WATER</b></p> 	<p><b>.25m<sup>3</sup> of mains water per student, per year</b></p>

BIODIVERSITY	What we are doing?	What could we do better? What else could we do?
<p><b>Audit Investigations</b> Measuring the number, health and types of plants and animals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity audit</li> <li>• Garden classes</li> <li>• Baseline data collected and recorded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More animal homes</li> <li>• Continue to approach community for assistance</li> <li>• Continue grant applications</li> </ul>
<p><b>Habitat Gardens</b> Gardens for indigenous plants and animals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native plants selected for new planting</li> <li>• Protection of local and naïve species, arbor management</li> <li>• Sensory Garden, frog pond and indigenous garden up keep and development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further develop garden club</li> <li>• Continue to encourage teachers to utilize outdoor learning spaces</li> <li>• Bird Bath</li> <li>• Rainwater gardens</li> </ul>
<p><b>Food Gardens</b> Vegetable and herb gardens, chickens, compost, worm farms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued Composting program including worm farm</li> <li>• Vegetable garden</li> <li>• Chickens</li> <li>• Greenhouse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend; requires additional water tank</li> <li>• Encourage teachers to utilize edible garden for authentic learning (Maths, literacy, etc.)</li> <li>• Orchard Development</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activating Our Community</b> Educating and empowering the people in our school and local community eg. projects, campaigns, events, school tours, sharing our stories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requesting and receiving assistance from local businesses</li> <li>• Articles included in School Newsletters w/ celebrations</li> <li>• Article in Leader newspaper, Leader Grants</li> <li>• Waste Free Wednesdays</li> <li>• Clean Up Australia Day</li> <li>• Enviro Week</li> <li>• World Enviro Day</li> <li>• Earth Hour</li> <li>• Walk and Ride to school Day</li> <li>• Staff PD's</li> <li>• Working Bees</li> <li>• Weekly Garden Maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upload to, and maintain CERES Sustainability Hub website page</li> <li>• Make Waste Free Wednesday every day</li> <li>• Market stall for produce</li> </ul>
<p><b>Student Leadership &amp; Celebration</b> Student role models, leaders, teams, clubs Celebrating and lifting the profile of what we do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Team</li> <li>• Chicken roster weekly</li> <li>• Classroom monitoring for compost bins etc</li> <li>• Competition for Waste Free Wednesdays</li> <li>• Earth Hour In classroom event</li> <li>• Information at assemblies</li> <li>• Recycling week morning event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue Environment Education</li> <li>• Posters, campaigns and student projects across the curriculum</li> <li>• Cooking days to celebrate grown produce</li> <li>• 1 out of 4 excursions/incursions per year level each year based on Sustainability</li> </ul>

<b>ENERGY</b>	<b>What we are doing?</b>	<b>What could we do better? What else could we do?</b>
<p><b>Audit Investigations</b> Measuring electricity, gas and how people travel to and from school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline data entered into SETS</li> <li>• Walk to school day</li> <li>• Bike ed. program to encourage responsible bike riding</li> <li>• Transport Assessment yearly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue audits; ongoing and advertise results: assembly or newsletters</li> <li>• SWEP resources</li> </ul>
<p><b>Energy Efficiency</b> Lighting, heating, cooling, computers, appliances, signage, renewable energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole school energy audit</li> <li>• Computer Monitor Sleep times, stand by and shut down routines.</li> <li>• Energy Education</li> <li>• Using natural light in classrooms</li> <li>• Switch lights off when leaving classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue grant applications</li> <li>• Timers installed on some power outlets</li> <li>• Window shade film installed on direct sun classrooms</li> <li>• LED throughout school</li> <li>• Motion sensor lights</li> <li>• Encourage wearing jumpers in winter to save on heating</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activating Our Community</b> Educating and empowering the people in our school and local community eg. projects, campaigns, events, school tours, sharing our stories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability initiative up-dates on-going in newsletters, website</li> <li>• Earth Hour</li> <li>• Walk and ride to school yearly</li> <li>• Working bees</li> <li>• School grounds for learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotate assembly presentation between the module themes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Student Leadership &amp; Celebration</b> Student role models, leaders, teams, clubs Celebrating and lifting the profile of what we do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team Green</li> <li>• Team Green Incursions Kids teach kids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Committee leaders feeding back to teachers recommendations for reducing lighting energy use, real-world tasks</li> <li>• 1 out of 4 excursions/incursions per year level each year based on Sustainability</li> </ul>

<b>WASTE</b>	<b>What we are doing?</b>	<b>What could we do better? What else could we do?</b>
<p><b>Audit Investigations</b> Measuring landfill waste, recycling, compost, rubbish free lunches, paper usage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photographic litter audits</li> <li>• Grade 1 litter Wall</li> <li>• Waste Audit Cool Australia</li> <li>• Waste audit – litter Clean Up Australia Day</li> <li>• Sustainability Policy reviewed yearly</li> <li>• Whole school waste reduction plan. Take in take home policy sent home term 1 each year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take audit records and produce graphs and recommendations completed by Green Team</li> </ul>
<p><b>Waste Systems</b> Signage, using bins, rubbish free lunches, paper use and reuse, collecting food scraps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compost bins in every classroom</li> <li>• Paper re-use trays in classroom/print areas</li> <li>• Paper recycling bins</li> <li>• Cardboard Visy skip</li> <li>• No wrappers outside</li> <li>• Waste Free Wednesday winner prize - containers</li> <li>• Removal of schoolyard waste bins</li> <li>• Routines/Maintenance regimes for emptying recycling bins, rubbish bins, compost bins.</li> <li>• Recycling bins and waste bins managed by school cleaners.</li> <li>• Compost system</li> <li>• Worm farms managed by Team Green.</li> <li>• Paper reduction plan - Reduce use of copy and printer paper,</li> <li>• Replace paper copies with digital copies. Newsletters and assignments where appropriate are digital.</li> <li>• Photocopiers are set to print double sided. Colour printing is limited for staff and students. A3 paper use is limited.</li> <li>• Recycling station in main hallway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education on litter and waste for all year levels</li> <li>• Compass for school community communication to also include notices and forms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Green Purchasing</b> Buying products that are better for the environment and for the people who are involved in making them (fair trade)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up-cycling waste for new purposes initiatives</li> <li>• Re-use pots in nursery</li> <li>• Green Purchasing Policy updated yearly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper reams recycled paper</li> <li>• Toilet paper and hand towel recycled</li> </ul>

<p><b>Activating Our Community</b> Educating and empowering the people in our school and local community eg. projects, campaigns, events, school tours, sharing our stories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter education at assembly and newsletters</li> <li>• Encouraging recycling at home through classroom education</li> <li>• Waste Free/Waste Wise events, competitions.</li> <li>• Waste Free Wednesdays - Weekly prize awarded at assembly for students with a waste free lunch.</li> <li>• Clean up Australia day whole school community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform community on the monthly or yearly financial and ecological costs for waste management</li> <li>• Inform community on improvements in waste costs</li> <li>• Class roster for picking up rubbish n the school grounds.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Student Leadership &amp; Celebration</b> Student role models, leaders, teams, clubs Celebrating and lifting the profile of what we do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team Green</li> <li>• Teacher PD's</li> <li>• Recycling Week morning event Term 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for Sustainability Rewards</li> </ul>



WATER	What we are doing?	What could we do better? What else could we do?
<p><b>Audit Investigations</b> Measuring our water use, our impact on our waterways, litter, soil, run off</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water audit Yearly</li> <li>• SWEPP system</li> <li>• Sustainability Policy reviewed yearly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage to turn of taps, use less water</li> <li>• Continue SWEPP</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water Efficiency</b> Pipes, tanks, taps, toilets, dishwashers, appliances, sprinklers, irrigation, gardens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tank water in use for gardens and oval, toilets and urinals, drinking fountains, staff room, art room, classrooms.</li> <li>• Dual flushing toilets</li> <li>• Mulching</li> <li>• Planting of local drought tolerant plants</li> <li>• Storm water gutters and pipes clean. Managed by groundskeeper.</li> <li>• Reuse of storm water for toilet water and garden supply.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect bubbler water into a rain garden</li> <li>• Drip-system irrigation for edible garden w/ timer</li> <li>• Fix chook water usage</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activating Our Community</b> Educating and empowering the people in our school and local community eg. projects, campaigns, events, school tours, sharing our stories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWEPP program online</li> <li>• Water Education P-6 (conservation, reusing, recycling) Embedded within daily routines and practices. Ongoing learning within classrooms. Taught explicitly to members of Team Green.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water conservation signage in staffrooms, toilets and playground</li> </ul>
<p><b>Student Leadership &amp; Celebration</b> Student role models, leaders, teams, clubs Celebrating and lifting the profile of what we do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter contributions</li> <li>• School Assembly presentations</li> <li>• Teacher PD's</li> <li>• Team Green</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue Environment Ed. Sessions for all students</li> <li>• Participate in i Sea i care</li> </ul>