

NORTH MELBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT 2024



SECTION 1 - BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

(1) North Melbourne Primary School is enthusiastically committed to improving student learning outcomes and providing teaching approaches that meet the needs of all students, not just in words but in our actions. As such, embedding sustainable practices within our school are a key component to supporting our children in becoming socially responsible global citizens. As a school, we work together to reduce waste (working towards a zero-waste goal), creating an environment rich in biodiversity and utilising all our facilities to maximise our sustainability practices. Through professional development we will upskill our teachers to support our students in learning about sustainability through hands-on learning opportunities. We will use renewable resources when available and offset our carbon footprint through our purchase choices. We will conserve through an awareness program, introduced across the school.

SECTION 2 - SCOPE

- (2) This Statement applies to:
- a. All staff, students and contractors
 - b. All building and external areas

SECTION 3 - STATEMENT

- (3) North Melbourne Primary School is committed to:
- a. Educating the next generation to be sustainable through the Eco-Warriors lunchtime club
 - b. Recycling as much waste material as possible through a colour-coded bin system, composting and 'Waste Free Wednesdays'
 - c. Avoiding the use of paper wherever possible. For example, sending newsletters and letters via Compass
 - d. Recycling equipment that is no longer of use to the school
 - e. Keeping energy usage low. For example, making use of low energy light bulbs throughout and ensuring that lights and air-conditioners are shut down after school day
 - f. Purchasing products with a lower environmental impact
 - g. Encouraging the use of low impact transport such as public transport, walking or riding
 - h. Maintaining solar panels on school property to work towards a net zero target
 - i. Making connections with the local and wider community, including the City of Melbourne and CERES, to develop sustainability initiatives
 - j. The development, implementation and monitoring of a School-Wide Sustainability Plan, through the Community of Practice
 - k. Minimising the use of hazardous substances
 - l. Protecting and improving biodiversity

- m. Developing and implementing teaching initiatives related to sustainability.

SECTION 4 - PROCEDURES

Part A – Eco-Warriors

North Melbourne Primary School has all students and staff actively working on promoting awareness of sustainability initiatives.

Eco-Warriors are responsible for:

- a. Raising awareness about recycling
- b. Monitoring of school energy use (classroom lights, air-conditioning etc)
- c. Participate in discussions and liaison with class students for improvement of sustainability practices
- d. Promoting understanding of local flora and fauna
- e. Promoting composting of food scraps for school gardens.

Part B – Bins and Compost

North Melbourne Primary School will continually strive to reduce the amount of waste that is leaving the school grounds.

Bins and Compost subcommittee is responsible for:

- a. Engaging with staff and students to use the correct bins for their waste
- b. Implementing waste reduction strategies in classrooms and staff areas
- c. Promoting healthy eating habits by encouraging both students and staff to bring compostable lunches
- d. Organising student led initiatives to collect and monitor compost and recycling bins.

Part C – Waste Free Lunch

North Melbourne Primary School is committed to encouraging students and staff to bring Waste-free lunches.

Waste-free lunch committee is responsible for:

- a. Educating students and staff on the benefits of waste-free lunches
- b. Implementing a record and reward system for students that participate
- c. Monitoring the success of the program.

Part D – Ride to school day

North Melbourne Primary School will participate in the nationwide program delivered by Bicycle Network, designed to support schools to empower students to choose a physically active mode of transport to school.

Ride to school day subcommittee is responsible for:

- a. Educating students and staff on the benefits of riding to school
- b. Organising information for students for National Ride to School Day (24 March)
- c. Monitoring success of the schools Ride to School Day.

Part E – Newsletter

North Melbourne Primary School produces an online newsletter to inform staff, students and the wider community of current programs and initiatives.

The newsletter committee is responsible for:

- a. Informing and involving the school community in current initiatives
- b. Sharing sustainability ideas and sharing sustainability success stories.

Part F – Sustainability COP

The objectives of the Sustainability COP are to:

- a. Contribute to a sustainable future to the school and wider community through both awareness and implementation for school-based programs
- b. Work towards a net zero goal long term
- c. Educate staff and students on best practices surrounding sustainability
- d. Gather and collate ideas and feedback from the wider school community
- e. Implement short-, medium- and long-term sustainability goals
- f. Monitor progress of existing programs.

**Environmentally friendly actions taken by the NMPS community fall under the control of the sustainability CoP and leadership.*

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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| Policy last reviewed | August 2024 |
| Consultation | Consultation occurred with the Education Sub Committee of School Council on the 20th August 2024 |
| Approved by | Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | August 2026 |

Signed (Principal)

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