

MMPS Green Purchasing Policy

Rationale

The Green Purchasing Policy provides a purchasing structure that promotes the sustainable use of resources and reduces negative impacts on the environment and human health.

School sustainability vision and principles

At Mount Macedon Primary School, we believe that caring for our environment begins with understanding our place within it. We empower every learner to explore, value and care for the natural world, make sustainable choices and take action within our school and wider community. Together, we strive to be responsible custodians of our environment and create a sustainable future for generations to come.

Connection to Place — *We understand and value our connection to the natural world and the place we call home.*

Care & Custodianship — *We care for our environment and recognise our responsibility as custodians of it.*

Learning Through Action — *We turn our learning into meaningful action.*

Responsible Choices — *We make thoughtful choices about the resources we use and the impact we have.*

Collective Responsibility — *We work together to create positive change.*

Aims

- To support staff in purchasing products that maximise energy and water efficiency and minimise waste, pollution and habitat loss.
- To establish a green purchasing culture.
- To eliminate any unnecessary purchasing.
- To make purchasing decisions based on the 'waste hierarchy' and circular economy principles.

Waste hierarchy

Avoid: Identify ways of carrying out a function or task without using materials that generate waste e.g. send information electronically instead of on paper.

Reduce: Use less in the first place to avoid waste e.g. purchase in bulk to reduce packaging and print double-sided copies of documents rather than single-sided.

Reuse: Use the same item more than once and extend the life of products and equipment before replacing them. Aim to re-use or repair existing products. Ensure new purchases are durable, have a long service life and are easy to maintain and upgrade.

Recycle: Purchase products that contain recycled materials or those that have or can be re-manufactured or recycled.

Implementation

Where possible, and in line with the above waste hierarchy, our school will purchase products that:

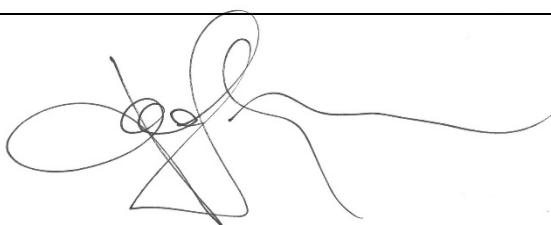
- maximise energy and water efficiency and minimise waste, pollution and habitat loss
- are environmentally preferred products when they perform satisfactorily and are available at a reasonable price
- are paper and wood products obtained from post-consumer recycled, forest stewardship council (FSC) certified, salvaged or renewable sources
- Are produced locally in preference to those that have high kilometres associated with their manufacturing and transportation
- have a high star energy rating and efficiency features, or the best available within budget considering the lifetime of the product
- use renewable energy (if available) not originating from fossil fuels
- conserve water or use water in an efficient way
- will not release toxins that can affect human health and pollute or degrade water, soil or air at any stage of their life cycle.

Links and documents related to this policy:

- Procurement Policy
- Sustainability Policy
- Green Events Policy
- ResourceSmart Schools Online: my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au
- Sustainability Victoria: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schools

Endorsement

This policy will be reviewed **biannually** or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances dictate.

Ratified by	Joseph Flynn
Title	Principal
Signature	
Date	12/08/2026

Suggested next steps

- Raise awareness about this policy and ensure staff, where appropriate, have access to information on environmentally preferred products.
- Require contractors and consultants to be aware of the current purchasing policy and green purchasing options and meet the aims of the policy within their contracts.
- Establish a system to track and report implementation and outcomes of this policy.
- Actively promote environmental purchasing to the community.

Reach out for assistance

RSS Facilitators can help you:

- plan or promote your program
- locate additional resources that will assist you to complete the module
- conduct audits with students
- organise activities for your student action team
- find networks of like-minded staff and students to support your work
- progress your RSS module completion and certification.

To connect with your local facilitator email schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au

For support with RSS Online email help@resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au

ResourceSmart Schools is a free program offered by Sustainability Victoria that supports Victorian schools to embed sustainability across the school facilities, community and curriculum, while saving resources and money for the school.

To register to become a ResourceSmart School, visit:

<https://my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au/>

or email schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au