**PURPOSE**
To provide staff with a framework to further develop and implement sustainability practices and understandings.

**POLICY GUIDELINES**
- The school community will be encouraged to work in partnership towards sustainability;
- Sustainability will be imbedded in the curriculum and promoted in the community under the philosophy, ‘Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle;’
- Kew East Primary School is working toward attaining the ResourceSmart AuSSi Vic 5 star rating. This will incorporate 4 modules; energy, waste, biodiversity and water:
  - **ENERGY**
    - control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment; avoid unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy; educate students, staff and the whole community about the best practise for use of energy consuming equipment and services; and monitor energy consumption using the School Environment Tracking System (SETS);
  - **WASTE**
    - develop a Waste Wise ethic within the whole school community; provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; practice waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle; and reduce the cost of waste and litter management;
  - **BIODIVERSITY**
    - improve our outdoor natural environment by planting trees that are indigenous to our local environment; upgrade open spaces used for activities and make them sustainable; use natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment; and educate the school community about incorporating biodiversity into our everyday life; and
  - **WATER**
    - prompt actions that will reduce water usage; appreciate water as a finite natural resource; plant trees that are indigenous to our local environment and are drought resistant; educate the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors; and conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption.
- **GREEN PURCHASING**
  - monitor what products are being purchased by the school and, where possible, purchase items that are as environmentally friendly as possible.
  - Documents to support this policy are:
    - The CERES Core Module; and
    - Scope and Sequence documents to be evaluated to ensure Integrated Units promote Sustainability where possible.

**POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

**GENERAL**
- There is an expectation that the whole school community is involved in sustainable practices;
- Kew East Primary School will embark on the fifth and most substantial module of the AuSSIVIC Resource Smart initiative;
- Add ‘re-think’ to our Sustainability philosophy, and move ‘recycle’ to the final stage after ‘reduce’ and ‘reuse’;
- Operating Structure consists of 3 main groups:
  - Environment Club is made up of interested students in Level 2 – Level 4, and teachers;
  - Environmental Leaders of the Future (ELFs) are made up of Level 4 students who express an interest in being environmental leaders in the school community; and
  - Green Team is made up of parents and teachers and is a project group of Facilities Sub Committee
- Any Sustainable initiatives or ideas are to be presented to the teachers who are on the Green Team. These ideas will then be discussed with the relevant committees (Facilities/Social and Fundraising/Junior School Council) followed by staff. They will be implemented accordingly if approved;
- Ensure Sustainability concepts and learning are included in the Scope and Sequence and Curriculum
Level 1 – Level 4;
- Encourage student ownership of projects, to increase the responsibility, appreciation and relationship with the environment;
- Reinforce the school values in direct regard to Sustainability; and
- Promote community involvement, e.g. Habitat Haven Working Bees, Earth Hour and hosting the City of Boroondara sustainability events.

ENERGY
- Whole school energy awareness activities, for example analysing and presenting SETS and Solar data;
- Use resources and equipment as energy efficiently as possible;
- Include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school; and
- Any additions or modifications to the school’s plant or buildings, including any new structures, are assessed against current best practice for energy efficiency to ensure that the highest level of energy efficiency KEPS can reasonably afford is obtained.

WASTE
- Continue to promote KEPS as a community hub for recycling;
- Develop responsibility within the classroom to ensure that waste is reduced or re-used prior to going out to the waste stations to be recycled;
- Reduce landfill products in the yard; and
- Use computers to communicate information to students, staff and parents.

Biodiversity
- Develop a garden plan for any future change to our school grounds;
- Maximise garden areas for sustainability;
- Create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy;
- Choose and use materials that have less impact on the environment and try to reduce the impact of materials already in place that are not environmentally friendly; and
- Include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school.

WATER
- Reduce the use and cost of water consumption within our school;
- Encourage and involve all classes in the efficient use of grey water;
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water; and
- Involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives.

GREEN PURCHASING
Kew East Primary School will endeavour to:
- Buy recycled paper, instead of paper made from old growth forest;
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products; and
- Purchase stationery for classrooms that is made out of recycled material.

EVALUATION
The Sustainability Policy will be reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Team and the Green Team on a cyclical basis in accordance with School Council policy review schedule.

| Policy Area: Teaching and Learning | Effective Date: December 2010 | Next Review: 2014 |
APPENDIX
ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

GENERAL
- Continue to implement the current structure
  - The Environment Club
  - The Environmental Leaders of the Future (ELFs)
  - The Green Team
  - Facilities and other relevant School Council Sub Committees
  - School Council
- Ensure that all teachers are encouraged to share their Green Initiatives with the Green Team staff members who will then pass them onto the relevant committees
- Include environmental initiatives where possible in Integrated Studies units and in other curriculum areas, e.g. Level 2 ‘Inventions R Us’ could promote saving water by creating a water conservation machine
- Encourage and promote all students in the school to take responsibility for an environmentally friendly school, e.g. provide a monitor system in classrooms so that all students have a role and a responsibility to maintain a sustainable school
- Reinforce the school values when discussing Environmental Initiatives, e.g.:
  - Relationships: Value the ELFs and Environment Club members by listening to them at assembly and taking on board their suggestions or requests
  - Respect: Contribute to keeping the school yard clean
  - Responsibility: Bring Rubbish-Free Lunches to school
  - Resilience: Maintain an optimistic attitude towards sustainable initiatives
- Teams to purchase the sustainable option if budgets permit

ENERGY
- Revise the Integrated Scope and Sequence to include Energy Awareness
- Re-establish Energy Awareness and encourage students to take an activity role in Energy Awareness, e.g. encourage our Switch Off initiative (turning power off when not in use)
- Provide opportunities for students to take responsibility for reducing energy consumption, e.g. by rotating energy monitors
- Use the SETS data and data generated by the PV solar electric system, particularly in Levels 3 and 4, to analyse and report on energy use to maintain continuous improvement
- Develop a Procurement Policy
- Install solar panels to reduce brown coal energy within the school with excess feeding back into the grid

WASTE
- Continue to accept and promote the collection of recyclable items, e.g., mobile phones, batteries and cartridges
- Teachers ensure that ‘landfill waste’ is not taken into the yard, including at recess
- School to purchase uniform stackable set of bins for landfill, compost, paper recycling and plastic for each classroom to promote a positive understanding and more responsible behaviours
- Use recycled paper for photocopying
- To promote the ‘re-use’ principle with paper in classroom, staffroom and office areas, for example when photocopying and printing
- School to promote waste initiatives, e.g. Rubbish Free Lunches
- Use the Intranet as a form of written communication
- School Newsletter online

BIODIVERSITY
- Devise a Garden Plan to maximise Biodiversity in available plots as more areas are being asphal ted, SynthiTurfed or tan barked
- Facilities Sub Committee to conduct an inspection of the school grounds to determine which areas require attention to encourage insects, birds, butterflies and frogs
- Have ‘Working Bees’ in order to get the school community involved in developing our school grounds
- Consult with local nurseries to find plants that are indigenous to our area
- Engage students and staff in the development of a biodiversity program by including all students at a classroom level, e.g. link responsibility with clean-up and water catcher duty
- Staff to visit other Sustainable Schools who have adopted the biodiversity module, to gain ideas for developing our school grounds

**WATER**
- Research viability of being a bubbler Free School
- Implement a class roster system throughout the school for regular emptying of bubbler grey water buckets
- Consider the Water Star Rating when purchasing water use products
- Junior School Council and The Environment Club to promote behaviours and encourage responsibility for water conservation initiatives

**COMMUNICATION**
- The Environment Club reports to the Green Team Leaders following Environment Club Meetings
- Staff discuss sustainable initiatives with the Green Team Leaders
- Green Team Leaders are responsible to take these initiatives to the Green Team staff and if required the Parent Representatives of the Green Team
- If the idea is accepted by the Green Team then the Green Team staff take the suggestion to the whole school staff for consultation
- If approved by the majority of staff, the Green Team staff report back to Green Team Parent Representatives and then to the appropriate School Council Sub Committee
- School Council Sub Committee reports to School Council for final approval if required
- Staff is notified and implementation organised

**GREEN PURCHASING**
- Staff to discuss with cleaners about using environmentally friendly products eg. recycled toilet paper
- Green Team to research possibilities for environmentally friendly product replacement eg. organic fair trade coffee and tea for staffroom
- Teachers to be mindful of stationery purchases and look for environmentally friendly options in OfficeMax catalogue.
- When new play equipment and school yard furniture is being purchased, school to utilise that made of recycled products where possible eg. seat made out of recycled plastics

**ResourceSmart**
- ResourceSmart is a program developed by Sustainability Victoria to work towards solutions, ideas and advice to help learn how to shrink our impact on the environment
- ResourceSmart Schools is the collective name given to a suite of school programs including the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria (AuSSI Vic), ResourceSmart Schools Certification, the ResourceSmart School Awards, including the Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge (RFLC), Victorian Solar in Schools Initiative and the Professional Learning for ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic.. The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI) is a partnership of the Australian Government, States and Territories that supports schools to work towards a sustainable future. ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic is the local application of this national initiative
- The four resource modules are energy, waste, water and biodiversity. Kew East Primary School has completed the Core Module and has received our first resource module star rating, waste. We are committed to the second AuSSI module, energy