



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

In line with our Wales Street Primary Mission and Vision statement our school Green purchasing policy seeks to enable our students to be part of a diverse community-minded school dedicated to lifelong learning and helping students achieve their personal best by fostering skills and knowledge to be:

- Independent, creative and self-motivated
- active inquirers in the local and broader community
- reflective thinkers who are socially, environmentally, and digitally aware.

Aims

- To support staff in purchasing products that maximise energy and water efficiency and minimise waste, pollution and habitat loss.
- To establish and embrace 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 and beyond their life cycle.


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Links and documents related to this policy:

- Your school's mandated 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 as circumstances dictate.

Ratified by	Robyn Owens
Title	Principal
Signature	
Date	5/11/2025