

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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*Be praised, my Lord, for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather by which you, Lord,  
uphold life in all your creatures.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water, who is very useful to us,  
and humble and precious and pure.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,  
through whom you give us light in the darkness:  
he is bright and lively and strong.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us, bringing forth  
fruits and vegetables of many kinds and flowers of many colours.*

(Canticle of Creation...Francis of Assisi)

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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## 1 Rational

St Francis College is a Catholic school in the Franciscan tradition and approaches the important issues of environmental sustainability based on the way of life of our patron-saint, St Francis of Assisi. Unlike many in the Church of his time, Francis saw his God expressed in the people he met and the natural world he spent so much time exploring. God, as the creator of the universe, was expressed through that creation so he saw all of world as blessed. As Francis would have read in Genesis 1:12, *"The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kind. And God saw that it was good"*. The Pope declared Francis the Patron Saint of the Environment in 1979 and so a school that follows in his footsteps would give the highest importance to Franciscan principles promoting the stewardship of creation.

## 2 Aims

- 2.1 To follow the traditions of St Francis by promoting the stewardship of the College grounds;
- 2.2 To model sustainable practices in the management of College facilities in order to bring about a reduction in energy usage and pollution;
- 2.3 To ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of our environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;
- 2.4 To educate our students in sound sustainability practices that can be applied in the real world outside our school;
- 2.5 To model to our community through our Trade Training Centre (Hospitality and Horticulture) sustainable practices in food production and service.

## 3 Actions

- 3.1 Ensuring the principles of environmental sustainability are included at key points in the students journey through the College;
  - i. Reducing Waste and pollution of our environment;
  - ii. Reducing energy usage.
- 3.2 Reducing water consumption responsibly through use of tanks and efficient water devices in bathrooms and latrines;
- 3.3 Promoting recycling setting up recycling bins in the school and classrooms;
- 3.4 Setting up compost bins associated with Horticulture Centre;
- 3.5 Developing clear signage in the school that establishes our commitment to our principles;
- 3.6 Promoting Ecological Sustainable Practices through means such as reducing packaged items sold in Tuckshop;
- 3.7 Greening the College grounds by regular tree planting, developing College gardens.