

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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## CONTENTS

RATIONALE.....	1
AIMS.....	1
ACTIONS.....	2



*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)

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## RATIONALE

St Francis College Crestmead, 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. With the Gospels, Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'* (2015) provides a framework for our understanding and action in this area. These documents are key in shaping our educational response reflected in this policy.

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.

As Francis would have read in the Psalms –

***The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (Psalm 24:1).***

God, as the creator of the universe, was expressed through all creation, making all the world blessed.

Pope John Paul II, in 1979, declared St Francis, the Patron Saint of Ecology and so, as a school that follows in the footsteps of St Francis, the highest priority is given to Franciscan principles promoting the stewardship of creation, alongside a mindful integration of prayer with the natural environment.

Pope Francis in his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'* (2015) raises the question, "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"  
(*Laudato Si'*, 160)

At St Francis College, our Environmental Sustainability Policy reflects our Franciscan response to this question.

## AIMS

- To follow the traditions of St Francis by promoting the stewardship of the College grounds and its resources.
- To model sustainable practices in the management of College facilities in order to bring about a reduction in energy usage and pollution.
- To ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of our environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.
- To educate our students, staff and families in sound sustainability practices, that can be applied in the real world, outside our school.
- To model to our community, through our Hospitality Trade Training Centre, sustainable practices in food production and service.
- To integrate throughout the P-12 curriculum, an emphasis on sustainability and related practices, as expressed in the Cross-Curriculum Priority of Sustainability.

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## ACTIONS

- Ensure the principles of environmental sustainability are included at key points in the students' journey through the College.
- Reduce waste and pollution within our environment and manage the process of recycling in a strategic way.
- Promote recycling processes and setting up recycling bins in the school and classrooms, with regular related educational sessions for staff and students.
- Reduce energy usage, through responsible and efficient use and care of related resources.
- Responsible reduction of water consumption through use of tanks and efficient water devices in bathrooms and latrines.
- Promote Ecological Sustainable Practices through means such as reducing packaged items sold in tuckshop; creating regular Nude Food Days.
- Green the College grounds by regular tree planting, developing College gardens.
- Ongoing development of the Community Garden with a focus on parent/caregiver/family involvement.
- Maintaining a variety of garden beds with plants to be used in Kitchen Classes.
- Encourage, model and integrate the natural environment and spirit of place with prayer and reflection experiences.

