Copperfield College Sustainability Policy

Copperfield College is a multi-campus college with approximately 170 staff and 1700 students, divided between three campuses located in Delahey, Sydenham and Kings Park. We are committed to maintaining and wherever possible, enhancing, the quality of the environment, for staff, students, parents and for the wider community. Copperfield College recognises that its activities have an impact upon the environment at local, community, national and global levels and acknowledges a responsibility for the protection of the environment and the health of its staff and students, and the community.

Aims
Copperfield College is committed to:

- Protecting the environment and promoting the minimization of its environmental impacts at all levels in relation to waste, energy, water, biodiversity and construction both through its direct actions and through its influence on others.

- Developing a collaborative approach to environmental management throughout the College community and adopting “best environmental practice” across the three campuses.

- Providing safe, healthy working conditions for staff and students in accordance with the College’s Health and Safety Policy and reducing impacts such as litter, graffiti and noise pollution.

- Promoting awareness amongst staff and students of how their personal actions can affect the environment and how even small changes in their actions can contribute collectively to a more sustainable future.

- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and requirements.

Objectives
The College will seek to continuously improve its environmental performance in the areas of infrastructure and operations, curriculum units and communication.

1. Infrastructure and Operations:

- Work with staff and students to significantly reduce the College’s waste output to landfill through the development and implementation of “best practice” waste management routines, establishing sustainable segregation and recycling regimes for an increasing range of materials and promoting waste minimization.

- Identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption and the use of fossil fuels to significantly reduce the College’s CO₂ footprint, while establishing robust systems for energy monitoring and targeting and continuing to examine the possibility of acquiring electricity from 'greener' sources, either through the purchase of renewable energy, or through an increased use of onsite renewable energy i.e. Solar Energy.

- Identify opportunities to reduce water consumption, implementing water conservation measures where possible and promoting the efficient use of water among staff and students.

- Assess as far as possible the environmental impact of all purchases, including photocopying paper, ink cartridge disposal and use and disposal of raw materials.

- Maintain minimal environmental impact as a result of building and grounds works. Where possible to lower energy, water, waste and CO₂ emissions during these projects.

- Strive to reduce landfill by maintaining paper recycle bins in each room, compost bins in staff room and food technology rooms and accessibility to recycle wheelie bins. During special functions appropriate materials are used for recycling in order to reduce the impact on the environment.
• Investigate and reduce waste materials used in the canteen. Propose composting of raw materials, the use of biodegradable materials such as napkins, paper cartoons for hot potatoes, forks/knifes/spoons and recycling of delivery boxes appropriately.

• Have regard for the conservation of biodiversity within the College grounds by planting native (preferably indigenous) Australian drought tolerant plants and aim to measure, maintain and where possible enhance biodiversity on campus.

2. Curriculum Units:
• Aim to ensure that all students and staff of Copperfield College are aware of and confident in dealing with issues relating to sustainable development.

• Aim to provide all students with knowledge and understanding of environmental issues and the need for sustainability through the incorporation of sustainable development into the curriculum units across all key learning areas (KLA).

• Provide students with the opportunity to participate in Environmental Leadership activities which allow students to take action and participate in specific programs based on a range of environmental issues and promote deeper understanding related to sustainable development.

• Provide professional development on sustainable development for staff so that they can make a full contribution to the College’s agenda for sustainability and so that they can work and live in an environmentally responsible way.

3. Communication
• Raise awareness among staff and students about the College’s environmental impact, activities and performance and promote good practice at individual, school and community levels.

• Build partnerships with the local community and national organisations to progress environmental objectives and communicate with the outside community about the College’s environmental performance and activities.

• Promote and communicate environmental activities and progress on the College’s website, College and Campus newsletter and the College’s Environmental Leadership Team’s website.

• Students in the team also communicate their environmental initiatives and ideas during their annual environmental conference in partnership with Brimbank City Council and Iramoo Sustainable Community Centre at Victoria University at St Albans.

4. Review
• Review the Environmental Policy in Term 4, 2013 and continuously review the College’s environmental management procedures.

• A yearly audit of waste, water, energy and biodiversity minimisation strategies will be conducted using programs such as SETS and the Solar in Schools website.