

GREEN PURCHASING POLICY

1. Rationale:

1.1 Kingston Heath Primary School is committed to ethical and sustainable living. It will try wherever possible to purchase products and services that are ethically produced and which minimise environmental impact.

2. Aims:

2.1 Kingston Heath Primary School seeks to contribute to environmental sustainability and to educate students, teachers, staff, and the school community about the importance of making environmentally and ethically responsible decisions with respect to purchasing by:

- Minimising unnecessary purchasing
- Making more sustainable use of natural (often finite) resources
- Decreasing the impact of the school's activities on the environment
- Decreasing waste (avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle)
- Minimising toxicity to promote human and environmental health
- Supporting sustainable and ethical industries.
- Changing the culture of purchasing in the community to an informed approach that considers the environmental and ethical implications of all goods and services.
- Considering the ecological footprint of all products and services purchased for the school
- Maximising value for money

3. Implementation:

3.1 This policy will be considered with regard to the purchasing of all goods and services for Kingston Heath Primary School.

3.2 The office staff will be in charge of bulk purchases and will follow this policy.

3.3 The school will search for ecologically friendly alternatives to currently used products on an eco guide eg: <http://www.geca.org.au/> before purchasing bulk items such as toilet paper, printing paper, tissues and exercise books. The items will need to be cost effective.

3.4 We will search for products that are recycled or contain recycled content, are eco-certified, have no or low toxicity and are durable.

3.5 We will endeavour to use biodegradable, non-toxic, natural cleaning products e.g. vinegar, bicarbonate soda.

3.6 Where possible, rechargeable batteries for cameras and other multimedia devices. Aim to reduce the amount of products in packaging sold from the canteen.

3.7 Search for ecologically friendly options for student stationary and office stationary supplies.

3.8 Endeavour to seek equipment and furniture made from recycled materials when current items need to be replaced.

3.9 When purchasing equipment, seek products that are durable and repairable.

3.10 Where possible, choose biodegradable products that are non-toxic.

4. Evaluation

4.1 This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

References:

Ecobuy www.ecobuy.org.au

ECO-Buy is an award winning not for profit company that supports organisations in purchasing environmentally preferable products and operates as a Centre of Excellence in environmental purchasing

Ecospecifier <http://www.ecospecifier.org/>

A knowledge base of over 3500 eco-products, eco-materials, technologies and resources, the leading global source of sustainable development & life-cycle assessed green product information.

Ethical Shopping Guide <http://www.ethical.org.au/>

The Ethical Consumer Guide gives you the low-down on the environmental and social record of companies behind common brand names. Shop with a clear conscience!

Good Environmental Choice Australia label <http://www.geca.org.au>

The Good Environmental Choice Label is the only environmental labelling program in Australia which indicates the environmental performance of a product from a whole of product life perspective for consumer goods. The label is awarded to products that meet voluntary environmental performance standards which have been created and assessed in conformance to international environmental labelling standards. Search the database for information on labelled products.

Green Power Accredited <http://www.greenpower.gov.au/home.aspx>

Green Power Accredited products are renewable energy products endorsed by a collection of state governments that manage the GreenPower program. For a renewable energy product to gain endorsement from the GreenPower program it must be generated from: Eligible renewable energy sources that meet strict environmental standards; and A new renewable energy facility that was built since January 1997. (Other renewable energy exists, but it may not be accredited because it was built before 1997, and was already contributing energy to the electricity grid).

True Food Guide <http://www.truefood.org.au/index2.html>

Rating food brands by their policy on genetically engineered (GE) ingredients, this popular shopping guide is the only way to find out if foods are GE-free.

Green Procurement Organisation <http://www.greenprocurement.org/php/listCategories.php>

This database is a free resource of environmentally preferable products in Australia. The green procurement database takes a unique approach by providing meaningful and quantifiable evaluation of each product's environmental performance in addition to providing contact details and technical information about products.

SASI Cleaning Guide http://www.sasiclean.com.au/product_guide.html

This guide lists all the attributes (aspects) of a cleaning product to either avoid or look for, helping you to reduce or eliminate the impacts on health, planet and water.

Wilderness Society Ethical Paper Guide

http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/good_wood/envf_pap.htm

A guide that outlines which office papers to buy, ways to reduce our paper impacts on forests and climate, and an explanation of paper brandings.

