

# Xavier College

## Sustainability Policy



### 1. BACKGROUND

---

Xavier College Limited (the 'College') has established the following Sustainability Policy (the 'Policy'). This Policy provides key elements of the College's approach to sustainability and minimising our impact on the environment. The Policy forms the foundation to inform the College's procedures, practices, decision-making processes and ultimately the College's culture with respect to sustainability and caring for our common home.

As set out in *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical written by Pope Francis, all people are called to hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. As a Jesuit school, we are further called to respond to the cry of the Earth through the Universal Apostolic Preferences, particularly Preference #4 'Caring for our Common Home'. We aim to protect our common home by coming "together to seek a sustainable and integral development" (*Laudato Si'*, 13). We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into everyday decisions and operations, the classroom and the curriculum. We aim to embed the principles of sustainability into our thinking and our processes as a College.

From the annual reporting period starting on or after 1 July 2027, Xavier College will be required to report on climate-related financial disclosures that will be contained within an annual sustainability report. The climate-related financial disclosures will include risks and opportunities, including "information relating to government, strategy, risk management and metrics and targets (including Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions)" (Mandatory climate-related financial disclosures, The Treasury, Australian Government).

### 2. PURPOSE

---

School Sustainability Vision:

- At Xavier College we strive to inspire our whole community to care for our common home as we identify creation's part in our spirituality, understand our role in caring for creation and positively contribute to sustainability through our actions.

This Policy provides the framework for:

- The development of College systems, practices, procedures and guidelines which promote sustainability
- The development and implementation of plans and strategies to work towards Resource Smart Schools accreditation
- The development and implementation of plans and strategies to embed caring for our common home in the College, both for student engagement and action, as well as for operational activities.

### 3. SCOPE

---

This Policy applies to the school environment, which includes any campus of the College.

This Policy applies to all College employees (partners in mission), Jesuits, directors, students, parents and guardians. The College aims to engage third party service providers, volunteers and contractors involved in the school environment who will uphold the principles of this policy.

The College is committed to caring for our common home and minimising our impact on the environment in the following action areas:

- Ecological Justice and Sustainability Curriculum
- Energy Management
- Waste Management
- Water Management
- Biodiversity

All individuals within the College community will be informed and encouraged to participate fully in sustainability initiatives.

### 4. POLICY STATEMENT

---

The College takes its sustainability responsibilities seriously.

The Sustainability Policy covers key aims in the action areas outlined in the Scope. As such, it uses guidelines set out by Sustainability Victoria's Resource Smart Schools program which provides a framework for schools who are on a journey to become more sustainable.

The College will establish patterns of existing resource use in the areas of energy, waste and water to determine a baseline. Once the baseline in each area has been established, the intention is to set reduction targets that align with a specific timeframe for completion.

This will become part of annual reporting to the College Board through its Sustainability, Planning and Building Committee. Specific actions will also be set out in a School Environment Management Plan for each of the Senior School and Junior School – Burke Hall.

In accord with the scope, specific aims are identified for each of the five (5) action areas as follows:

#### 4.1 Ecological Justice and Sustainability Curriculum

The College aims to:

- Implement the guidelines set out in Global Identifier #4 'Care of Creation' in Jesuit Schools: A Living Tradition
- Connect staff and students to creation
- Provide ecological justice education to all students across their time at the College, particularly in science, religious education and humanities courses
- Provide students with the opportunity to respond to concerns of ecological justice, including air and water pollution and loss of habitat

- Ensure the Sustainability cross-curriculum priority is embedded across all years at the College, within appropriate subjects

## **4.2 Energy Management**

The College aims to:

- Reduce energy consumption within the College
- Ensure all staff and students employ the efficient use of resources and equipment
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through an Energy Efficiency Annual Action Plan
- Work towards achievable outcomes for net zero carbon
- Involve students and staff in the planning and implementation of energy consumption reduction initiatives

## **4.3 Waste Management**

The College aims to:

- Minimise the amount of waste going to landfill through a Waste and Litter Reduction Annual Action Plan
- Improve recycling practices to minimise waste going to landfill
- Involve students and staff in the planning and implementation of waste minimisation initiatives
- Provide opportunities for students, staff and parents to recycle and donate items to avoid landfill and promote a circular economy
- Reduce food waste throughout the College where possible
- Reduce food and garden waste entering landfill

## **4.4 Water Management**

The College aims to:

- Reduce water consumption through water conservation initiatives as set out in a Water Conservation Annual Action Plan
- Implement water maintenance procedures throughout the College
- Include drought resistant plants in gardens where possible
- Capture and store rain and storm water where possible
- Involve students and staff in the planning and implementation of water conservation initiatives

## **4.5 Biodiversity**

The College aims to:

- Promote the importance of biodiversity in future developments
- Prioritise the use of indigenous vegetation that is native to the bioregion of the College
- Involve students and staff in the planning and implementation of biodiversity initiatives

## 4.6 Roles and Responsibilities

### 4.6.1 Sustainability Team

A Sustainability Team will be formed from representatives across the College. It will be chaired by the Sustainability Leader. The Sustainability Team would ideally include staff representatives from each of the Executive, curriculum, faith and service, risk and compliance, finance and property (facilities). This would also include student and parent representation, who would attend meetings when appropriate.

Its composition, appointments, scope and brief will be defined by the Executive leadership of the College and set out in the Sustainability Team – Terms of Reference. The Sustainability Team will meet 1 to 2 times each term or as needed.

### 4.6.2 Sustainability Leader

The Sustainability Leader is responsible for chairing the Sustainability Team and for reporting on outcomes and progress from this team.

Additional roles and responsibilities in sustainability as set out by this policy will be allocated to staff by the Executive leadership of the College.

## 5. RELATED POLICES, PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS

---

- School Environment Management Plan – Senior School
- School Environment Management Plan – Junior School

## 6. FURTHER INFORMATION

---

If you would like further information about the way the College manages its sustainability, the points of contact will be stated in the School Environment Management Plan for each campus.

### **POLICY RATIFICATION AND REVIEW:**

The College's policies are ratified by the Xavier College Limited Board.

This Policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if required.

## 7. DEFINITIONS

---

Circular economy – a system where products and materials do not end up in waste and instead are maintained, reused, refurbished, recycled and composted.

Cross-curriculum priority – priorities that are embedded into curriculum areas. They give students skills and knowledge so that they are better prepared to understand and engage with the world.

Ecological justice – refers to the link between social and environmental justice, acknowledging that the two are interrelated and that environmental action supports equity for all people.

Resource Smart Schools – a free and voluntary program run by Sustainability Victoria that provides a sustainability framework to support schools in reducing their water and energy use, reducing their waste to landfill and improving their biodiversity.

Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions – greenhouse gas emissions that occur from sources owned and/or controlled by an organisation.

Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions – greenhouse gas emissions that are indirectly linked to an organisation and associated with the production of electricity.