





SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES

RATIONALE

St Helena's Catholic Primary School's Sustainability Guidelines aim to make Laudato Si', which urges all to take action for our common home, 'front of mind and an integral part of our whole-school planning' (Catholic Education of Western Australia's Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030). The guidelines promote the adoption of sustainable practices by students, staff and the whole school community in the day to day running of the school in order to reduce our ecological footprint, promote environmental responsibility, enhance student lives and improve the 'ongoing capacity of Earth to maintain all life'(Cross-curriculum priorities, *School Curriculum and Standards Authority*).

DEFINITIONS

-  Sustainability refers to the ongoing capacity of the Earth to maintain all life (Cross-curriculum priorities, *School Curriculum and Standards Authority*).
-  Sustainable practices refer to those actions and decisions that promote the ongoing capacity of the Earth to maintain all life.

PRINCIPLES

- a) Exercising stewardship concerns caring for people, the environment and other resources (*Stewardship Policy, Catholic Education Western Australia*).
- b) Environmental responsibility: A commitment to developing an appreciative awareness of the interdependence of all elements of the environment, including humans and human systems, encouraging a respect and concern for Australia's natural and cultural heritage and for forms of resource use that are regenerative and sustainable. (*Guiding Principles, Values, School Curriculum and Standards Authority*).
- c) Education for sustainability develops the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living. Sustainability education is futures-oriented, focusing on protecting environments and creating a more ecologically and socially just world through informed action. (*Cross Curricular Priorities, School Curriculum and Standards Authority*).
- d) Actions that support more sustainable patterns of living require consideration of environmental, social, cultural and economic systems and their interdependence. (*Cross Curricular Priorities, School Curriculum and Standards Authority*).

PROCEDURES

Student Engagement

- Two days per week students have the opportunity to engage in sustainable projects/craft/activities at lunch time.
- Three days per week students have the opportunity to engage in garden-based activities at lunch time.
- Ministry Groups/Year 6 Leadership: should facilitate at least one mini sustainability project or awareness day relevant to the Ellenbrook area or an area of interest per year.
- Cross-curriculum integration of Laudato Si' themes, particularly with outcomes in Religious Education, Design Technology and Science (by end of 2025).
- Promote and develop prayer centred on Creation and timed with changing in Noongar seasons and significance e.g. Laudato Si' Week.
- Continue to support approved charities and deepen partnership with the Church agencies e.g. Caritas, to support vulnerable communities.
- Participate in one liturgy a year that is centred on Creation and is timed with a significant event such as the St Francis of Assisi Feast Day on the 4th of October.

Laudato Si Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

Laudato Si Goal 5: Ecological Education

Laudato Si Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality

Recycling and Waste Management

- Fruit and vegetable scraps must be collected each day and emptied in the main collection point so that it can be composted.
- Paper and cardboard must be placed in class recycling bins or main recycle bin (at top of carpark).
- Juice boxes, plastic bottles and cans to be collected for Containers for Change recycling.
- School will be a collection point for batteries, milk bottle tops and used stationary.
- Used printer cartridges to be recycled in ink cartridge box in Photocopy Room.
- Coffee pods to be recycled in Nespresso recycling tubs.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to pack waste free lunches by using re-usable containers and wrappers and avoiding disposable wrappers.
- Maintain our e-waste recycling cycle of iPads, laptops and photocopiers and printers.

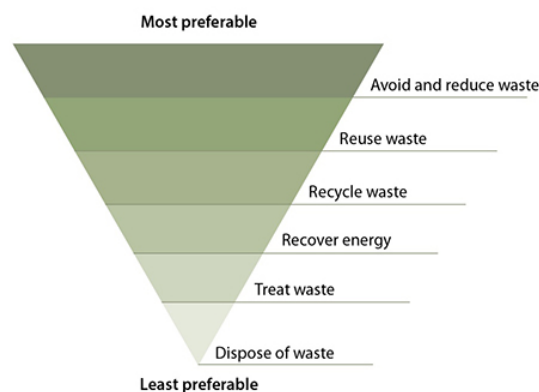
Laudato Si Goal 3: Ecological Economics

Resource Purchasing

Classroom/Learning Area Purchasing

- Before any item is purchased, the purchaser should consider the following Waste Hierarchy (Environmental Protection Authority NSW)
- Staff to utilise the Re-Use Shed for resources before ordering consumables. Consumable purchases should be limited and used when other alternatives are inadequate.
- Staff to utilise CEWA Marketplace to exchange, gift or request items for our school.
- Prior to bulk class stationery orders at the end of the year, staff to check and collect unused items from their classrooms and storerooms. Leftover items will be collated by the Sustainability Team and redistributed to other classes/areas as needed.
- Final purchasing decisions are not to be based on price alone. Ethical business processes are an essential part of St Helena's value for money and fit for purpose consideration (Catholic Education of Western Australia, Modern Slavery Statement 2023)

Laudato Si Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles



Event Management

Paper and Plastics

- Stalls (including Mother's and Father's Day Stalls)/raffles/fundraising events must be planned to be low waste. This includes the avoidance of disposable plastic, wrappers, plastic gifts/toys/gadgets, balloons and plastic bags. Alternatives like reusable bunting, reusable tablecloths, reusable cups, sustainable/low waste gifts can be utilised instead.
- Any paper packaging must be recycled
- Attempt to avoid single use plastic to be purchased unless it will be re-used at future events
- See lower waste stall ideas in Appendix
- See more sustainable gifts ideas in Appendix

Drinks and Food

- Drinks should be catered for using BYO water bottles and keep cups or provision of re-usable cups/mugs and filling stations (Esky drink dispenser, water fountain, kitchen taps). No single use drink vessels including water bottles, coffee cups or juice boxes unless for emergency situations.

- Food should be catered for using BYO containers and cutlery, re-usable food vessels or recycled disposable paper towels/napkins that should be composted.
- Fruit and vegetable food scraps should be collected and composted.
- Any unavoidable glass or recyclables should be recycled.
- If stalls require disposable packaging, they should use recycled paper packaging (such as a brown paper lunch bag) and a compost bin must be provided for the collection of these bags.

Laudato Si Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

Landscaping and School Grounds

- Unless edible, or an indoor plant, all plants and trees planted should be native to the Ellenbrook area or Western Australia and water wise.

Photocopying and Laminating

- Any paper reams purchased must be the recycled variety
- Photocopying should be double-sided or shrunk to A5 where possible
- Classroom games should be placed in re-usable plastic sleeves rather than laminated where possible
- Where possible, posters should remain un laminated
- Unwanted laminated items must be disposed of in landfill and not the recycle bin (as it cannot be recycled)
- Laminators will not be replaced when they break unless they are in shared spaces.

Laudato Si Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

Energy

- Participation in the CEWA solar feasibility study as part of the School Solar Power Strategy with the view of extending and upgrading existing solar.
- Room lights to be switched off when not occupied for an extended period of time e.g. lunchtime
- Doors and windows to be closed when heating/cooling is occurring.
- Air conditioners should be set to the recommended degrees when cooling and heating.

Laudato Si Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

Education

- Staff to participate in at least one Professional Learning session per year e.g. Tuesday whole school Professional Learning.

Laudato Si Goal 5: Ecological Education

Partnerships

- Termly lunchtime Sustainability Team meeting with representatives from student body, parent body, staff and administration.
- Establish and maintain relationships with external agencies/partners such as Waste Sorted Schools, Water Corp, Trillion Trees and Catholic Earthcare Australia.
- Maintain engagement with other CEWA schools by attending termly Earth Care Network afternoons and engaging in Sustainability at CEWA Schools platform.

- Participate in annual CEWA School Survey in order to inform review and improvement of Laudato Si' Strategy and Action Plan.
- Follow the latest news and networking opportunities on Teams Channel Sustainability at CEWA Schools
Laudato Si Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

REFERENCES

Catholic Education of Western Australia, Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030

School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Encyclical letter 'Laudato Si of The Holy Father Francis on Care for our Common Home'

Modern Slavery Statement 2023, Catholic Education of Western Australia

APPENDIX

Lower Waste Stall Ideas

- Target throw e.g. basketball/netball/football/soccer shooting
- Guess the lollies in the jar (not individually wrapped)
- Hair spray
- Nail polish
- Guess the baby photo competition
- Chocolate Wheel
- Splat the teacher (sponges soak in water)
- Second hand toy stall
- Second hand book stall
- Second hand stationery stall
- Cake stall
- Recycled craft station
- Seed bomb stall

More Sustainable Gift Choices

- Seed bombs
- Packets of seed
- Herbs planted in egg cartons/cardboard
- Clay decorations/earrings
- Decorated candle holders made from recycled glass jars
- Recipe mixes in recycled jars (biscuit/pancake/slice)
- Job vouchers (clean car, clean dishes etc)
- Second hand books
- Baths salts/bath bombs
- Flavoured salts or bbq rubs
- Handsewn bags
- Handmade soaps

SOURCE OF AUTHORITY	
<i>CECWA Policy</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>
<i>Executive Directive</i>	
<i>Originally Released</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>Last Review</i>	
<i>Next Review</i>	<i>2026</i>