



## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION & STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

Newberry House is committed to the protection of the environment, to strive towards environmental sustainability and to promote sound environmental practices on campus and in the larger school community. The setting of Newberry House enhances the need to act responsibly in respect of environmental issues.

### **2. WHY THIS POLICY EXISTS**

We recognize that we have inherited a world of finite resources and that it is the responsibility of each member of our school community to preserve these resources, look for ways to improve the school's environmental management and reduce our collective environmental (including carbon) footprint. We are also committed to finding opportunities for investing into the stewardship of our natural resources and promoting best practice in conservation.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION**

Newberry House aims to lead by example, creating an awareness of environmental issues and implementing programmes of change. We will strive to:

#### **3.1. Manage resources by**

- Promoting and implementing actions that will reduce the consumption of water, electricity and fuel
- Avoiding wasting any form of energy
- Introducing alternative energy sources as and when feasible
- Keeping water cost to a minimum by optimising the use of the three supply sources available to Newberry House, i.e. municipal, irrigation and dam water
- Monitoring our use of paper and seeking ways to reduce use of this product
- Using all resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Maintaining records of and monitoring energy and water consumption costs
- Evaluating our environmental performance to ensure continual improvement through regular inspections and audits
- Including learners in the process of developing an energy efficient school
- Educating learners, staff and the whole community about best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services

#### **3.2. Manage and recycle waste by**

- Developing a waste wise ethic within the whole school community
- Providing and maintaining a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter
- Practising waste management based on principles of reduce, reuse and recycle
- Reducing the cost of waste and litter management
- Using effective means of conserving and recycling water
- Recycling paper, tin, glass and other recyclable items
- Creating compost using biodegradable waste

- 3.3. Manage our school grounds in an environmentally responsible manner by**
  - Reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and toxic pesticides and encouraging our school community to do the same
  - Encouraging biodiversity
  - Planting indigenous plants and trees
  - Appreciating water as a precious natural resource
  - Planting water-wise trees and plants that are conducive to our environment
- 3.4. Educate our learners about environmental issues by**
  - Teaching respect and empathy for all people and living creatures
  - Including environmental issues in the curricula of all subject areas
  - Providing opportunities for learners to interact with the environment
  - Reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we create
  - Creating a healthier impact on the environment
  - Creating an environmental haven for learners, staff and parents to enjoy
- 3.5. Spread environmental awareness and create a deeper understanding of the connected challenges associated with sustainable development by**
  - Creating opportunities to interact with and share our resources and expertise with others from different communities
  - Providing an educational service on green issues to our parent body
  - Becoming involved in environmental projects in our local community
  - Encouraging and involving school families in environmental activities
  - Educating the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors
  - Improving our outdoor natural environment by planting trees that are conducive to our environment and need little water
  - Eradicating invasive alien plants
  - Keeping the campus environmentally friendly and reduce or eliminating materials that have a negative impact on the environment
  - Educating the school community about incorporating conservation and biodiversity in our everyday life

We will communicate this policy and our environmental commitment to our learners, their parents and the wider school community, so that together, we can reduce our collective carbon footprint and make a difference to our planet.

#### **4. PRACTICAL GUIDELINES**

##### **4.1. Energy:**

- Promote a 'switch off' policy for equipment, lighting and heating that is not being used
- Set all computers to hibernate after a set period of inactivity
- All new geysers to incorporate solar heating panels
- All lighting to be fluorescent or LED only
- Promote a sustainable transition to clean energy sources

##### **4.2. Water:**

- All new toilets to be fitted with dual flush cisterns and taps and showers with low fixtures
- New toilets to be plumbed for future coupling to grey or rainwater supply

- Irrigate with drip systems where possible and at times when highest efficiency can be achieved

**4.3. Waste:**

- Implement and maintain a program for the collection and sorting of waste. As a minimum provide for the a three-bin system at all waste collection points:  
General waste (cannot be easily recycled)  
Recyclables (paper and items marked as recyclable)  
Organics (compostable)
- Use two-sided printing as default setting on printers in order to reduce waste
- Establish a composting facility on campus and make use of all compostable waste
- Reuse garden waste as mulch
- Maximise re-use of materials from any on-site demolitions or alterations

**4.4. Conservation of the Natural Environment:**

- Promote the use of naturally occurring indigenous flora/fynbos
- Eradicate invasive alien vegetation
- Select water wise trees and plants in garden areas

**4.5. Sustainable Learning:**

- Include learners in environmental management aspects referred to above
- Develop a range of projects and experiments in which learners can participate, based on the school's environmental initiatives on campus
- Display and promote sustainable initiatives on campus in a learner friendly manner

**4.6. General:**

- Incorporate the sustainable policy into the appointment of all consultants and contractors working on major projects on the campus
- Request the architect or principal agent on new projects to respond in writing to a standard questionnaire on sustainable design issues
- Maintain contact, and exchange information, with schools that have adopted sustainable practices

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