



Pymble Ladies' College Sustainability Initiatives

Pymble has long had a commitment to sustainably managing the facilities and grounds of the campus whilst continually engaging our students in this endeavour. The College's commitment is clearly stated in *Pymble's* strategic intent document, [Towards 2020](#). There is a clear focus at *Pymble* to reduce our carbon footprint and manage our energy, water, waste and biodiversity resources sustainably.

Student Engagement

The College's students actively support and participate in the sustainability vision of *Pymble* in a number of ways. This includes:

- Each year, within the student prefect body, a Sustainability Captain and Deputy Captain are appointed to oversee and drive student-led initiatives
- A group of passionate Secondary School students are appointed each year to the Student Representative Council Sustainability Committee
- Managing thriving vegetable gardens in the Preparatory School, Junior School and Boarding
- Initiatives such as 'Lunch Box Fridays', Enviro Kids and a Gardening Club in the Junior School
- Participation in Kids Teaching Kids, Earth Hour, National Tree Day and Clean Up Australia Day

Solar Panels

Pymble's continual commitment to renewable energy is underlined through multiple Solar Photovoltaic Panels throughout the College. The largest of these is a 60kW system installed on the roof of the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) – a comprehensive expansion on the previously existing 16kW system which was installed in 2011.

Beyond this, the Preparatory School Library has a 19kW system, whilst a larger 34kW system sits atop the Conde Library. The College estimates that the system will produce approximately 163,807 kW hours per annum, whilst reducing *Pymble's* Greenhouse Gas emissions by 173,636 kg of CO₂ p.a. This equates to permanently removing 138 small cars from the road or enough energy to power 48 households per year.



Energy Audit

As a result of a comprehensive energy audit, the College has implemented a number of suggested initiatives including:

- Upgrading existing fluorescent and halogen lighting to energy efficient LED lighting
- Occupancy sensors to automate the control of lighting
- Timers on air conditioning units and hot water systems
- Request buttons on split system air conditioners

Paper Reduction

As the College strives to more sustainably manage its resources, there is an ongoing recognition of the scope to reduce the volume of *Pymble's* paper consumption per year. To address this issue, the following initiatives have been introduced:

- All multi-function printing devices across the College now require staff and students to release their print jobs using an ID card, thus reducing the amount of unnecessary and unwanted print jobs.
- More textbooks and student resources are being made available digitally either as e-books or online
- Parents are provided with online forms where practical.

Led by the College's Sustainability Captains, a group of students constructed a Paper Pyramid from 363 boxes of paper to represent the reduction in total College paper usage by 907,732 sheets over a 12 month period. Students and staff were encouraged to view this visual representation of a great 'sustainability opportunity'.

Water Management

Rain water tanks are installed across a number of key areas in the College and assist in managing the gardens. Other water recycling initiatives and efficiencies are continually reviewed with monthly usage data assisting to identify opportunities.

Waste Management

- Monthly reporting of waste is provided by our resource recovery contractor which details the breakdown of the quantities and percentage of total waste by waste type



- Paper recycling bins are installed in all offices, staffrooms and common areas
- All used metal products are harvested and removed off campus by our waste contractor for recycling
- Food waste 'Bio Bins' have been implemented in the Senior School Centre and Boarding Houses and are being used by the Facilities Department for their compost
- 'Reusable' coffee mugs are available in the food and beverage outlets onsite.

Other sustainability initiatives

- *Pymble* recycles food from the College Kitchen with scraps used to supplement feed for the animals in the Agriculture Plot
- Use of Fuji Xerox multi-function devices where 98% of the machine is made from recycled materials
- Electronic distribution of employee payslips
- Organised sale of second hand textbooks
- I.T department recycles laptops and hardware at the end of their life; recycles used toner cartridges; sets printers and telephones to 'power saving' mode when not in use and has introduced 'Cloud Computing', reducing onsite infrastructure
- Exclusive use of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified photocopy / Printroom paper
- Planted a sustainability garden