NTATA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Environmental Policy



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# Guidelines for writing a School Environmental Policy

## What is a School Environmental Policy?

A School Environmental Policy is a statement of intentions (for e.g.: We want a school recycling programme) and principles (for e.g.: We will include all school staff and learners in our efforts) for improving a school’s environmental performance. The policy developmental process encourages schools to assess existing activities, infrastructure and processes, and to set, evaluate and review environmental education goals and management plans.

Creating a policy becomes a simple matter once learners have completed their school audits, and identified and investigated possible solutions to problem areas. Thereafter the policy grows as plans are developed, implemented and improved on.

Here is an example of the order in which your school could develop and grow its School Environmental Policy over time:

1. Complete a series of environmental audits to help your school identify key problem areas.
2. You and your learners then record what your school commits to do to help solve the identified problems, in order to work towards environmental sustainability.
3. Once you have documented your intentions in a policy document, have this approved and signed off by the Principal and Governing Body. This step will show that your school is fully committed to carrying out the intentions.
4. Review and update your policy on a regular basis.

Include the following in your policy:

* A brief mission statement.
* Your main aims.
* A definition of what being a Sustainable School means to you.
* Strategies for implementing your school’s environmental policy.
* A list of action plan statements for each of the policy areas you plan to address.

Below is a suggested format, with headings, to help you create your policy. If these seem too complicated to start off with, consider a more streamlined version with headings such as: Aims, Resources, Processes.

# Declaration of Commitment and Vision

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| Guidelines: Begin with an introduction to your school and the reason (the why) behind embarking on this sustainability journey. Expand this by explaining how your school is committed to protecting the environment, and share what your school’s sustainability vision and aims are. Example: “Our school is committed to the protection of the environment…. Our vision is to develop a culture within our school community that recognizes the shared responsibility to…. We intend to / We aim to…”. Think about what sustainability means to you and how this might become a reality at your school. |

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| Our school is committed to fostering the culture of knowledge, respect and care for the environment.Our vision is to promote environmental best practice.We aim to participate in dealing with local and environmental issues. |

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| In the section below write down *how* you intend to achieve your aims/vision under each sub-section. i.e. “To achieve our vision we will strive to…, manage resources responsibly by…”. Detail your *how* under the headings below. Please Note: The headings below act as a guide only. |

## Resource Management:

## Waste: Reduce, Re-use and Recycle.

## Water: Learners to be educated on sensible use of water in their daily lives.

## Energy: Learners to be educated on use of electricity in their daily lives.

## Procurement: Ensure procurement sustainable practices.

## Management of School Grounds and the Surrounding Environment:

## Curriculum and Teaching: Ensure that environmental or sustainable issues are included in the lessons presented to learners.

## Participation and Learning:

## Learners

## All Staff (Teachers, Grounds staff, Administrators, etc.)

## Parents

## Other Schools (Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary)

## Community Members

## Local Businesses

## Tertiary Education Institutions

## Communicate the Policy and Commitment to all involved:

# Practical Guidelines to Achieve our Vision

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| Now, identify what is needed to achieve your vision/aims, i.e. what resources do you need?Then, to help you break down *how* you will achieve your vision further, write down some of the specific actions you intend on taking under the relevant Focus Area(s). From there, you can think through and identify the processes that you will need to employ.This section will act not only as a guide for your school, but should also be used to reflect on and track your progress in achieving your school’s vision.  |

## Biodiversity Network:

## Catchment to Coast:

## Community and Social Responsibility:

## Energy and Climate Action:

## Health and Well-being:

## Marine and Coast:

## Production, Consumption and Waste:

## Water and Sanitation: