

Myanmar International School

Yangon

Environmental and Sustainability Policy



Approved by: Ei Ei Zin (Board of Directors)

Date: 3rd August 2023

Last reviewed on: 3rd August 2023

Next review due by: 3rd August 2026



Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Mission Statement- To instill within students the knowledge, skills and qualities they need to grow as successful individuals and make positive contributions to Myanmar and the wider world.

Aim:

We at MISY aim to promote awareness of environmental issues in our school community and around the world through community-based learning, educational programs and events and campus wide initiatives that will encourage environmentally friendly practices among students, faculties and staff. By integrating the practice of sustainability into everyday life at MISY, students and graduates are able to think, act and lead with courage to create a more just, compassionate and sustainable world.

Roles and responsibilities:

The Board of Directors are responsible for:

- ❖ Reviewing the environmental and sustainability policy
- ❖ Considering the environmental impact where any new buildings or refurbishments are being planned.

The Business Manager is responsible for:

- ❖ Monitoring and reviewing the school's energy usage.
- ❖ Identifying, with the facilities manager, energy waste and taking the necessary steps to rectify this.
- ❖ Ensuring, where possible, that equipment purchased is made from sustainable resources: for example, biodegradable cups for water rather than plastic.

The Head of Sections are responsible for:

- ❖ Developing a curriculum which promotes the need for environmental sustainability.

- ❖ Including and engaging staff, students, parents and the local community to improve and sustain the world today for future generations.
- ❖ Sharing good practice with students, parents and the community and encouraging them to adopt the initiatives outlined within this policy.
- ❖ Promoting awareness of climate change through cross-curricular activities.
- ❖ Sharing the responsibility with the wider community for promoting and practicing policies which show concern and care for the future of the global environment.

The Head of School is responsible for:

- ❖ The overall implementation of this policy.
- ❖ Ensuring that teaching staff have the necessary knowledge to teach students about environmental concerns.
- ❖ Ensuring that staff and students understand the importance of energy conservation: for example, ensuring that they turn lights off when not in use.
- ❖ Communicating with disposal companies regarding the disposal of recyclable and non-recyclable waste, so that the school can implement a waste disposal procedure for all staff and students to follow.
- ❖ Ensuring that catering staff understand the importance of recycling and disposing of waste sustainably.
- ❖ Ensuring that the Facilities Manager understands their responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the school grounds.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- ❖ Promoting the need for environmental sustainability in their lessons.
- ❖ Ensuring their classrooms are using energy sustainably: for example, ensuring that computers and lights are turned off when not in use.

The Facilities Manager is responsible for:

- ❖ Ensuring that outside lights are switched off when they are not needed.

- ❖ Recording energy use and reporting any waste to the Business Manager.
- ❖ Monitoring the cleaning staff and advising them on good energy practice.

Environmental Committee Team are responsible for promoting initiatives to raise awareness of environmental issues:

- Monitoring any litter problems in the wider community and addressing any problems.
- Promoting a litter free environment to other students.
- Reviewing and promoting sustainability throughout the school.

Students are responsible for:

- Applying their learning at home and aiming to be sustainable outside of school.
- Walking or cycling to school, when possible.
- Using energy sustainably: for example, not leaving taps running.
- Be responsible for keeping our classrooms, school and grounds clean and tidy.
- Eat healthy, natural fruit and vegetable snacks, which don't come in paper or plastic packaging.
- Use the right bins so that we can recycle and compost our waste.

Parents are responsible for:

- Promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle at home.
- Encouraging children to walk or cycle to school, when possible.
- Recycling at home and ensuring that their children understand how to recycle.
- Reinforcing the learning that the school implements in regard to the environment.

Curriculum

We aim to provide students with knowledge, skills and understanding in biodiversity and sustainability, by embedding the topics within many areas of our curriculum. This is carried out by:

- ❖ Fostering awareness amongst teaching staff on the environmental content of courses.
- ❖ Utilising the campus and local opportunities and communities for environmental learning.
- ❖ Ensuring projects carried out at MISY are ethically and environmentally sound.
- ❖ Involving students in developing creative and environmentally related projects.
- ❖ Involving students in internal audits, inter-house monitoring competitions to determine baseline patterns of resource use, monitor compliance and improve environmental practices.
- ❖ Eventually incorporate environmental activities into the curriculum.
- ❖ Report annually on how students have been involved in implementing policy.

Culture

MISY fosters a culture of knowledge, respect and care for the environment by:

- ❖ Raising environmental awareness amongst all members of the school.
- ❖ Developing deeper knowledge and understanding of our physical and social environments.
- ❖ Involving staff and students in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improved performance.
- ❖ Educating students and staff on these issues to raise their awareness and understanding of these environmental issues by identifying areas for improvement in environmental sustainability education. We aim to ensure all of UN sustainable development goals are covered in our curricula.

- ❖ Encouraging students to join the Environmental Committee which provides them with the opportunity to initiate student-led environmental sustainability projects, work with local schools to help them meet the goals leading to environmental consciousness and sustainability.

Appendix 1

Environmental Committee (RC)

An Environmental Committee will be led by students from Year 1 to Year 13.

One student from each year group is elected by their peers. The EC aims to meet each half term to discuss ideas, events and campaigns.

The aim of the EC is to foster proactive, environmentally sustainable policies, approaches and practices by the campus community that are consistent with MISY's guiding statements.

The school's Environmental committee consists of staff members and students who shall:

- Develop and maintain a plan of environmentally sustainable goals, objectives and action plans based on approved policies and practices and consistent with the MISY's guiding statements.
- Formulate, review and recommend environmentally sustainable and fiscally sound policies and practices.
- Promote environmentally conscious activities on- and off-campus.
- Promoting awareness of anti-littering throughout the school.
- Monitoring the school's anti-littering procedures.
- Listening and responding to questions from the school community.
- Minutes from each meeting are to be recorded by the EC team leaders and ideas to be implemented will be shared with the rest of the school and the wider community.

Appendix 2

Waste and recycling

At MISY we reduce the amount of waste we produce by:

- ❖ Writing and printing on both sides of paper wherever possible.
- ❖ Using emails as much as possible, to reduce paper waste.
- ❖ Using emails, the school's website, the school management system and parent text messaging procedures when communicating with parents, to reduce paper waste.
- ❖ Composting food waste, both from the kitchen and food brought into school by students.
- ❖ Ensuring selective waste collection and organic waste treatment for composting and mulching.
- ❖ Putting used paper in a scrap paper drawer and re-using it whenever possible.
- ❖ Only printing documents when it is essential.
- ❖ Making sure that all waste office equipment is correctly disposed of via re-use or recycling schemes.
- ❖ Where possible, encouraging students to share worksheets.
- ❖ Where possible, laminating frequently used documents, protecting them from damage and prolonging their use.
- ❖ Students will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles into school, as opposed to disposable plastic bottles.
- ❖ Any disposable plastic bottles brought into school will be recycled.
- ❖ There are clearly labelled bins located throughout the school for recycling, food waste and general waste.
- ❖ Display posters are used to explain the important environmental considerations: for example, what sort of waste can be recycled and how litter can be detrimental to the environment.
- ❖ Any paper containing personal or sensitive information will not be re-used and will be disposed of in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

- ❖ The Environmental Committee encourages pupils to partake in weekly litter picking around the school grounds as well as term-wise litter pick in the local area.
- ❖ Litter picking volunteers will be in groups no larger than 10 and will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.

Littering

- ❖ The school understands that, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering is a criminal offence. It also understands that fines may be incurred where individuals deliberately litter the premises.
- ❖ Every member of the school community has a duty to dispose of waste properly.

Specifically, individuals are responsible for:

- Putting litter in a bin.
 - Using the appropriate recycling bins.
 - Using resources thoughtfully.
 - Reusing resources where possible.
 - Assisting the Maintenance manager and Trash heroes with the cleanliness of the premises.
- ❖ The Maintenance Manager takes overall responsibility for the overall cleanliness of the school premises.
 - ❖ The Maintenance Manager arranges and coordinates waste disposal from the premises and ensures that items are disposed of correctly.

To mitigate risks of littering, the school implements the following procedures:

- Designated eating areas – pupils and staff are only permitted to eat in these areas to prevent unwanted litter.
- Waste disposal – bins are provided throughout the school, with additional bins provided in eating areas, to ensure sufficient availability for waste disposal.

- Raise awareness of anti-littering amongst pupils and staff through dedicated assemblies, PSHE lessons, staff training days and additional resources, such as leaflets and posters.

Energy and water

In order to conserve energy and water we shall:

- seek to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible.
- committed to reducing our overall carbon emissions.
- turning off energy-draining appliances, for example, computers, projectors and interactive white boards, when they're not in use.
- monitoring the temperature and frequency of cooling in the school and adjusting it accordingly.
- displaying information around the school and in classrooms to ensure that pupils understand the importance of switching off lights, computers and taps when they're not in use.
- making all members of the school's community aware of the link between energy use and financial costs.

Carbon emissions will be reduced by:

- Implementing a rewards system for students and/or staff who reduce carbon emissions by: walking, cycling or taking public transport to school.
- Advertising the benefits of being environmentally friendly around school.

Sustainability

Sustainability at MISY reflects the school's mission statement and fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas.

Sustainability Pledge

"I pledge to live a more sustainable lifestyle. I will consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of my daily decisions and make every effort to be responsible in

these areas. I will also share my individual sustainability efforts with others and in my community to inspire people in making conscientious choices for the planet.”

Appendix 3

Environmental Events

- **Meatless Mondays**

Meatless Mondays encourage the student body to abstain from meat on Mondays. The dining hall offers more meatless options on Mondays to aid students in this commitment.

- **Trash heroes**

- **Bake Sale**

- **Environmental Week**

- **Charity Fundraiser**

- **Earth Week**

- **International Week - Focus on SDG (United nations)**

- **Vaccinations for stray dogs and cats near the school vicinity**