

Welcome to ResourceSmart Schools

Update April 2008

ResourceSmart offers solutions to steer us towards a low carbon future and zero waste. In 2008 Sustainability Victoria (SV) will focus on coordinating, supporting and expanding the delivery of Education for Sustainability (EfS) in Victorian schools under the banner of ResourceSmart.

The following information has been prepared for all Victorian schools, but particularly those involved in the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative in Victoria (AuSSI Vic) and the Waste Wise program.

Some program details are still in the works as this new era in EfS for Victorian schools develops (and some of the changes may not affect you for some time), however, SV is working with project partners to provide a range of activities and resources for schools in 2008.

We look forward to helping all Victorian schools become ResourceSmart and significantly reduce their impacts on climate change

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Providing leadership: Sustainability in Schools State Steering Committee

SV coordinates the delivery of Education for Sustainability (EfS) in Victorian schools. We're doing this by working with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), the Victorian Association of Environmental Education (VAEE) and wide range of other government agencies, non-government organisations and education providers.

In 2007, the Sustainability in Schools State Steering Committee was established to provide strategic direction to the delivery of EfS resources and programs into all Victorian schools. The committee is in the process of developing a strategic framework to coordinate action and identify priorities.

This plan will build on the knowledge and experiences of existing communities of practice, networks and hubs of sustainability practitioners and will draw in new stakeholders. It will enable the Committee to make sound decisions to support Victorian Schools, service providers and contribute to the large number of EfS programs already occurring in Victoria.

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The Umbrella of 'doing': ResourceSmart Schools

SV has launched a new brand, ResourceSmart, as the single call-to-action for all Victorians to conserve energy, materials and water - at home, at work and out & about. It will also deliver practical advice Victorians need to make the necessary changes in their lives to become ResourceSmart.

ResourceSmart engages with state government, local government, schools, events and small to medium businesses to:

- > make sustainable behaviours everyday practice
- > provide a pathway towards environmental sustainability
- > recognise different levels of performance

Contact: Sustainability Victoria: Tarn Kruger, schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au

Supporting the national EfS framework through action: ResourceSmart Schools and AuSSI Vic

> A bit of background

The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI) was first piloted in Victoria in 2001 as the Sustainable Schools Program by CERES and the Gould League with the support of the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) and Victoria's Department of Education and Training (DE&T). Simultaneously, the program was piloted in NSW. The Victorian program has continued since then with delivery being undertaken by CERES and Gould Group. There are currently approximately 300 schools actively involved in AuSSI Vic, with 43 accredited 'AuSSI 5 star' schools.

The Sustainable Schools Pilot Programs underwent extensive evaluation and consultation processes in 2006 resulting in the development of the current framework of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative, Victoria (AuSSI Vic). AuSSI Vic aligns with the national AuSSI framework and is made up of several components including:

- > core module
- > four resource modules; energy, waste, waste and biodiversity
- > facilitator training
- > pre-service teacher training
- > administrative guidelines for principals

In 2008 Sustainability Victoria will be managing the delivery of several elements of the AuSSI Vic framework. DEECD will still be playing a significant role in the on-line publication of the Administrative Guidelines and by providing strategic support, and several key delivery partners (including CERES) will remain the same (further details are below).

> Core Module, Data Management and Certification

As a combined program, the facilitation of the Core module of AuSSI Vic, management of the qualitative and quantitative data that comes from AuSSI, and the implementation of the ResourceSmart 5 star certification system are all being managed by a consortium of organisations lead by the Victorian Association of Environmental Education (VAEE) and CERES Community Environment Park during 2008. These program elements will help Victorian primary and secondary schools make long-term, lasting behaviour change, significantly reduce their resource use and also be recognised for their efforts!

Other members of this consortium include the Catholic Education Office (Sandhurst Diocese), Carbonetix, Planet Savers Australia and the RMIT School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning.

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> Professional Learning for Sustainability Educators

This professional learning program targets educators working with schools and helps to build their understanding of the AuSSI Vic framework and their capability to develop and deliver their programs to schools in the context of this state-wide framework. The AuSSI Vic professional learning package is designed for those educators working across sustainability areas including energy, waste, water and biodiversity and will support Victorian schools on their own sustainability journey with a much more consistent framework.

A trial of this training package was delivered in 2007 supported by DEECD, DSE and Sustainability Victoria. The package is now being refined for accreditation under the Australian Quality Training Framework to ensure a high quality course of national reach, an improved quality of facilitators in sustainability, and a course that can reach a much larger audience, thus helping to meet the ever-increasing demand for EfS service providers.

The program is being delivered by the Victorian Association of Environmental Education and is supported by the National Centre for Sustainability – Swinburne University, Victoria University, the Australian Catholic University and CERES.

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> The Resource Modules

Schools can undertake the Resource Modules (currently Energy, Waste, Water and Biodiversity) by working through the AuSSI Vic checklists (to be published soon on the DEECD web, information can be found – Environmental Sustainability - Tools and Resources and on the CERES website), with the support of the trained educators who have been through the AuSSI, Vic professional learning package.

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> AuSSI Advisory Committee

The AuSSI Advisory Committee will be convened by Sustainability Victoria during 2008. Its membership will be made up of invited representatives from DEECD, DSE and key delivery partners. This group's role will be to review the effectiveness of the framework and discuss issues and new developments. The committee will convene once per term and information coming out of these meetings will be forwarded to schools and stakeholders.

Contact: Sustainability Victoria: Tarn Kruger, schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au

> The Administrative Guidelines

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be publishing Administrative Guidelines for principals on its website in early 2008. These guidelines will provide advice for principals on preferred approaches for the delivery of EfS in their schools and will reflect the AuSSI, Vic framework by encouraging a whole school approach to planning and implementation. The Guidelines also provide information on how to access the wide range of support organisations that assist schools along their sustainability journeys.

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Focusing on Waste

> ResourceSmart Schools – Waste

This program will provide a new delivery model that builds on and replaces Waste Wise in Schools. The program will support Victorian schools to take action that will significantly reduce waste to landfill and deliver associated reductions in greenhouse gases and water usage. All the fantastic efforts of schools to date will

be incorporated into this program (no-one has 'wasted' any time!). The expanded ResourceSmart Schools – Waste program will integrate thoroughly with AuSSI Vic to ensure that whole school communities join in the sustainability journey. ResourceSmart Schools – Waste will take schools to the next level with new innovations to help schools reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

CERES is managing the delivery of this program during 2008 in partnership with the Catholic Education Office, Carbonetix, RMIT Centre for Design and School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Live and Learn.

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> Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge

The Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge will be on again in 2008, delivered in partnership with Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

This popular challenge uses lunch rubbish to offer a holistic curriculum-based solution to preventing rubbish and promoting healthy eating in schools. By providing an opportunity for schools to celebrate their reduction, re-use and recycling efforts the cash awards help schools to take the next step in their efforts to be rubbish free.

For more information go to <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/rubbishfree/default.htm>

Rewarding and Celebrating: Certification & Awards

> ResourceSmart 5 Star Certification – a new certification system for schools

About ResourceSmart 5 Star Certification

During 2008, ResourceSmart Schools 5 star certification will be offered in Victorian Schools, replacing the previous three tiered Waste Wise and AuSSI Vic certification. Current certifications under AuSSI Vic and Waste Wise will continue to be recognised in the new system until they expire.

We are currently confirming arrangements for the transition, including how schools will be supported to transition across to ResourceSmart 5 star. Further information will be provided as soon as details become available.

5 star descriptors

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 star | Well set up & on the way |
| 2 star | Demonstrating ResourceSmart outcomes |
| 3 star | Performing well within the sector |
| 4 star | At your best |
| 5 star | Showing others the way through leadership |

The certification will assess your achievement through the AuSSI Vic modules, school environmental performance and leadership.

Transitioning out - Waste Wise Certification

Waste Wise certification will remain available until the new system and process for certification has been finalised.

Schools with current Waste Wise certification can be reassured that these certifications will remain valid until their expiry two years after the date of issue.

If your school is currently working on developing your Waste Wise action plan, your Regional Education Officer (based in your local Waste Management Group) will be able to liaise with you regarding Waste Wise certification during this period.

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	Resource GV	

Transitioning Out – AuSSI Vic Certifications

Schools' involvement in AuSSI Vic to date will inform their ResourceSmart certification level. Schools who have already achieved AuSSI Vic 5 star certification will be recognised as such with a front fence sign. Signs should be available during 2008

How will a school's ResourceSmart 5 Star achievements be recognised?

A reward and recognition package will be developed for the ResourceSmart 5 star for all schools involved. Details of achievement levels are being determined but Sustainability Victoria is developing signage and certificates to publicly promote and celebrate schools ResourceSmart achievements.

ResourceSmart 5 star recognition will state the star rating the school has achieved and the themes they are focusing on, ie: waste, water, energy, biodiversity and further themes in the future as these modules develop.

Transitioning Waste Wise and AuSSI Vic to ResourceSmart 5 Star Certifications

At this stage, we are proposing that all schools currently certified under Waste Wise and AuSSI Vic will be supported in transferring across to ResourceSmart 5 Star Certification. It is intended that this transition with signs and certificates will begin during the 2007-08 financial year and conclude during 2008-09. Further information will be provided as details are finalised.

> ResourceSmart School of the Year Awards

The ResourceSmart Schools Awards recognise the initiatives and achievements of students and teachers from schools across Victoria who are working towards a more sustainable future. The 2008 ResourceSmart Schools Awards will be held in November.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2007 ResourceSmart School of the Year Awards:

- > Croydon Hills Primary School – Victorian ResourceSmart School of the Year
- > Eltham North Primary School – Energy Smart School of the Year
- > Berwick Fields Primary School – Waste Smart School of the Year
- > Torquay Primary School – Biodiversity Smart School of the Year
- > The environmental Neighbourhood Cluster, Williamstown – Water Smart School of the Year
- > Mount View Primary School – ResourceSmart Hero Award
- > Lara Secondary College – ResourceSmart Hero Award

Keep your eye on the Sustainability Victoria website for further details at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

> Take Action > In Schools > ResourceSmart School of the Year Awards

Contact: Sustainability Victoria: Tarn Kruger, schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au

Cutting down on Energy: Solar in Schools

Sustainability Victoria's Solar in Schools initiative supports Victorian schools and community facilities to install solar photovoltaic (PV) power systems, interactive energy monitoring systems and will provide educational materials on renewable energy and energy demand.

As well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the program is:

- > raising community awareness
- > providing educational activities about the benefits of renewable energy, and
- > fostering increased uptake of photovoltaic systems.

The Australian Government is finalising details of the new National Solar Schools Program (NSSP) which will replace the previous Government's Green Vouchers program. The NSSP will offer schools funding for a range of water and energy efficiencies, including rainwater tanks, solar hot water systems, PV solar power systems and lighting upgrades. All schools received a letter from Minister Garrett in February with the latest information on progress. A July rollout is being aimed for.

The Photovoltaic Rebate Programme (PVRP) will continue to be offered to schools and eligible community organisations who can receive up to 50 percent of the cost of a 2 kilowatt system (which in general is a grant in the order of \$12,000).

Further information and application forms can be found on the Sustainability Victoria website at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au > Take Action > In Schools > Solar in Schools

Round 2 of Solar in Schools closed on March 28th. The next round will coincide with the rollout of the National Solar Schools Program.

Contact: Sustainability Victoria: solar.schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au

Leaping over the school fence: The Sustainables Challenge

The Sustainables Challenge is a professional development and curriculum program for Victorian schools focusing on environmental sustainability. It was developed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Gould Group.

This program has been running since 2005, reaching 90 schools in regional and metropolitan Victoria, and uses a model sustainable family - "the Sustainables" - as a teaching tool both on-line and through dramatic performance.

In 2008 the program will continue to be supported by Sustainability Victoria via the Sustainability Fund, and delivered by the Gould Group. This will enable a further 40 schools to sign up to the Sustainables Challenge for free.

The program is based on Victoria's Environmental Sustainability Framework, Victorian Essential Learning Standards, Principles of Learning and Teaching (PoLT) and best practice for sustainability and professional development.

For further details go to www.dse.vic.gov.au/thesustainables

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Supporting a winning for(u)mula: Greening Australia's Toolbox for Environmental Change

Sustainability Victoria partnered with Greening Australia to deliver the 2008 Toolbox for Environmental Change forum. The Toolbox provides a thought-provoking and inspirational event for teachers and educators across Victoria. It showcases practical and innovative models for effective environmental and sustainability programs and demonstrates the benefits of incorporating sustainability education across whole school communities.

The event was a great success with 334 delegates attending the day, with 24 displays, 26 workshops and over 40 organisations represented. The major partner was Sustainability Victoria, and Museum

Victoria as the major supporter hosting the event, provided a fantastic setting as concluded from the excellent feedback. Thanks to the other supporters: DEECD and VAEE.

The keynote presentation for 2008 was delivered by Anna Keenan - Community Campaigner with the Australian Conservation Foundation and Queensland Youth Environment Council Climate Advocate for Al Gore's Climate Project. Again as provided by delegate's evaluation, this was one of the highlights, examples of some of the comments: "Anna certainly ignited my passion, which set my mood for the day!" and "Keynote was very good & gave an excellent focus for the youth voice."

For further information go to: <http://live.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/VIC/WhatsNew/toolboxforum.htm>

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A snapshot of what's coming up

- > Finalisation and testing of the ResourceSmart 5 Star Certification system
- > Consultation and clarification of the roles of SV and all partners in managing certification, data and program delivery for 2008.
- > Development of ResourceSmart 5 Star signage and certificates
- > Proposed roll-out of ResourceSmart Schools program delivery and certification. Funding will be made available by Sustainability Victoria in 2008, schools can apply in early Term 2 for 60 new schools to become ResourceSmart by completing the Core module of AuSSI Vic and 30 new schools to complete Waste module of AuSSI Vic, facilitated by CERES.