

Join the movement and make
your school more sustainable

ResourceSmart Schools





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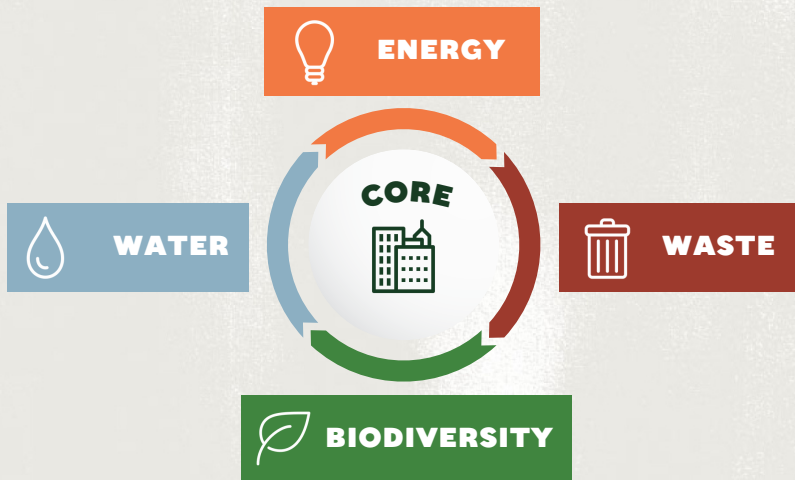
Ready to make your school more sustainable? Looking for support to help make it happen?

ResourceSmart Schools is a free Victorian Government program that helps schools embed sustainability in everything they do.

Over 1400 Victorian schools have taken part in ResourceSmart Schools since 2008.

About the program

Sustainability is a big, complex concept which can make it challenging to know where to begin. The ResourceSmart Schools program helps to make it achievable with five modules:



In each module there are clear actions and ideas to put into practice. While some schools set out to complete them all, many pick and choose aspects of the program best suited to their needs. The online portal makes it easy to track your progress and your impact, to keep your school and community across all of your achievements.

Some inspiration from current ResourceSmart Schools:



CORE

Port Melbourne Primary created student Sustainability Captains to drive change at their school. Captains organise sustainability focused excursions, run a weekly gardening club and even presented at the RSS Awards.



ENERGY



Mother Teresa Primary installed solar panels which at full capacity saved them 75% on their energy costs. Students in every year learnt about solar power and did their part to reduce wasted energy, like designing signs to remind people to switch electronics off as they leave the room.



WASTE

Our Lady of Fatima school have redirected household waste from the bin to the art room - collecting bottle caps, egg cartons, milk cartons, paper, soft plastics and more to create inspiring art. These items are incorporated into the art curriculum daily and are also used to create installations promoting sustainability around the school.



BIODIVERSITY



St Monicas maintain their own wetlands full of rich biodiversity. They remove litter and problematic weeds and have planted 150 wetland plants. Students have spotted and recorded many birds enjoying their new home including silvereye, fairy wrens and more.



WATER

Aitken College collects rain water to irrigate their school grounds and keep them looking green. They have put up signage to educate about water conservation practices in the staff room, bathrooms and around the school.





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Recycle Right in This Bin
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The program has been proven to have huge benefits for students, schools and the planet.

STUDENTS

A recent study found that 84% of Aussie kids feel worried and anxious about climate change*. The RSS program empowers students to make change in their immediate environment, and has been proven to have a positive impact on their wellbeing*. It creates a new stream for achievement beyond academics and sport, building confidence and recognising students for their efforts.

'It makes me feel a bit more certain about my future because sometimes I worry. If all schools did what we did it would make a huge difference.'

Year 8 student

'This makes me feel so proud of what I am doing and this school appreciates all the things we do to save the environment.'

Year 6 student

SCHOOLS

As part of the ResourceSmart Schools program you benefit from a running start on your sustainability journey. The program is designed to complement the curriculum, work in school ecosystems and inspire students of all levels to get involved.

Support: Get support from the CERES team and be connected with like minded educators, schools and partners in your area.

Recognition: Track your impact and be recognised for your efforts including the ones you are already taking. A star system rewards you for each module and the annual ResourceSmart Schools Awards recognise the great work of schools around the state.

Savings: Saving the planet also happens to save money. Banyule Primary school in Rosanna saved close to \$100,000 on bills in their time in the program.

'I have only one piece of advice for a school wanting to make a difference to the environment through ResourceSmart Schools. That is this, you've got nothing to lose and only things to gain! When a whole-school approach is taken to sustainability it is an incredible thing to be a part of.'

Courtney Hicks

Sustainability Coordinator, Banyule Primary School

*Climate Council ['Managing eco-anxiety in your kids'](#) 2022.

*Resource Smart Schools Wellbeing study. "RSS improved student happiness, optimism and perseverance. Also marked improvements in engagement in learning and connection to and pride in school."



THE PLANET

Since the inception of the program ResourceSmart Schools have:



planted 5.2 million trees

enough to create an 18,000 acre forest

saved 118,000 tonnes of Co2

the equivalent of taking 26,000 cars
off the road for a whole year



kept 194,000m3 of waste out of landfill

enough to fill 78 Olympic sized pools

saved 1.9 million kilo-litres of water

enough to fill 755 Olympic swimming pools



CERES SCHOOL OF NATURE AND CLIMATE



Your facilitators: Who are CERES?

CERES are a not-for-profit organisation who has been educating students in sustainability for over 40 years. Built on an unwanted tip site, our 10-acre Brunswick East park is now a thriving oasis, sustainability and community hub.

We've also worked with hundreds of schools to implement the RSS program. Our team is on hand to help you every step of the way.



Frequently asked questions:

How much does it cost?

There is no cost to be part of the RSS Program, it is fully funded by Sustainability Victoria. Your school may choose to invest in particular projects (for example, water tanks) but this is not essential. There are many grants and fundraising opportunities to help pay for these types of projects.

How long will it take to complete the program?

ResourceSmart Schools is a flexible program, it's designed to assist you in making progress right away but also supporting meaningful, long term improvements. Schools typically take at least a year or more to complete each module. Some schools have been in the program for 15+ years, long after achieving 5-stars. The recording of the journey means if key people change over time, progress isn't lost.

Got more questions or ready to get started?

Enquire with the CERES team today:



school.ceres.org.au/resourcesmart-schools

