



SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

A Sustainable school is one that lives by example, demonstrates conservative use of resources, makes sound environmental decisions on purchasing, building design and landscaping and implements curriculum across disciplines that address sustainability principles.

Sustainable Schools are a model for sustainability within the local community and encourage a shift in the broader community towards more sustainable practices.

A Sustainable School is one that takes a holistic look at its waste, energy and water consumption and takes steps to reduce its use of these resources. This is done through developing and implementing a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) that outlines the actions and steps schools will take to reduce their use of resources.

Schools can access assistance in curriculum development, audit tools to measure resource use, funding to develop and implement a SEMP, professional development for staff and students in environmental management and practical experience and results from other schools through the Sustainable Schools Program.

Across Australia, more than 2000 schools are now participating in the Sustainable Schools program. Participating schools have reported reductions in waste collection of up to 80%, reductions in water consumption of up to 60%, and savings on energy consumption of 20%.
(Source: 2009 - www.environment.gov.au).

Collectively these changes reduce the school's carbon footprint (greenhouse gas emissions), making a direct contribution towards slowing global warming and climate change.

WHAT CAN I (or our school) DO ABOUT IT?

- Organise for your school to join the Sustainable Schools NSW program at www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au/
- Contact North East Waste Forum (NEWF) to assist with reducing waste at your school;
- Contact ROUS water to assist with reducing water use at your school;
- Contact your local council to assist with strategies to reduce energy use at your school;
- Borrow the energy meter from your local library to measure your energy use or utilise the cent-a-meter (energy meter) installed at your school to monitor and plan reductions in energy use;
- Form an environmental group at your school that works on sustainability initiatives.

MORE INFORMATION

AuSSI Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative

www.environment.gov.au/education

AuSSI has Curriculum units developed for water, waste, energy, biodiversity, climate change, transport and marine and coastal environments, Case Studies from across Australia, giving practical examples and results, A-Z Resource List is available for parents, teachers and students, providing current information on topical environmental and sustainability issues.

Sustainable Schools NSW

www.sustainableschools.nsw.edu.au

Sustainable Schools has an online resource centre, case studies, School Environment Management Plan templates and examples and professional development opportunities for teachers.



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MORE INFORMATION

North East Waste Forum (NEWF)

www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

NEWF has Curriculum units developed for waste, greenhouse, an A-Z resource list with current environmental information.

Students Using Sustainable Strategies (SUSS) Program is a collaboration of organisations, including Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre, NEWF, Rous Water, National Parks and North Coast Councils supporting schools in the northern rivers to become more sustainable. More information can be found at www.rouswater.nsw.gov.au and on the NEWF website under education projects.

ROUS WATER - Regional Water Supply

www.rouswater.nsw.gov.au

Rous Water has posters, maps, booklets, CD Roms, resource kits and info sheets you can download from their website.

