

Core Module AuSSI Vic

Calling all schools working on sustainability...

ResourceSmart Schools is now helping to coordinate resources, programs and support for schools to improve their energy, materials and water efficiency; encourage behaviour change; and understand sustainability issues. It is integrating and expanding on existing programs including Waste Wise and the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI).

If your school wants to tackle sustainability issues and become ResourceSmart the best place to start is by undertaking the Core Module of AuSSI Vic. This will help your school and school community to evolve the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria (AuSSI Vic).

All across Australia schools are getting involved in AuSSI and making savings in waste production, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions while saving 40% off their mains water use.



Support for existing schools

There are already over 300 schools involved in AuSSI Vic. Over the next 3 years, these schools will be supported, free of charge, to transfer/ finalise their baseline data to the Schools Environment Tracking System (SETS) (if not already a member). These schools will also be transitioned to the State Government's new ResourceSmart 5 Star Certification system that is being implemented in state and local governments, venues, businesses and schools across Victoria. CERES will continue to co-ordinate all communication to AuSSI Vic schools including grant and savings insights, advice and newsletters. The consortium supporting this project is listed on the CERES website.

What you will need to do if you are an existing AuSSI Vic school is:

- > continue working to the spirit of the MoU;
- > upload your baseline data to the Carbonetix developed SETS program;
- > participate in a short RMIT designed evaluation;
- > provide a short case study; and
- > continue storing data on SETS after this first year in order to help create a secure recording of your ongoing achievements and an ongoing database of the success of Victorian schools (SETS/CERES membership \$150 per year, subject to change).

Support for new schools

From 2008 to 2011, 60 new schools each year will be supported to become ResourceSmart by completing the Core Module of AuSSI Vic. This extended foundation lays the basis of the program and maps the journey through four resource modules, helping schools to work towards ResourceSmart 5 Star Certification.

Proud partners

CERES, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Sustainable Schools Initiative – A partnership of the Australian Government, the States & Territories, Sustainability Victoria and Victorian Association for Environmental Education



As detailed in the *RSS AuSSI Vic Core Module MoU*, each school will receive:

- > in school guidance through the Core Module, including all necessary documentation/ worksheets, provided by CERES, Planet Savers Australia and Sandhurst Catholic Education Office;
- > approximately 5 hours of compulsory professional learning time (two 1.5 hr whole staff/ community professional learning sessions and a smaller working group meeting for planning the School Environment Management Plan). The whole staff PL session can be done on different days or on one day if that suits the school better. The professional learning sessions would need to be slotted in for Term 1 or the beginning of Term 2 unless otherwise negotiated with CERES;
- > approximately 5 hours of optional staff support time that the school can use at their own discretion to complete the module;
- > free access to a regional workshop for the training of a staff member facilitator;
- > emails and phone calls with facilitator;
- > regular email updates on grants, newsletters and other worthwhile sustainability initiatives/ opportunities;
- > CERESly Sustainable newsletter membership free for first year;
- > Sustainability Hub website <http://sustainability.ceres.org.au> membership;
- > evaluation and research support from RMIT School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning;
- > administrative support;
- > Victorian Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) membership for one year (worth \$175);
- > SETS membership for one year (if not already a member) <http://schoolenergysavings.com.au/sets.php> (joining fee and one year membership included, worth \$200) where schools input their baseline data (data on school use of gas, electricity, water, paper, waste production and its biodiversity levels); and
- > accreditation / certification in the new ResourceSmart 5 Star Certification system.

In return for this extensive support, each school needs to:

- > commit to the program;
- > contribute \$500 towards the program costs (approximately \$3000 per school);
- > continue working to the spirit of the MoU;
- > provide opportunities for staff to engage in the program;
- > complete the Core Module by the end of the academic year;
- > provide a short case study on the Sustainability Hub website;
- > participate in a short RMIT designed evaluation;
- > continue storing data on SETS after this first year in order to help create an ongoing database of achievements by Victorian schools (SETS/CERES membership \$150 per year, subject to change).

What does my school need to do to get support?

A waiting list is available for schools wanting to begin the SV funded program in 2010 or 2011. Register your interest by completing the *Expression of Interest* form and returning it to RSS AuSSI Vic administration (Michelle Sanahon) by email rssaussi@ceres.org.au or fax 9381 1844. If you have any queries about this process please contact us on 03 9380 1556. Schools will be contacted late in Term 3/ early in Term 4 with letters of offer for the next RSS AuSSI Vic intake.

Schools wishing to start the program immediately and/or who are unable to secure a funded place will still be able to proceed through a self funded AuSSI Vic stream (facilitated by CERES), which is aligned with the RSS certification system. Self funded AuSSI Vic schools will receive the same product as SV funded schools, except these schools will have the option to sign up separately for VAEE membership at an additional cost. The full cost for the self funded stream will be \$2750 ex GST (subject to change). This cost may be lowered if a school is able to complete some of the work unassisted/ online and reduce the amount of optional staff planning sessions/ support time (minimum charge \$1850 ex GST, optional sessions \$327 ex GST each, up to 2hrs length).

If you have any general questions about ResourceSmart Schools please contact: the CERES RSS AuSSI Vic administration team: telephone (03) 9380 1556, email rssaussi@ceres.org.au