

Waste Module AuSSI Vic

Calling all schools working on sustainability through waste reduction...

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 waste reduction and become ResourceSmart, the best place to start is by undertaking the Waste Module of AuSSI Vic. This will help your school and school community to evolve from Waste Wise and Sustainable Schools programs into the broad new landscape of sustainability of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria (AuSSI Vic). In this journey schools will be supported by Sustainability Victoria (SV), Department of Sustainability and Environment, and the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts; assisted by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development; and mentored by CERES.

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 180 schools who have either begun or been accredited in the former WasteWise program. Over the next 3 years, these schools are to 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 Governments 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 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 Waste Wise school is:

- 1 continue working to the spirit of the MoU/ Waste Wise commitment;
- 2 upload your baseline data to the Carbonetix developed SETS program;
- 3 participate in a short RMIT designed evaluation;
- 4 provide a short case study; and
- 5 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, 30 new schools each year will be supported to become ResourceSmart by completing the Waste Module of AuSSI Vic and linking it to the rest of the ResourceSmart program. This program provides professional development and customised consultancy to Victorian schools to assist them to significantly reduce waste to landfill and deliver associated reductions in greenhouse gases and water usage.

Proud partners

CERES, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, 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 Waste Module MoU*, Each school will receive:

- > approximately 4 hours of *compulsory* professional learning time (whole school session and a smaller sustainability committee meeting). The professional learning session would need to be slotted in for Term 1 or the beginning of Term 2 2008 unless otherwise negotiated with CERES;
- > support to complete a Waste Reduction Action Plan (WRAP);
- > emails and phone calls with your facilitator;
- > regular email updates on grants, newsletters and other worthwhile sustainability initiatives/ opportunities;
- > free access to a regional workshop for the training of a staff member facilitator (workshops rotate annually through different regions);
- > Conservation Volunteers work team to provide 1 free day of labour on 'Grounding Waste';
- > CERESly Sustainable newsletter membership free for first year;
- > Sustainability Hub website <http://sustainability.ceres.org.au> membership;
- > international connections through Live and Learn Environmental Education;
- > evaluation and research support from RMIT School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning;
- > innovative ideas from RMIT Centre for Design;
- > administrative support;
- > SETS membership for one year <http://schoolenergysavings.com.au/sets.php> (joining fee and one year membership included, worth \$250) where schools input their baseline data into (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 \$250 towards the program costs (of about \$1200 per school);
- > continue working to the spirit of the MoU;
- > provide opportunities for staff to engage in the program;
- > complete the Waste Module in 2008;
- > 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, with the exception of the 1 free day of labour from Conservation Volunteers. The full cost for the self funded stream will be \$1200 ex GST (subject to change).

Additionally, 100 new schools a year which are not already supported by SV for RSS Waste will have access for 1 teacher to attend one of the 8 free regional workshops if the school commits to the program and joins SETS at its own cost (\$250 ex GST, joining and membership fees for first year). Schools in most regions will be able to receive more assistance from Regional and Metropolitan Education Officers. Education Officers are also able to organise CERES facilitated RSS Waste workshops for themselves or for clusters of schools at a cost of \$500 ex GST for up to 3hr session.

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