# School Zero Net Plan (template)

This plan links to **Energy Module Action A2.11**. This plan/template helps schools document their approach to reducing emissions.

*This plan is intended as an example and will need to be modified to meet your school’s needs and formatted to align with your school procedures. Use the tables below to create a maintenance regime. For each item, consider how often they should be checked (recommend biannually) and what for, who will check them and who will take charge of ensuring repairs are done or actions complete.*

Your **ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) Regional Facilitator** can assist to complete this template, email schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au

For support with RSS Online email help@resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au

Mission Statement

Our school commits to enhancing its environmental practices and reducing emissions.

Electricity is the largest source of the school’s greenhouse gas emissions so our school pledges to reduce electricity use and move to renewables. In addition, we plan to make other adaptations to reduce our environmental impact.

Our school aims to become a zero net carbon school by the year Click or tap here to enter text. To achieve this, we will complete the following actions:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Reductions
 | Who  | What  | When  |
| Ensure shutdown processes are in place across the school  |  |  |  |
| Select suppliers with a low carbon footprint |  |  |  |
| Avoid unnecessary heating, lighting, air conditioning, travel, resource use, water and waste generation  |  |  |  |
| Monitor energy saving devices to reduce power use  |  |  |  |
| Implement a recycling and composting program |  |  |  |
| Implement water-saving measures such as dual flush toilets |  |  |  |
| Environmental leaders monitor classroom routines |  |  |  |
| Harvest water for school ovals and agricultural crops |  |  |  |
| 1. Refinements
 | Who  | What  | When  |
| Use energy efficient alternatives |  |  |  |
| Carefully plan behavioural approaches e.g. monitors and managers, tracking systems and reporting |  |  |  |
| Use passive solar designs principles |  |  |  |
| Audit and track school’s energy usage  |  |  |  |
| Develop schools’ understanding of energy use  |  |  |  |
| Promote sustainability beyond the school gates and in the community |  |  |  |
| 1. Renewables
 | Who  | What  | When  |
| Apply for a solar grant  |  |  |  |
| Use ‘green’ electricity provider |  |  |  |
| Utilise biogas and biomass where appropriate |  |  |  |
| 1. Revegetation and retention
 | Who  | What  | When  |
| Develop school market gardens |  |  |  |
| Plant trees and shrubs as carbon sinks |  |  |  |
| Involve school and community in planting projects |  |  |  |
| Liaise with local Landcare Group to develop community projects |  |  |  |
| Propagate plants in the school’s greenhouse |  |  |  |
| Retain existing vegetation |  |  |  |
| Maintain ground cover and soil storage in fertile soils |  |  |  |
| 1. Reimbursements for offsets
 | Who  | What  | When  |
| Implement a carbon audit of school operations |  |  |  |
| Pay for carbon use by purchasing offset |  |  |  |
| Establish reliable ongoing monitoring of results via RSS Online and Schools Water Efficiency Program  |  |  |  |
| Embed related learning in curriculum, provide relevant professional development to staff |  |  |  |
| Promote achievements within school community |  |  |  |

## Reach out for assistance

RSS Facilitators can help you:

* plan or promote your program
* locate additional resources that will assist you to complete the module
* conduct audits with students
* organise activities for your student action team
* find networks of like-minded staff and students to support your work
* progress your RSS module completion and certification.

To connect with your local facilitator email schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au

For support with RSS Online email help@resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au

**ResourceSmart Schools is a free program offered by Sustainability Victoria that supports Victorian schools to embed sustainability across the school facilities, community and curriculum, while saving resources and money for the school.**

**To register to become a ResourceSmart School, visit:** <https://my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au/>

**or email** schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au