

Quick Guide: Water Module

The Water Module helps a school understand water consumption and how to be more water efficient.

This guide helps a school to work through the Water Module. Where activities link to module actions, the action number is noted in brackets.

To get Water Module certified, 6 compulsory actions and at least 22 of the 33 optional actions in the Module checklist need to be completed.

Kickstart your Water Module

- Speak to your ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) Facilitator about ways to undertake your water audit and use the audit template for support. Upload a summary of your audit to RSS Online. (A1.1)
- Establish a baseline and monitor water consumption by logging water bills into RSS Online. (A1.2)
- Discuss any gaps in the findings of the audit and potential solutions with your team. Could your school:
 - fix leaking taps and fittings
 - design a campaign to encourage students and staff to report any leaks they come across.
- Prepare a Water Conservation Annual Action Plan using the template available. You could use the Water Module checklist as suggestions to develop actions for your plan. Have it endorsed by your oversight group e.g. school council/board. (A2.1)

Progress Water Module

- Work through actions in the Water Conservation Annual Action Plan and record them as you go. Use this plan, as well as the mandated curriculum, to develop activities that link water education to your school's education program. (B1.1, B1.2, B1.3, B1.5, B1.6)
- Describe how your student action and sustainability teams are achieving the goals and actions of the Water Conservation Annual Action Plan. (C2.2, C2.3, C3.2)

- Link up with your local environment groups or the local council to develop or participate in water related projects and programs such as Coastcare or Waterwatch. (B1.3, B1.6 C3.1, C3.2)
- Learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and strategies for water management. (B1.4)
- Encourage staff to attend water related professional development. The RSS newsletter contains information about professional development opportunities. (A2.2)
- Apply for grants to support your school's efforts to reduce water consumption such as funding to install irrigation systems. (A2.3)
- Create and display interpretive signs to educate students about conserving water. This is a fantastic learning activity for students. (A2.5)
- Consider joining the Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP) and installing a data logger to monitor your water usage. This will assist you to identify any water leaks around your school and plan accordingly. (A2.4)
- Document in the template available school wide procedures used to manage water fittings, appliances and infrastructure. (A2.6, A4.5) This could involve:
 - fixing any leaking taps or toilets (A3.1)
 - fitting low-flow controllers, tap timers and auto shut off devices to appropriate taps (A3.4, A3.5)
 - installing water efficient appliances (A3.6)
 - making sure hot water settings are correct (A3.2)
 - using water-saving cleaning methods (A3.3)
 - using stormwater and/or grey water to service toilets (A3.7)
- Consider ways to conserve water in your school gardens and grounds by:
 - mulching gardens (A4.1)
 - planting local and drought tolerant plants (A4.2)
 - using timed, drip or sub-surface irrigation (A4.3)
 - installing rain sensors or a rainwater tank. (A4.4, A4.7)
- Collect stormwater for use on the garden and/or in wetland or habitat development projects. (A4.6)
- Share tips and ideas with your community to encourage them to be more water wise at home. (C3.3)

- Create a school learning story with students about your water conservation progress. Review RSS Online Tips section throughout the module for ideas on creating school learning story content. (C1.2)
- Share your school learning story with your community by:
 - utilising the school newsletter, website, social media platforms and local media (C1.1, C3.2, C3.3)
 - sharing it with the wider community through networks and environment groups. (C1.2)

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