# Sustainability Policy (template)

This policy is intended as an example and will need to be modified to meet your school’s needs and formatted to align with your school policies.

This policy links to **Core Module Action A1.6.**

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

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

*Note – the grey text is suggested text only. Please tailor this template as required and remove all grey and green shaded text when the document is complete.*

## Rationale cy states our commitment to sustainability and environmental practices across SCHOOL NAME recognises the importance of becoming a sustainable school for the benefit of the Earth’s environmental health. By managing resources efficiently and embedding education and sustainable practices, we will motivate the whole school community to live more sustainably.

We honour and draw upon the knowledge of the First Nations people and their relationship with the land. We believe that fostering a positive attitude and appreciation of sustainable environmental practice is vital to the development of our students, will contribute towards the health of our community, and reduce our impact on the Earth.

## School sustainability vision and principles

*(Enter your school’s Vision Statement here)*

## Aims

*When writing the aims of the policy consider these example statements*:

* To educate our students, and subsequently their families, in responsible energy usage, water efficiency, waste management and environmental awareness.
* To protect the environment through a proactive approach to conservation and environmental issues.
* To practise resource efficiency.
* To increase the biodiversity of the local environment.
* To practise effective waste minimisation and management.
* To reduce resource costs and carbon footprint.
* To promote the value of living sustainably.
* To achieve and maintain star accreditation status in accordance with the ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) program, led by Sustainability Victoria.

## Implementation

*When writing the implementation of the policy consider these example statements:*

Sustainability is the responsibility of staff, students, and parents/carers.

The school will:

ensure curriculum delivery incorporates elements of sustainability at all year levels, in line with the Victorian Curriculum Cross-Curriculum Priority

establish and support a sustainability team that reports to school governance bodies

engage in sustainable actions that are promoted through the RSS framework

lead in exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage

develop and use the school grounds to increase local biodiversity

use the RSS Framework and RSS Online to monitor the school’s progress towards meeting resource saving targets

develop and maintain a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)

encourage ‘green events’ (refer to Green Events Policy)

promote sustainability by reporting achievements to the school and local community

include ‘Sustainability and Environment’ as a standing agenda item for the school council/board and report results annually (at least).

## Links and documents related to this policy

Green Events Policy

Green Purchasing Policy

ResourceSmart School Memorandum of Understanding

School Environmental Management Plan

ResourceSmart Schools Online: [my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au](https://my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au)

Sustainability Victoria: [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schools](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schools)

## Endorsement

This policy will be reviewed biannually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

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| Ratified by | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Title | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Signature |  |
| Date | 13/02/2023 |

## Suggested next steps

* Raise awareness about this policy and ensure staff, where appropriate, have access to information on environmentally preferred products.
* Establish a system to track and report implementation and outcomes of this policy.
* Actively promote the policy to the 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](mailto:schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au)

For support with RSS Online email [help@resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au)