

# Tackling the Energy Module of ResourceSmart Schools



Undertaking the **ResourceSmart Energy Module** at your school is a great way of helping your students to understand how their personal choices at school and at home can affect energy use and carbon emissions, and take simple positive steps to reduce it. It also helps students understand the link between energy consumption and the issue of climate change. **26 actions** need to be completed to finish the module.

We recommend tackling the module with the following actions:

1. Start the module with an energy audit. Talk to your Facilitator about the audit template, or download it from [lmwrrg.vic.gov.au/schools/resourcesmart-schools/](http://lmwrrg.vic.gov.au/schools/resourcesmart-schools/) website.
2. After the audit, talk with your students about areas of major energy use and how these can be reduced – is there a simple way that energy can be saved? Could you design a campaign to encourage others to adopt your energy saving ideas?
3. Write up a plan with the energy saving ideas you have generated, including timeframes and who will be doing which action. This plan can also be put into your School Environment Management Plan (SEMP).
4. Carry out the actions and document them as you go.
5. Use your documentation to let your school community know what you have been doing and also let people know through your newsletter online. Upload photos/student articles/newsletter and/or newspaper reports to the RSS online system as evidence.
6. Revisit the module and work with your Facilitator to complete the module documentation requirements.
7. Plan to undertake another audit in 2-3 years and continue to monitor any energy savings with ResourceSmart Schools online.

Actions you can undertake in your school to reduce energy consumption:

- Carry out an energy audit and plan to do one every 2-3 years (A1.1) (suggested change to align with Step 7 above)
- Collect two years' worth of energy usage and upload it to ResourceSmart Schools online (A1.2, A1.3)
- Create an energy action plan and policy (A2.1, A2.2)
- Attend ResourceSmart Schools training (A2.2)
- Apply for grants to install renewable energy alternatives and retrofitting options, and to undertake energy reduction actions at your school (A2.4)
- Install signage to ensure appliances and lighting are turned off (A2.5)
- Ensure your school has a maintenance regime in place for cleaning light fittings, and particularly, filters on heaters and air conditioners (A2.6)
- Create a switch off regime for the end of the day and holidays (A2.7)
- Create a policy about appropriate temperatures for different seasons (A2.8)
- Ensure computers “sleep” when not in use (A2.9)

- Implement a maintenance regime for lights and heaters (A2.6)
- Encourage teachers to open windows when it is warm, to allow natural ventilation (A2.11)
- Install timers on appliances, like boiling water systems for tea and coffee in kitchens (A2.12)
- Log any solar generation data online (A3.1)
- If you have your outside lighting on timers you can tick off A4.5 and A4.7
- Utilise natural light where possible (A4.6)
- Plant trees to cover western walls to protect rooms from afternoon sun (A4.8)
- Install weather stripping or draught proofing on doors and windows (A5.3)
- Use ceiling fans correctly for the season by switching their direction with the switch on the fan (A5.5)
- If you have a smart meter installed you can tick off A6.2
- If your school has solar panels it can tick off A7.2, but you will need to also track your solar data.
- Create a plan to link energy use and climate change education into the teaching at the school (B1.1, B1.2, B1.3)
- Write an article for your school newsletter on your energy reduction activities and make suggestions for what families can do at home (C1.1, 3.5)
- Write a learning story and put it on your school website, on the Sustainability Gippsland website or on social media (C1.3)
- Start up a student action team to help drive your energy efficiency program (C2.1, C2.2, C2.3)