

Tackling the Waste Module of ResourceSmart Schools



Undertaking the **ResourceSmart Waste 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 the lifecycle of a waste product, and take simple positive steps to reduce the amount going to landfill. It also helps students understand the link between the consumerism and the environment. **46** actions need to be completed to finish the module.

We recommend tackling the module with the following actions:

1. Start the module with a **waste audit** and a **litter audit**. Talk to your Facilitator about the audit templates that we can send you or download them from the LMWRRG/RSS website.
2. After the waste audit, talk with your students about trends in the types and volumes of waste produced by your school and how these can be reduced, reused and recycled – are there simple ways that waste can be diverted from landfill? Could you introduce or improve an existing recycling program? Could you install compost bins or worm farms for organic waste?
3. After the litter audit, talk with your students about the how much litter exists around the school, where it tends to be located and any strategies that could be implemented to reduce it – are there simple ways that can encourage school users to use the bins provided? Are there enough bins and the right types of bins in the right locations around the school?
4. **Monitor** your waste generation by logging your waste bills into ResourceSmart Schools online.
5. **Write up a plan** with the litter and waste reduction 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).
6. **Carry out the actions and document them as you go.**
7. 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.
8. Revisit the module and work with your Facilitator to complete the module documentation requirements.
9. Plan to undertake a waste audit each year and continue to monitor any further waste reduction with ResourceSmart Schools online.

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

- Carry out waste and litter audits and plan to do these every year (A1.1, A1.2)
- Collect two years' worth of waste, paper and recycling collection data and upload it to ResourceSmart Schools online (A1.3)
- Create a waste and litter reduction plan and policy and a green purchasing policy (A2.1, A2.2, A2.5 and Core A1.12)
- Attend ResourceSmart School training (A2.3)

- Apply for waste reduction-related grants/awards to implement new or improved waste management systems, and to undertake waste reduction actions at your school (A2.4)
- Ensure that classrooms and other areas around the school have bins for recycling and compost and ask students to help with making signage for the bins (A2.6, A5.2, A5.3, A6.1, A7.7)
- Place containers in spaces for paper re-use (i.e. left over paper for craft or re-using one side used paper on photocopiers) (A5.3)
- Encourage students to avoid single use plastics and instead use refillable drink bottles and lunch boxes (A3.1)
- Celebrate with nude food lunch days (A3.2)
- Design a system where students are composting and managing the waste i.e. emptying classroom compost bins/feeding chickens, putting garden waste in the compost and then reusing this on vegetable or other garden beds (A3.3,A3.4, A4.1, A4.2, A4.3)
- Send out your newsletters electronically (A5.1)
- Reuse single sided paper in printers (A5.4)
- Develop a paper reduction plan and upload to ResourceSmart Schools online (A5.5)
- Reduce the number of newspapers entering the school by reducing the number of subscriptions (A5.6)
- Ensure that any superfluous equipment and furniture are donated to charity (A6.3)
- Collect e-waste and take it to the local transfer station (A6.4)
- Re-use materials such as plastic bottles, cardboard etc. for craft (A6.5)
- Get students to eat their lunches in a specific area to reduce litter around your school (A7.3 & A7.6)
- Reward students for reducing litter (A7.4)
- Organise rubbish-free days or nude food days each term (A3.2)
- Use compost or worm castings produced in the school's vegetable garden (A4.3)
- Go digital with communication to staff, students, parents and the community where possible (A5.1)
- Create a plan to integrate current waste, recycling and litter issues into the teaching and learning program (B1.1, B1.2, B1.3, B1.4, B1.7)
- Write an article for your school newsletter on your waste reduction activities and make suggestions for what families can do at home (C1.1, C3.5)
- 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 waste reduction program (C2.1, C2.2, C2.3)