

Tackling the Water Module of ResourceSmart Schools (RSS)



Undertaking the **ResourceSmart (RSS) Water 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 water use and how to take simple positive steps to reduce water wastage. To complete the module you need to undertake 32 actions.

We recommend tackling the module with the following actions:

1. Start the module with a water audit. Talk to your Facilitator about the audit template or visit the lmwrrg.vic.gov.au/schools/resourcesmart-schools/ website.
2. After the audit, talk with your students about areas of excessive water use and how water use can be reduced – is there a simple way that water can be saved? Could you design a campaign to encourage others to adopt your water saving ideas?
3. Write up a plan with the water saving and water efficiency ideas you have generated, including timeframes and who will be doing which action. This plan can also 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.

Actions you can undertake in your school to reduce water

- Undertake a water audit (A1.1)
- Collect your water data and upload it to RSS online (A1.2, A1.3)
- Apply for a ResourceSmart Schools award or grant (A2.3)
- Get teachers to attend a RSS professional development session (A2.2)
- Create a water saving action plan in collaboration with your student environment team and have it approved by School Council. Ensure that part of the plan is to regularly check back to make sure that leaks do not reoccur. (A2.1, A2.7, B1.2, B1.3, B1.4, B1.7, B1.11, C2.1, A2.6)
- Fix any leaking taps or toilets (A3.1)
- Check to make sure that your hot water is not set to too hot (A3.2)
- Fit low flow controllers to appropriate taps (A3.4, A3.5)
- Install dual flush toilets (A3.6)
- Do you have any water efficient appliances (dishwashers?) (A3.9)
- Link toilets to tanks (A3.12)
- Mulch gardens (A4.1)
- Plant drought tolerant (indigenous or native) plants (A4.2)
- Install water tanks (A4.9)

- Invite your local water authority to your school to run an education session (B1.9, C3.1)
- Join a program like Coastcare or contact your local Catchment Management Authority to see what groups are available (B1.10)
- Join SWEP (Schools Water Efficiency Program) to log your water use and check for any water leakage around the school, and use the data to inform your planning and policy development. (A2.4)
- Use your SWEP data as a classroom activity (B1.11)
- Install signage to encourage water saving behaviour (A2.5, B1.3, B1.4)
- Write an article for your school newsletter on your water saving 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 water saving and efficiency programs (C2.1, C2.2, C2.3)
- Get a teacher to participate in the RSS online network meetings (C3.2)