

# 5Star Sustainability Certification

5Star Sustainability Certification is the next step beyond the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Certificate of Achievement. It provides schools with the opportunity to demonstrate continuous improvement of the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic journey through 'Awakening', 'Discovering', 'Transforming', 'Sustaining' and 'Leadership'.

To receive the first Star of the 5Star Sustainability Certification, a school is required to complete the specified criteria. To progress through all five Stars, a school must demonstrate continual improvement of resource reduction and increase in biodiversity. The resource benchmarks must be achieved as the school progresses through the Stars. The fifth 'Leadership' Star requires documented evidence to support the lead practices achieved and is verified by Sustainability Victoria.

Consult the 5Star Sustainability Certification Descriptors to determine what your school needs to do to complete each Star.

## Verification

When your school is ready to have a Module/s and/or 5Star Sustainability practices verified, engage a ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic trained professional to verify your school's achievements.

Contact the Victorian Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) by email: [resourcesmartaussivic@vae.vic.edu.au](mailto:resourcesmartaussivic@vae.vic.edu.au) or by telephone on: (03) 9349 1806 to arrange for a ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic trained professional to verify the practices completed. Certification is valid for three years.

Upon verification of the Star, the school will receive:

- a 5Star Sustainability Certificate
- a metal sign at the completion of the first Star (Core Module)
- an additional star to adhere onto the sign upon completion of another Star
- a Certificate of Achievement in ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic in the Core Module and Resource Module that has been completed

The sign and the Certificates will be issued by Sustainability Victoria.

## Further information contact:

Should you have any queries regarding how to become Certified in 5Star Sustainability Certification please contact Sophie Gaballa by telephone on: (03) 8626 8793 or by email at [Sophie.Gaballa@sustainability.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sophie.Gaballa@sustainability.vic.gov.au).



## 5Star Sustainability Certification Descriptors (Summary)

<p><b>Awakening</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core Module completed</li> <li>Baseline data established</li> <li>Entered baseline data in SETS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discovering</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained Core</li> <li>Two Resource Modules completed</li> <li>Demonstrated reduction in resource use from baseline and/or increased habitat quality</li> <li>Maintained SETS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transforming</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained Core</li> <li>Three Resource Modules completed</li> <li>Met and maintains the benchmark of two Resource Modules completed at Star2</li> <li>Demonstrated reduction in resource use from baseline and/or increased habitat quality in the newly completed Module</li> <li>Maintained SETS</li> <li>Further practices completed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustaining</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained Core</li> <li>Four Resource Modules completed</li> <li>Met and maintains the benchmark of the three Resource Modules completed at Star3</li> <li>Demonstrated reduction in resource use from baseline and/or increased habitat quality in the newly completed Module</li> <li>Maintained SETS and reports results to the school</li> <li>Further practices completed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Leadership</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained Core</li> <li>Completed all the Resource Modules</li> <li>Met or exceeded the benchmark and maintains it for all the Resource Modules</li> <li>Completed all the practices in the Certification Tools for each Resource Module</li> <li>Maintained SETS and reports results to the school community</li> <li>Has completed an integrated environmental strategic plan delivering ResourceSmart practices and curriculum</li> <li>Demonstrated student, staff and parent leadership that engaged the community</li> <li>Actively mentored other schools</li> <li>Provided documented evidence of community engagement</li> <li>Provided case study material</li> </ul>

## 5Star Sustainability Certification Descriptors (Detailed)

Awakening – The **1Star** rating indicates that a school has:

- completed the ResourceSmart Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria (AuSSI Vic) Core Module
- established baseline data for its resource use (energy, water, waste) and habitat quality (biodiversity)
- entered all the baseline data into the Schools Environment Tracking System (SETS) and is using SETS to track progress.

Discovering – The **2Star** rating indicates that a school has:

- maintained the ResourceSmart Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria (AuSSI Vic) Core Module requirements
- achieved certification standard in two ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Resource Modules
- completed two Resource Modules and shown that the school has decreased usage of those resources or increased habitat quality (biodiversity) from the baseline data
- continued to use the Schools Environment Tracking System (SETS) to track progress.

Transforming – The **3Star** rating indicates that a school has:

- maintained the ResourceSmart Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria (AuSSI Vic) Core Module requirements
- achieved certification standard in three ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Resource Modules
- met the benchmark and maintains it for the two Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria AuSSI Vic Resource Modules completed at the 2Star level
- now completed more than the required number of practices in each section of the Certification Tools for the ResourceSmart Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria AuSSI Vic Resource Modules completed at the 2Star level
- decreased usage of resources from the baseline data (energy, water, waste) and/or increased habitat quality (biodiversity) in the newly completed Resource Module
- continued to use the Schools Environment Tracking System (SETS) and regularly uploads the new data to track progress.

**Sustaining – The 4Star rating indicates that a school has:**

- maintained the ResourceSmart Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative Victoria (AuSSI Vic) Core Module requirements
- achieved certification standard in four ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Resource Modules
- met the benchmark and maintains it for the three ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Resource Modules completed at the 3 Star level
- now completed additional practices in each section of the Certification Tools for the three ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Modules completed at the 3Star level
- decreased usage of resources from the baseline data (energy, water, waste) and/or increased habitat quality (biodiversity) in the newly completed ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Resource Module
- continued to use the Schools Environment Tracking System (SETS) and regularly uploads new data to track progress and report results to the school.

**Leadership – The 5Star rating indicates that a school has:**

- maintained the ResourceSmart Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI Vic) Core Module requirements
- achieved certification standard in all ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Resource Modules: Biodiversity, Energy, Waste and Water
- met or exceeded and maintains the benchmark for all Resource Modules
- completed all the practices listed in the Certification Tools for all the Resource Modules
- an integrated environmental school strategic plan, delivering ResourceSmart practices and curriculum
- demonstrated student, staff and parent leadership and communication that engages the whole school community in its culture of sustainability
- actively mentored other schools about sustainability through presentations, network meetings and providing ongoing support
- provided documented evidence of community engagement
- provided case study material for loading onto relevant website/s
- continued to use the Schools Environment Tracking System (SETS) and regularly uploads new data to track progress and report results regularly to the school community.