

# ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Initiative

Capability statements for service providers



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Australian  
**Sustainable Schools Initiative**  
A Partnership of the Australian Government, the States & Territories

**Sustainability**  
victoria



## Introduction

Service providers work closely with Victorian schools to help embed sustainability into their everyday actions, operations, infrastructure, curriculum and community partnerships.

A series of aspirational ‘capability statements’ have been developed to provide service providers with a snapshot of what ‘success looks like’. The statements are divided into three simple areas – what service providers know, what they value and what they do. Please note that these statements are not intended as a definitive list of capabilities, but as a guide to best practice.

The statements were compiled following desktop research of Victorian, Australian and international Education for Sustainability (EFS) programs in schools (see research source list on page 3). Service providers from metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria also provided feedback.

We recommend you also read the ‘Capability statements for schools’ in conjunction with this document.

### What service providers know

- We know how to align our Efs education programs with the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic framework to improve sustainable practices in Victorian schools.

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- We know how to promote the benefits of ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic. We know how to communicate the economic, social, health and environmental benefits of ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic to teachers.

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- We know our local communities and schools and their needs. We know how to develop locally relevant programs that support the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic framework.

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- We know how to educate school communities to encourage behaviour change for sustainability.

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- We know our audience, we facilitate in an engaging and relevant way that connects to and builds strong trusting relationships.

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- As a skilled and qualified network of professionals we know how to support schools to achieve sustainability outcomes. This includes achievements in all modules of ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic and progression through 5Star Sustainability Certification.

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- We can access specialist knowledge as appropriate and required.

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- We know how to build on our existing relationships with schools and access existing networks to recruit and promote to new schools.

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- We understand that building relationships with nature is critical to Efs.

### What service providers value

- Flexibility – we adapt to new ways of thinking and practice. We are skilled in sourcing, collecting and synthesizing information to keep abreast of current trends.

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- Being role models for sustainability for schools based on our passion, commitment and vision.

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- Being effective leaders for sustainability. We work collaboratively and allow for joint leadership to emerge.

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- Being active participants in the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic “Community of Practice,” working collaboratively (with schools, councils, government departments and other providers) to build a network of materials/facilitators and assessors.

## What service providers do

- We assist school communities to understand the issues of sustainability within their own lives and work in partnership to achieve their desired sustainability outcomes.

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- We focus on the individual needs of schools to help them to develop the skills needed to be change agents for sustainability themselves.

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- We implement realistic, strategic and adaptable project management practices to achieve the desired outcomes. We apply continuous improvement principles to all that we do.

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- We actively build networks of collaboration for sustainability within and amongst school communities.

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- We actively communicate the availability of funding, professional development and networking opportunities for school communities.

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- We acknowledge and build on previous achievements and integrate the experience of other programs.

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- We identify and create links with broader community issues and perspectives such as health and wellbeing, conservation, social justice, cultural diversity, appropriate development, democracy and Indigenous sustainability.

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- We recognise the different needs of primary schools, secondary schools, kindergartens and early childhood centres especially in relation to student engagement and professional development.

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- We understand that teachers are time poor. We operate in a way to ensure communication and engagement practices are concise, relevant, useful, and wherever possible personal or locally based.

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- We use a range of tools to inspire people and to communicate consistent messages about ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic to Victorian schools.

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- We identify opportunities and encourage schools to be self-sustainable, celebrate their achievements locally and at the state/national level.

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- We help school participants to think critically, ensure everyone participates, encourage collaboration and build leadership capacity to ensure a long-term approach to achieving sustainability outcomes within the school community.

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- We strive to be a purposeful and inclusive 'learning organisation' by:
  - Formally reporting outcomes and processes for monitoring and evaluating projects, programs and activities to support sustainability in schools;
  - building a monitoring and evaluation framework up front that provides for program reflection and improvement, providing feedback to partners and allowing others to learn from our experience; and by
  - promoting the benefits and effective use of the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic environmental monitoring and 5star Sustainability Certification systems to facilitate continuous improvement in the schools with which we work.
  - Providing resources and services that are aligned with relevant curriculum (VELS/National Curriculum or equivalent).

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- We are independent, creative and have a self-sustaining business model independent of available funding. We are able to optimise multiple funding sources to build a long-term financial model to support the ultimate vision of all Victorian schools being sustainable schools.

## Research sources:

- ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic – Building Future Capacity, (SV unpublished 2009)
- Evaluation of the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Program (SV unpublished 2009)
- Earth Smart Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan 2008-2012, Department of Education, Training and the Arts, Queensland Government
- Learning for our future: Scotland's first action plan for the UN Decade for Sustainable Development, (2006) Scottish Executive
- Australian Journal of Environmental Education, Volume 25, 2009
- Educating for a sustainable future: A National Environmental Education Statement for Australian Schools, Dept of Environment and Heritage, Australian Government (2005)
- Living Sustainably, The Australian Government's National Action Plan for Education for Sustainability, Dept of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Australian Government (2009)
- Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, Welsh Assembly Government, July 2008
- Report on the Enviroschools Programme, New Zealand: Education for Sustainability in New Zealand Schools, (2009), Dr. Chris Eames, University of Waikato
- AuSSI-Tas Sustainable Schools Showcase 2010, Department of Education Tasmania