



Australian
Sustainable Schools Initiative

A Partnership of the Australian Government, the States & Territories

Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI)

The Sustainable Schools Initiative is a partnership of the Federal Government and States and Territories that supports a whole school approach to embracing the principles of sustainability.

AuSSI is a key component of the **National Environmental Education Statement** for Australian Schools (2005) – *Educating for a Sustainable Future* and the **National Action Plan** for Education for Sustainability (2009) – *Living Sustainably*.

AuSSI-WA

In WA, the **Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI-WA)** has been developed around significant local partnerships and represents an overarching framework for 'education for sustainability' in school communities.

A cross sectoral initiative, the AuSSI-WA project vision is for all schools in WA to 'embed sustainability within their culture' i.e. within curriculum, infrastructure, and the day to day operations of the school.

The Initiative is based firmly within in the Core Shared Values of the Curriculum Framework, and promotes and supports sustainability as a key context for teaching and learning, with an emphasis on critical inquiry processes.

In a nutshell, school communities are supported to adopt behaviours that reduce their impact on the natural environment, whilst also promoting social and economic well being i.e. reducing their 'ecological footprint' and increasing their 'social handprint'.

At present, most WA schools practise many elements of Education for Sustainability (EfS) through such areas as utilities management, bushland and dune protection schemes, reconciliation and other social (student wellbeing) programs.

By providing an appropriate framework, the Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI) takes it to the 'next level' by encouraging the use of sustainability as a context for teaching and learning as part of a ***whole-school approach***, with the goal of 'embedding sustainability within the culture of the school community'.

The initiative is federally funded, and supported by a range of agencies and organisations in broad partnership at the state level including: Department of Education and Training, Association of Independent Schools of WA, Catholic Education Office, Department of Environment, Conservation and Land Management, Water Corporation, Department of Indigenous Affairs, Perth Zoo and Millennium Kids to name a few.

Participation in the AuSSI-WA provides support to schools in the following ways:

- Access to a range of resources and an expanding support network
- Professional learning opportunities
- Opportunities to save school communities money through effective resource management
- Promotion of schools' EfS activities
- Curriculum development through real-life, meaningful learning tasks for students (and teachers) - teaching, learning and reporting, with explicit links to learning areas and core values
- Building networks and community partnerships
- Promotion of active, global citizenship - a chance to empower, and feel empowered, within your local community – taking action for a cleaner, inclusive, bio-diverse world

To register interest or to seek clarification about the initiative, please contact Howard Flinders at: howard.flinders@det.wa.edu.au

The **project website**

<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/sustainableschools/detcms/portal/>

highlights and promotes case studies of schools' activity in this area, representing a 'compendium of success' of action-based learning for sustainability.

Links to AuSSI-WA documents:

[Practical Guide](#)

[Making the Connections](#)

[Ecological Footprint and Social Handprint](#)

[Ecological Footprint \(worksheet\)](#)

[Social Handprint \(worksheet\)](#)

[Key Elements Rubric](#)

[Sustainability Quiz](#)