

Quick Guide: Setting sustainability goals

Setting Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound (SMART) goals is a great way to set sustainability goals for your school.

It is important that the goals you design have clear actions to achieve them and are attainable during a specific timeframe.

Ideally a school sustainability team will craft the goals together. Once you have set your goals, create some targets to support them. (Core A1.5)

This guide provides examples of how these goals could be written as SMART goals.

Water example

Specific and time-bound: By 2026 we will control water consumption within the school to below the ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) benchmark.

Measurable, achievable, and relevant:

To achieve this, we will: appreciate why water is a precious resource; educate students, staff and the community about best practice water efficiency; undertake stormwater management around the school; make use of water retention systems; conduct regular audits and monitor water usage and develop a water conservation action plan.

Waste example

Specific and time-bound: By 2026 we will reduce waste to landfill within the school to below the RSS benchmark.

Measurable, achievable, and relevant:

To achieve this, we will: minimise waste by following the waste hierarchy (avoid, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle); manage the school's organic waste; monitor recycling and landfill waste appropriately; educate the school community on best practice for waste management; develop a waste and litter reduction plan and conduct regular audits of litter and waste at the school.

Energy example

Specific and time-bound: By 2026 we will reduce energy consumption within the school to below the RSS benchmark.

Measurable, achievable, and relevant:

To achieve this, we will: use resources and equipment efficiently; include students in developing and maintaining an energy efficient school; educate the school community about best practice for energy efficiency; develop an energy efficiency plan and conduct audits of energy usage around the school.

Biodiversity example

Specific and time-bound: By 2026 we will improve the natural environment and biodiversity in our school and the Habitat Quality Assessment Score.

Measurable, achievable, and relevant:

To achieve this, we will: prioritise sustainability education using the natural environment; educate the school community about the benefits of improving biodiversity, habitats and school vegetation; develop a biodiversity improvement plan and conduct biodiversity audits to monitor the habitat quality at the school.

Reach out for assistance

RSS Facilitators can help you:

- plan or promote your program
- locate additional resources that will assist you to participate in the Program
- conduct audits with students
- organise activities for your student action team
- find networks of like-minded staff and students to support your work
- progress your RSS module completion and certification.

To connect with your local facilitator email schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au

For support with RSS Online email help@resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au

ResourceSmart Schools is a free program offered by Sustainability Victoria that supports Victorian schools to embed sustainability across the school facilities, community and curriculum, while saving resources and money for the school.

To register to become a ResourceSmart School, visit:

<https://my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au/>

or email schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au