



Quick Guide: Creating a vision statement

A sustainability vision statement helps to inspire the school's future sustainability position. It supports the school's sustainability goals, actions and outcomes.

The sustainability vision statement should align with the school's mission, strategic planning, culture, and core values. The vision statement links to actions A1.4 and A1.5.

This guide aims to help you create a sustainability unique vision statement for your school.

Where to start

Your vision statement needs to be created in consultation with your school community, including:

- staff
- students
- parents
- local community members and organisations.

As the vision statement evolves try to keep it:

- future focused
- aspirational
- ambitious
- clear and concise.

Activities to help co-create a sustainability vision statement

Example activity 1 – Questions and answers

Work with your school community to answer key questions. These could be workshopped at a meeting or sent out through your communication channels. Some possible questions are:

- What is the environmental impact we want our students, staff and school community to have on our world?
- What would a sustainable school of the future look and be like?
- What can we do to map out a better future for our students and our community?

Example activity 2 - Hopes and dreams

Ask the school community to articulate their hopes and dreams regarding environmental issues. Give them a few sentence starters such as:

- I hope my children understand (...)
- I hope our school considers (...)
- I hope our community shows care for (...)

Example activity 3 - Focus on an ideal future

- Ask your school community to describe their ideal environmental future.
- Collect the statements and then share them with the school community.
- Ask the community to vote on their favourite statement.

Example activity 4 – Cut and paste pre-written statements

Use a collection of pre-written phrases and ask groups of students, staff and community members to weave some together to capture the school's vision.

The collection of phrases below could act as a starting point:

- Our school recognises the importance of becoming a sustainable school for the benefit of the Earth's environmental health.
- By managing resources efficiently and embedding sustainability education and practices, we will motivate our school community to live more sustainably.
- At our school we honour and draw upon the deep environmental knowledge of the First Nations people and their relationship with the land.
- At our school we believe that fostering a positive attitude and appreciation of sustainable environmental practice is vital to the development of our students. We will contribute towards the health of our community and reduce our impact on the Earth.
- Our school will endeavour to incorporate education regarding sustainable practices across all areas of the school.

- At our school we believe education for sustainable development is a lifelong journey.

Promote the vision statement

Once you have finalised the vision statement share it with the school community and use it in key documents such as your School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) and related policies.

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