This survey was distributed to all ResourceSmart Schools with current MOU’s in place with VAEE in mid-November 2014. Survey Monkey was used to collate the data.

The purpose of the survey was to:

1. Seek feedback on the quality and value of VAEE’s service as the local deliver of support for ResourceSmart School.
2. Find out what the schools consider to be their key sustainability goals in 2015.
3. And to continue to build on our understanding of our key contacts to determine our best way to support schools in 2015.

Of the 68 schools currently with MOU’s, representatives from place 27 (40%) completed the survey.

**Question 1: School Name**

The school name was used to verify that the person completing the survey was currently from an active ResourceSmart School. Majority of surveys completed were from participating Primary Schools.

**Question 2: What is your position at school?**

Majority of participants identified themselves as having a key role in leading science or sustainability at school.
Question 3: In 2014 VAEE provided support through the following list of activities. Please indicate how important each of these activities have been to you:

![Bar chart showing the importance of various VAEE activities]

- Professional Development Days (eg Energy Efficiency Grant Application Writing Core Essentials)
- Monthly E-Newsletter
- Email or telephone support
- Assistance with DEECD Energy Efficiency Grant application
- School Visits (eg staff meeting presentations, one on one meetings, assistance with online data entry)
- Presentations at Council Teacher Environment Network Meetings
- Support completing ResourceSmart modules and stars

Question 4: Overall, how valuable has VAEE support been to your school?

Overall, VAEE received a rating of **9.03 out of 10**, with responders rating VAEE generously between 8 and 10.

Question 5: Are there any comments you would like to make about VAEE's school support?

17 of 27 participants responded to this question.

Comments

- All the items listed above are important but are of differing importance depending on what situation the school and the sustainability coordinators are currently in, e.g. beginning, well established, etc.
- Very happy with the level of support from VAEE; I still need to get teachers on board to utilise the support.
- Whilst it might have been slow to take on for our school, VAEE's support has been essential in getting something started
- Incredibly helpful and knowledgeable contacts
- Excellent
- n/a
- Pen Lynch is approachable, enthusiastic and always helpful
- Has again this year been of utmost and dedicated support? Always responsive and of great assistance. Many thanks to Pen.
- It would be difficult to get all these things done without the extra assistance
- Always supportive and understanding of the impact of the demands on time of other priorities
- Thank you so much to you and Carolyn for your help
- Pen Lynch was a catalyst in launching our adoption of sustainable living practices in school.
- I would like VAEE see that curriculum ideas are presented online.
- Pen Lynch has been an excellent resource person offering advice promptly
- Pens support has been invaluable
- Pen is outstanding in her role. Support, advice, honest comments, resources. All spectacular.
- Excellent support. Regular newsletters help keep me aware of upcoming events and ideas from other schools. It's also so easy to get support from staff via email or telephone and they are quick to respond.

**Question 6: What has been your schools greatest sustainability achievement/ action in 2014?**

Schools identified a number of different achievements in 2014. The results have been broken down into the following categories:

![Bar chart showing different sustainability achievements]

**Full responses:**
- Receiving LitterWatch 'Tangaroa Blue Australian Marine Debris 3 Stars Award'
- We achieved our Core Module completion and got our first star :)
- Obtaining energy grant and water garden grant. Setting up of green teams.
- Education of staff.
- Renewing some of our tired gardens with Australian plants to create a welcoming feel for visitors.
- Applying for & succeeding in a DEECD Energy Efficiency Grant
- Getting educational programs more embedded into our curriculum.
- setting up a "Green team" to carry on in 2015
- Transferring everything onto the new website and add the people to the website itself along with creating a sustainability team at the school.
- Tree planting day
- School recycling games
- Nearly completing the Core Module
- Getting our energy audit completed and making a plan for carrying out the recommendations
- Achieving the grant and getting all staff on board
- Recycling, composting.
- Year 7 Environment Day;
- I will let you know next year when it is more than just one person driving it ;)
- Successful Application for an Energy Efficiency Grant and energy reduction program at the main campus
- Establishing a Students body and getting them proactively involved in Sustainability issues.
- Having a Nude Food trophy given out weekly.
- No heating/cooling in April and October.
- People dressing more appropriately for the weather.
- Reduced reliance on heating.
- Decreasing the about of waste and decreasing water usage.
- Sustainability Festival at the end of the year.
- Student Led presentation at the ResourceSmart awards and acknowledgment of what we have been doing
- Implemented a whole new waste recycling system that supports 1600 people
- Re-establishing our frog bog!
- Completing three modules. Parent Sustainability group running a stall at the school fair.
- School wide sustainability slogan competition.
- We have completed two ResourceSmart Modules this year and have used these to help students create presentations for Kids Teaching Kids about sustainability.
- Establishing our vegetable garden and eating the produce!
- Having the children use compost bins in each classroom and be responsible to take it out to our new compost bin.
- Setting up our paper recycling boxes in each classroom
- Using and filling our 3 recycling bins each fortnight ready for Council collection
- Planting over 150 shrubs and plants on our site plus 5 fruit trees and the children and staff keen and ready to water them.
- We have had a great year and are looking forward to next year

**Question 7: Which of these best describes who leads sustainable changes at your school?**

0% The principal
4% One or two key passionate people
21% Sustainability team of school staff
71% Sustainability team of parents and school staff
Question 8: Do you, or someone else at school, get time release to manage sustainability projects?

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If yes, please specify how much time per week is allocated (minutes)?

Eight responders answered this part of the question. The average amount of time allocated to sustainable projects is 158 minutes per week (2.6 hours). The answers ranged between 60 and 360 minutes.

Question 9: On average, how much extra time would you estimate you spend on school sustainability projects each week outside of paid hours (Minutes)?

25 responders answered this question. The average amount of time spent outside of paid hours is 104 minutes, median 75. The answers ranged between 10 and 240 minutes.

Question 10: Does school have an allocated budget for sustainability projects?

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If yes, how much?

Only two responders provided answers to this question. $2500 and $500.

Question 11: Please select which of the following are priorities for your school in 2015 (three):

- Forming a Sustainability Team at school
- Creating sustainability policies and strategies
- Collecting resource use data (energy, waste, water)
- Communicating sustainability messages to the broader school community
- Improving school curriculum to be more inclusive of sustainability
- Completing a ResourceSmart AUSSI Vic. Module (core, biodiversity, energy, waste, water)
- Applying for other funding to deliver school projects
- Implementing the DEECD Energy Efficiency Grant
- Entering sustainability awards
- Celebrating achievements
Question 12: What do you think schools in the west need to encourage them to continue to become more sustainable?

Responses

- Increase in core funding, and recognition for what schools do without increasing the load on staff
- I find that secondary schools are struggling and a lot of things are aimed at primary schools, which seem to be experiencing a lot more sustainability success in the Western suburbs. We need some sort of forum we can share ideas on/discuss things. Next year I'll get 50 minutes of time release a fortnight and the student action team has applied for a $3000 budget but I had no way of saying we currently this year have none of that but that it's coming.
- funding
- More support from Principal class
- Time, rewards and a pep talk a couple of times a year!
- Make the documentation/audits far less onerous - accountability is not an issue, but completing the documentation requires a part time staff member alone and schools just don't have that luxury.
- Educate parents and broader community... kids tend to follow what they see others do! Perhaps news letters or media attention in the west would be beneficial.
- Keep up with the outstanding support and get as many people informed as possible
- Money to purchase bins, make veggie gardens, signs, etc.
- Examples of how it is working in nearby schools
- More leadership, involvement, resources (funding) in this area from DEECD.
- Assistance with funding from other locations.
- Perhaps resource sharing
- It's all about awareness. Highlighting financial savings in a climate of tight budgets might be a good lever
- Finding the extra time in a busy schedule- but it's worth it!
- Pen Lynch has been a catalyst to change in our school. Perhaps she is for others too.
- I think as our society is going backwards on Environment the students do not show the passion that even three years ago they had. We need to increase the interest and knowledge of what is such an important part of education. We have it written in our curriculum but it is all dependent who takes these units. Keep up the good work.
- A bank of examples of sustainable practises and contacts
- Support from environmental specialists
- Integrated team approach to networking - TEN and RSAV could be combined in the west to allow a greater network.
- More PL opportunities for whole college staff so not just one or two key people are relied on to implement and spread the sustainability message.
- Personal supportive approach worked well for us in stepping us through the process and the requirements. Showcasing schools and their achievements through having meetings at different schools was great-even though I did not get to many of them