

Ideas for your Sustainable Schools Grant application

NSW public schools can apply for \$15,000 funding through the DoE School Infrastructure [Sustainable Schools Grants](#). These grants prioritise improving school sustainability through hands-on activities for students.

Here are some suggestions and tips to assist schools to develop a quality sustainability education project.

Sustainable Schools NSW (AAEE NSW) advocates for a whole-school approach to sustainability: on campus, in curriculum and through culture.

SUSTAINABILITY ON CAMPUS

Wherever your school is on its sustainability journey, it is important to have a plan, a **School Environment Management Plan**.

A School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) sets out the school community's intentions in regard to environmental education and environmental management. It helps schools have a clear picture on resource use and grounds management that can link with curriculum and learning. Download the [SEMP guide and planning template](#) from our website.

Consider teacher-release to enable a teacher to lead an eco-team to develop your SEM, or you could pay an external consultant to assist you. Involve students in your visioning, research and planning, as a hands on component of your grant application.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM

Support your teachers to integrate sustainability into their practise through **professional development**. This could include:

- in-house or online courses on integrating sustainability as a cross-curriculum priority
- attending a sustainability education conference or workshop
- peer-to peer mentoring from an experienced sustainability educator.

Contact your local or regional [environmental education centre](#) to find out what support they can offer.

Take opportunities to get students outside into nature:

- Use your school site as a learning context, [view K-6 curriculum links](#).
- Be supported through the [Take Me Outside NSW](#) program.

For a quick guide to [HSIE curriculum links](#), this DoE reference document plots the organising ideas of sustainability across geography and history teaching and learning.

Looking for sustainability [teaching resources](#)? Visit our website and sign up for the Sustainable Schools quarterly e-newsletter.

Grant funds are now available for NSW public schools for projects that improve school sustainability through hands-on student activities.

Here are some tips and ideas for your grant application to support quality sustainability education outcomes.



Consider allocating some of your project budget to:

- **develop or update your School Environment Management Plan (SEMP)**
- **teacher professional development – staff time to learn new approaches to embedding sustainability into the classroom**
- **establish (or reinvigorate) a Green Team, including staff time to support student environmental leadership.**

SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH CULTURE

Establishing (or reinvigorating) a school environment group or green team is a great way to:

- encourage hands on learning for students and active citizenship
- develop student leadership and group work skills
- develop practical action plans to improve the school environment and save school resources.

View the online [Environment Club manual](#) for tip sheets, project ideas, case studies and templates to inspire and inform student activities.

Consider what teacher and administration support you will need for your student leadership group and to fund environment group projects.

EVALUATE AND CELEBRATE

Take time to evaluate your project and share your successes with your community.

Have SMART project outcomes: outcomes that are specific, measurable, attainable, resourced and timebound.

For more support, read the AAEE NSW guide [Right From the Start! A guide to planning best practise sustainability education projects](#).

Share your stories and achievements with your school community to inspire others to take action for the environment.

