

The Sustainability Education Roundtable is an informal, broadly based forum open to all who share a commitment to a comprehensive, integrated approach to education for sustainability. We believe in developing stewardship values, behaviours, and lifestyles in Victoria through sustainability education.

The round table working group is chaired by Mike Hill and hosted by CERES and includes participation from Department of Sustainability and Education, EcoRecycle Victoria, EPA, Environment Victoria, Gould League, LeastWaste, Maunsell, VAAE, Victoria University, and Western Region Environment Centre.

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Outcomes from Roundtable 4

A lot of discussion and ideas were raised at the last Roundtable meeting that was held at the Museum's Treetops café on February 22, 2006. Participants were grouped according to their sector, and together came up with a vision and 5 smart ways. Each participant was also asked to make a commitment on how they / their organisation can support one or more of the smart ways for their sector. These are presented below.

VISIONS

GOVERNMENT

Government by 2010 will be

- Governing for social change toward sustainability in our communities, through resourcing, regulating, facilitating and inspiring. The government will ensure that all government practices, work culture and facilities are demonstrating sustainability and achieving meaningful resource use targets.

HIGHER OR POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Every campus will be an example for sustainable living and learning with compulsory basic learning in sustainability across all courses and accredited professional learning for academic staff in sustainability applications

COMMUNITY

That the Victorian community becomes a learning community united in living sustainably and embracing this as a new lifestyle for the 21st century.

SCHOOLS

Sustainability is a mandated, underlying value for action in all levels of school education and infrastructure – being adequately resourced and reported against – enabling schools to be hubs of sustainable action for their communities

BUSINESS

In 5 years time 50% of the business sector will have changed their **core business** to embrace 'sustainability'. Every organisation will have an innovation dept and every business course include sustainability and innovation as part of its practice

5 Smart Ways

GOVERNMENT

- All new facilities and infrastructure are designed to be sustainable and existing buildings are retrofitted to meet basic environment standards – Use of incentives, financial arrangement, etc. to make this more financially attractive and viable eg. . Convert all fleet vehicles to be most efficient vehicle that meet functional requirements. Roll out to be undertaken strategically to maximise leadership opportunities to showcase the champions.
- Incentives in place for encouraging innovation of new technologies and rapid implementation. Funding from state government is conditional on implementing these procedures. Also need regulatory pressure to benefit progressive enterprises.
- Mandatory requirement for all government organisations to have established a sustainability team that develops an action plan, implements and reports on the action plan in accordance with state wide targets and ensures that all staff are given sustainability education that gives them the ability, commitment and opportunities to work and live sustainably → connected to the whole person at work. Ensure sustainably KPIs are included in all their home performance plans, etc
- Requirement for effective benchmarking and target setting using accepted standardised tools with levels set across all areas of government. These targets need to be met and ideally exceeded, preferably using innovative approaches that work. The reporting on meeting targets needs to be communicated, shared and celebrated. We need to ensure all contractors are required to also meet these targets. This process also needs to be undertaken at a regional level and facilitated across all sectors and facilitated by government in a coordinated, whole of government commitment

AND

- Deliver sustainability programs (preferably in partnership with the relevant groups) to all sectors

Eg. Work place, residential, etc. which enable sustainability targets to be achieved and sustainability practices to be implemented. This to be funded on at least a 3 – 5 year funding cycle not dependent on grants

Apply a business template for sustainability

- Jointly funded **without** grants
- Administered through Victorian Local Sustainability accord
- Mandated by Victorian Local Government Act
- Same template for schools, enacted by education act
- Indicators reported as part of SOE report – commissioner for sustainability

SCHOOLS

- All schools are required (by December 2007) to have sustainability values and indicators in their charters/strategic plans
- All schools are resourced to implement core sustainability measures – do energy, water and waste and school grounds ecology audits so opportunities for reduction and enhancement can be found (by Dec. 2007) and then report on them and other sustainability indicators annually to DET..
- All staff in schools are to be upskilled in sustainability practices leading to all schools having sustainability entrenched in their culture – by all staff over the next 2 years having the opportunity to attend workshops
- By 2010 all schools have implemented a P – 12 systematic, action-based curriculum which embeds sustainability in the school and has been built on the excellent models already in place

AND

- Schools and local businesses/local governments set up partnerships to work together to produce innovative solutions for environmental problems in schools and their communities

COMMUNITY

- Build larger coalitions for advocacy and action, and through these collaborative ventures clearly articulate key messages and expectations to the community. community expectations through collaborative ventures.
- Develop, support and fund community resource centres and demonstration projects (with sustainability and community governance characteristics) across the state (locality based) drawing on the experiences of well established models. Establish community organisations in sustainable premises, with sustainable policies employing staff committed to sustainability so that they can demonstrate sustainable living to the general community.
- Develop community wellbeing indicators to link security, health local jobs and housing, education to ecological improvements.
- Recognise the power of Brand loyalty over communities and present sustainable consumption initiatives linked to companies committed to sustainability practices.

AND

- Support the setting up of a sectoral council that promotes leadership and collaboration and provides organisational support that each individual organisation can't do for itself. Strong links to VicHealth, Dept. Victorian Communities, VLGA, Community Support Fund for financial support and ideas.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- All institutions become signatory to Talloires Declaration
 - Australian Sustainable Campus Group to form
 - Develop a 5 year strategy plan to be audited by the Federal University Audit Body
 - Each university offers a cross disciplinary suite of subjects with sustainability principles in all courses

- Capitalise on research and academic strengths with funded research into rapid actions for sustainability and implications of transforming socioeconomic conditions in the direction of sustainability
- University to place higher value (supported by government) on community research and service-eg in health area-community advisory councils. More links to provide practical internships in community organisations and businesses whereby universities pay for mentoring services to students provided by community.
- Sustainability discourse
 - Suite of related subjects developed across disciplines which merges and addresses participants experience of sustainability in a dialectic manner
 - Experience and aspiration
 - Transformative facilitated, learning
 - All academic staff to have accreditation in linked areas of sustainability

AND

- Centre / hub resourced by uni facilities budget and governments
 - For sustainability to build / develop a sustainable centre which demonstrate sustainable principles and practices and is used for the teaching and learning about sustainability
 - Sustainability hub developed **jointly** by academic staff and students
 - Include community
 - Develop a 'sustainability module' for apprentice courses in at least electrical, plumbing trades (also consider all other trades). Develop 'professional development' programs for all. Sustainability educators. (in & pre service)

BUSINESS / INDUSTRY

Business needs:

- INNOVATION PROGRAM – physical and social transformation to solve greenhouse / peak oil sustainability issues
- Positive consumption – reveal hidden subsidies for unsustainable practices

- MARKET STIMULATION / Structural pricing incentives, investment in R & D, Grants from government for business plans.
 - Internal capability of organisations ← (purchasing and management)
 - External influence (new products / services)
 - High media promotion campaign – reward and incentive ranks. Australian companies to CSR framework, eg. BRW top 100 in sustainability
- PEOPLE EDUCATION – start-up kit for new businesses
 - Self management leadership for individuals/orgs to ‘realise’ sustainability
 - Business collaboration and genuine dialogue and sharing, eg. Ongoing business seminar series – accessible
- NEW BUSINESS NEEDED WITH LOW ENERGY INPUTS AND LONG LIFE
 - Eg. 50+ retirees investment in sustainable technologies, superannuation – specify white goods, eg. Low energy, long life

AND

- BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORKS – race to sustainability economic model – invest in business of the future, eg. Industrial ecology, biomimicry, whole range of community, education and government partnerships in these frameworks

Commitments

The following table lists the participants and their organisation that have made commitments to support one or more of the smart ways in their sector.

Organisation	Representative/s
<i>CERES</i>	Eric Bottomley
<i>City of Melbourne</i>	Gabrielle Stannus
Context	Sarah Norton
<i>Cycle for Sustainability</i>	Nick Towle
<i>DSE</i>	Kathy Overton
<i>EcoSTEPS</i>	Robert Castleden
<i>Environment Victoria</i>	Rachel Carlisle
EPA / NCC Swinburne	Frank Mitchell
<i>EPA Victoria</i>	Sue Gipson, Margot Finn
<i>Flo Carshare</i>	Monique Conheady
<i>Foundation Studies, Melbourne Uni</i>	Rose De La Cruz
<i>Gould League</i>	Jeff Su
<i>Greening Australia</i>	Jessica Baillie
<i>King David School</i>	Eva Migdal
<i>Least Waste</i>	Judith Alcorn, Vern Steele
<i>Mornington Peninsula Shire</i>	Rolf Freeman
<i>Museum Victoria</i>	Liza Dale - Hallett
<i>Nillumbik Shire Council</i>	Rebecca Petit
<i>NRCL</i>	Philip Bachelor
<i>NRCL</i>	Steve Meacher
<i>Our Planet Enterprises</i>	Will Tait
<i>Shire of Yarra Ranges / Rainwater Tanks</i>	Tim Henman / Tim the Tankman

<i>Sustainable Living Foundation (SLF)</i>	Amaya Unzueta, Phillip Sutton
<i>VAEE</i>	Teresa Day
<i>VCAA</i>	Maria James
<i>Victoria Uni</i>	Colin Hocking
<i>Village Green</i>	Doug Smith
<i>Western Region Environment Centre</i>	Harry Van Moorst
<i>Zoos Victoria</i>	Shelley Waldon

Details of the next RoundTable

ROUNDTABLE NUMBER 5

WHEN - WEDNESDAY, MAY 17th 2006 AT 9.30 am - 12:30pm
We will be registering at 9am for a 9:30am start.

WHERE - 60L BUILDING, 60 LEICESTER ST,
MELBOURNE (HOME OF ACF, VLGA, ENVIRONMENT
VICTORIA AND MANY OTHERS)

FOR WHOM - Everyone who has been involved in the Roundtables
and all others with an interest in Sustainability
Education.

The focus of this RT:

1. **Activities and Outcomes summary report (Eric's Report), to include:**
 - The sector x sector health report
 - Smart Ways summary
 - A potted history of the roundtable and its achievements
2. **Outcomes from the Roundtable process (Jeff's Report), to include:**
 - An outline of the VAEE submission to the Sustainability Fund (to be prepared by VAEE in conjunction with Roundtable Working Group) to establish a sector x sector development program
3. **'Jumping the Agenda' (maintaining the urgency) to include:**
 - The program being developed by Judith's working group (Judith, Harry, Colin and Philip) around the 'process and pace' debate

PREPARATION - Check Bulletins for summary of the work done so far in the Roundtables.
Check <http://sustainability.ceres.org.au> for details of Roundtables and background documents
(*Sustainability Education Information-reports*)

Light refreshments will be provided

Book your place by emailing Michelle at michelle@ceres.org.au or phoning on (03) 9380 1556

Contact:

For further information about the process or to discuss your ideas about direction contact:

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