

Alkira's Energy Zapping

Name of school: Alkira Secondary College
Name of ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic module: Energy
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Alkira
Secondary College

Alkira Secondary College is situated on Nurture Avenue, Cranbourne North, in the new Eve Estate residential development. The school follows a "private-public partnership", one of only a few in the state. The secondary college has sustainable modern designs and architecture in mind, including smaller learning centres within the school and incorporates open learning areas and is divided into learning communities. The term Alkira means 'big sky' and it is situated on a 10 hectare property and has approximately 60% of this area as natural landscapes and boosts a wetlands area. It opened in 2009 and is currently operating up to a Year 11 level with 2014 being the first year to be at capacity with all year levels running with an estimated 1100 students and approx. 90 staff. The school's principal Ian McKenzie has embedded a school ethos that has sustainability in mind and since day one has bred sustainable views and values into the curriculum and student body. The Alkira Planeteers (our student sustainability group) was formed early 2012 and works with the SRC to facilitate environmental initiatives within the school and monitor our progress.



Alkira Secondary started its official ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic by working on the Core Module in September 2012. Our school was funded by Sustainability Victoria and facilitated by Kirsty Costa from CERES to guide and help us on our journey. Whilst working with Kirsty, we realised that our water saving infrastructure helps us achieve below the benchmark for the Water Module. So we started undertaking the Water Module as well as the Core Module and then when these were successfully completed we began to tackle our Energy consumption and Energy saving techniques.



Alkira's energy saving ways have been developed from day one of the school being built. Our great new facilities have catered for as little energy wasted as possible

- All appliances are 4-5 star and use as little energy as possible.
- We use our live data in class to help monitor and target reduction techniques
- We use sensor lighting in all classrooms, staff rooms and office areas.
- We have solar panels installed and will be using our Energy Efficiency Grant to tint all windows
- We have visible signage up around the school to remind students to turn computers, projectors, and all electronically powered equipment off after use
- We share the data from our Building Management System on a screen in our administration area to help educate our community.

Alkira Secondary College uses cross curricular learning outcomes to form the knowledge of why water is such a precious resource and embed this ethos into the whole school body. For example, Year 8 science students study Energy Efficient homes design and research different ways to save energy then create their own energy efficient home. Our math students analyse and use our live energy use data in class and physics students brainstorm energy use and alternative methods.

Our student team, the Alkira Planeteers, put energy saving tips in our weekly online newsletter and put visible signage around the school.

It is a whole school approach, with staff and students working together, that keeps the water wise culture alive at Alkira Secondary College.