**ENERGY EFFICIENCY – WHOLE SCHOOL BENEFIT**

* **USING OUR GRANT FUNDING TO PROMOTE ENERGY SAVING**
* **STUDENT LEADERSHIP/ENERGY MONITORS**

**GRANTS RECEIVED:**

* **$10,000 Energy Efficiency Grant** (DEECD 2012 - 2015 round)
* **$ 8,000 Energy Saving Initiatives** (2012 from Pratt Foundation)

Our Energy Audit conducted by the company ‘Planet Savers’ in conjunction with a team of our students resulted in a report identifying opportunities for technological change and also suggested ways of tracking and measuring results against targets. Adopting the recommendations indicated Glen Waverley South Primary School could reduce energy waste by over 25%. We have begun retrofitting twin fittings (lights) with energy efficient LED panels, have replaced T8 security lighting with LED and other security lights with motion sensored LED lighting. We are investigating the installation of sensor lights in the student toilets. The audit indicated hot water services and water coolers require timers so they do not run unnecessarily. Old, inefficient electrical appliances such as fridges and freezers need replacing. These are located in the disused canteen, the area that is to become our future kitchen classroom. Our energy auditor, Mark Smith, also suggested in the report that we conduct a ‘Thermal Efficiency Assessment’ using the company ‘Ecomaster’. This will be considered at a later date.

**WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR THIS PROJECT?**

This project will enable Glen Waverley South Primary School to benefit from embedding sustainability in all areas of daily operation, learning and teaching and whole school community engagement. Staff, students and parents can be educated to promote ongoing sustainable practices driven by student leaders. This project empowers the student body to lead the change in our school culture so it becomes one of understanding the consequences of energy waste. There are significant financial gains for the school as resource use decreases and utility bills therefore become less. There are also considerable educational benefits when students have access to data that tracks our energy usage.

**HOW WILL WE ALL BENEFIT?**

All the students, staff and extended school community of Glen Waverley South Primary School will benefit. The school culture will be changed to one of understanding energy waste and its consequences. Empowering the student body to turn off items after use will foster good switch-off habits, reduce greenhouse pollution and save the school money. Reductions in energy use and waste can be monitored through the ‘ResourceSmart Online’ system. Our solar power generation and use can be monitored through the installed system. Savings that are achieved from our energy strategy could contribute to a sustainability fund. These funds can be allocated to projects of environmental benefit and a portion towards the social benefit of the students. The students can be involved in deciding upon the best possible outcomes for these savings. This will encourage student participation if there is a vested interest in the resulting savings.

This project will assist our school with our progression through the ‘ResourceSmart’ modules, particularly the ‘Energy Module’. It supports the implementation of the school curriculum.

**FOR HOW LONG WILL THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM THIS PROJECT?**

This project will provide long term benefit to the community. When energy reduction systems are in place and technological change has occurred (installation of energy efficient infrastructure), savings will continue. Sustained behavioural change, awareness and ongoing education will maintain the benefit. Our school will continue to progress through the ‘ResourceSmart ‘ modules, working towards becoming fully certified.