

Sustainability Annual Report 2014

Sustainability North College

Introduction

ResourceSmart Schools is a Victorian Government initiative that will help our school benefit from embedding sustainability in everything we do. Our school will take action to minimise waste, save energy and water, promote biodiversity and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability Victoria and Westside Council have funded us to participate in ResourceSmart Schools and receive facilitation support from CERES.

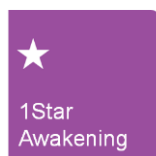
Our goal for this 2014 was to complete the Core Module and receive our 1Star. One of our tasks was to collect all of our bills for the past two years and enter our data onto ResourceSmart Online, which is the online system for ResourceSmart Schools. This will then help us to determine our usage and which areas we need to focus on as a school.

We had a whole staff workshop to get people talking about sustainability and planning for what we would like to see happen at Sustainability North College. We also reviewed our school's curriculum to further incorporate sustainability in all areas of the curriculum, which also aligns with the requirements of AusVELS.

The priority for Sustainability North College has been to encourage student participation and excitement in sustainability projects around the school and within our community. We have established Green Warriors, which is our school's sustainability team.

There are five modules in ResourceSmart Schools: Core, Biodiversity, Energy, Waste, Water. Along the way, there are also stars with the ultimate aim to become a 5Star Leadership school.

As of the end of 2014, we have completed the following:



In 2015 we are going to work on the Energy module. We received an Energy Efficiency Grant in 2014 and have already begun making some infrastructure changes around the school to reduce our energy consumption.

Consumption

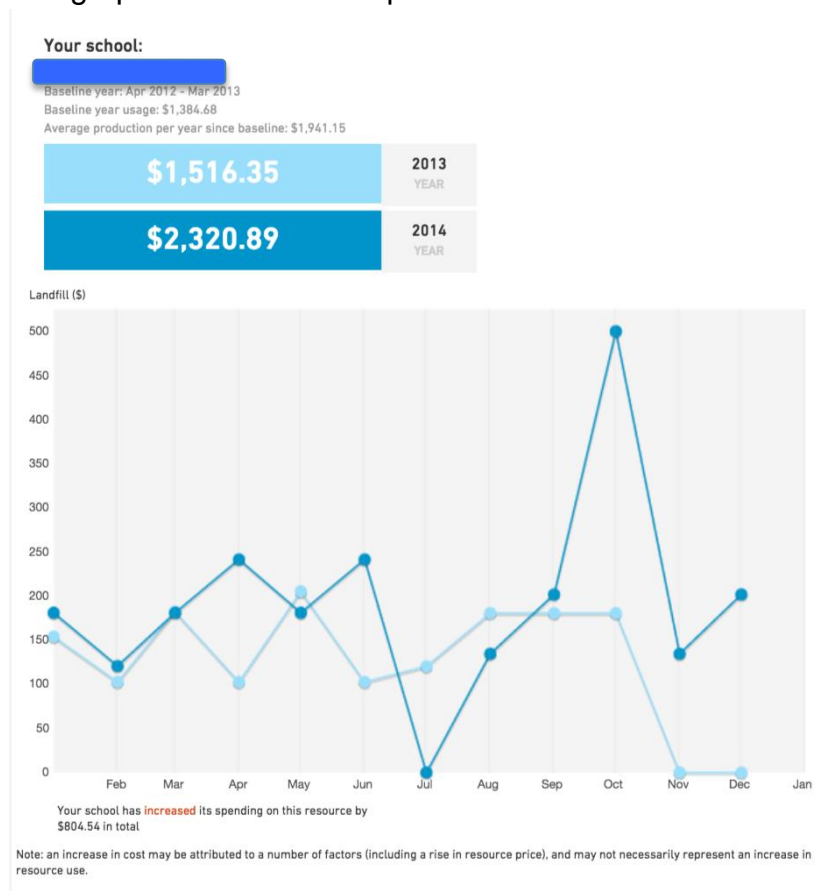
Resource	Benchmark (per student)	Cost 2014 (per year)	Cost (per student)	Usage (per student)	Achieving Benchmark?
Electricity	250kWh	\$12,670.52	\$68.86	287kWh	No
Natural Gas	0.9GJ	\$2,992.97	\$6.64	159MJ	Yes
Water	4kL	\$3,723.25	\$8.26	2kL	Yes
Waste	0.3 m ³	\$4,248.52	\$9.44	1 m ³	No
Recycling	n/a	\$352.00	\$1.91	0.12 m ³	n/a
Paper	n/a	\$5,249.52	\$29.49	7 ream	n/a

Habitat Quality Assessment Score: 62
(Baseline year: 56)

School Savings in 2014: \$5,962.43
(Since baseline year - \$12,244.82)

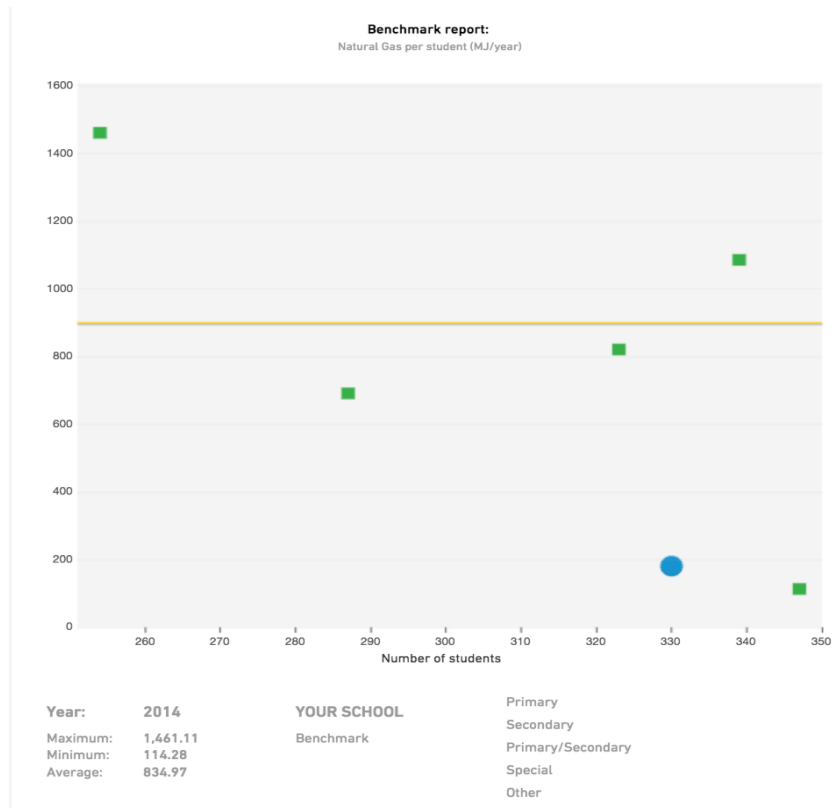
Landfill:

Our waste to landfill has increased, in both cost and usage, from 2013 to 2014. Please see graph below for a comparison between 2013 and 2014.



Natural Gas:

Our school is achieving benchmark for Natural Gas. In the graph below, the yellow line is the benchmark for Natural Gas. Our school is the blue dot, which is below the benchmark.



Our school is not achieving benchmark in electricity and waste. Also, our paper usage is very high. Since we have completed the Core module, our next module that we will be working on will be the Energy module. Hopefully, this will help our school identify solutions to reducing our energy consumption.

In regards to waste and paper, we need to discuss methods to reducing our waste and paper usage. Perhaps introducing Nude Food days at school and composting to help address waste. Introducing tablets and more online homework assignments to help reduce our paper usage. We can also go paperless for our newsletters.

Achievements

An achievement for this year is our school completing the Core Module and receiving 1Star.

Our students also attended the Melbourne Water Kids Teaching Kids conference.

We applied for a grant with Westside Council for 100 seedlings to plant indigenous trees and flowers across the school.

Future Goals

Some of our future goals are:

- Focusing on Energy and meet benchmarks
- Applying for energy efficiency grants to help with lighting and heating and cooling
- Connecting with partners to help deliver sustainability projects
- Creating a Parent Group roster to help manage the school garden on the weekends
- Incorporate bill entry into the Maths curriculum so students can enter bills
- Host a sustainability event at school