NRM Education
your partner for sustainability
NRM Education – your partner for sustainability

NRM* Education works with school and pre-school communities to embed sustainability principles into their learning and management practices, which helps achieve the South Australian Government’s environmental priorities.

Students, staff and parents are provided with resources and support to take informed action at a local level. Benefits include: enhanced learning experiences to help students develop into powerful learners with skills for a changing world; increasing student engagement and learning outcomes; and a reduction in ecological footprints and associated school running costs. This whole school approach is termed Education for Sustainability (EfS), which is about working together to develop the knowledge, skills, values and behaviours for leading sustainable lifestyles and creating sustainable communities. It provides the ‘big ideas’ that tie together cross curriculum priorities, general capabilities and content from different subject areas in the Australian Curriculum, and learning outcomes from the Early Years Learning Framework.
Activities include developing environmental policies and practices, sustainability visioning, exploring values, and hands-on learning such as building frog ponds, vegetable beds and butterfly gardens; managing food waste with worm farms and compost bins; investigating water and energy savings, or investigating wildlife in the school/preschool yard and beyond.

There are many examples of EfS in practice and whatever your goals are, NRM Education will help you get there.

*Natural Resources Management

Did you know that in the last 10 years (2008-18) 80% of schools and preschools in the AMLR region were supported by NRM Education. If your school’s not one of them, get in touch!

Engaging with nature

Time spent in nature can provide the spark which ignites a child’s or young person’s desire to learn. Engaging with Nature resources strongly align with the Australian Curriculum’s cross-curriculum priority of sustainability, in learning areas such as Maths, Science, English, Geography and Civics and Citizenship. NRM Education provides teachers with resources to engage children and students in hands-on and outdoor learning. This helps children and students to develop a local and global understanding of, and connection with, our environment.

Resources include:

- units of work and teacher information packs linked to the Australian Curriculum
- local species ID charts and loan equipment (nest box cameras, water bug nets and viewers, water testing kits and lots more)
- grants, advice and resources to develop biodiversity projects
- case studies, reference material and other resources.
Youth action

Engaged and empowered students can add new dimensions to school culture, policies and environmental plans for their site. NRM Education supports students to become involved in decision making, planning and taking action. These rich learning experiences help students to become responsible citizens who are resilient and have the skills to recognise and solve local problems. Authentic youth voice links strongly to the Teaching for Effective Learning Framework, as well as in multiple areas of the Australian Curriculum including General Capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities.

Student capacity-building programs include:

**Mentoring**

NRM Education Officers can visit your student environment or youth action group, to assist them to develop plans and projects within their school community. Resources are available to assist students explore sustainability topics, skills and leadership development, as well as case studies on youth voice from other schools.

**Youth Environment Council of South Australia**

Open to students in years 7 to 10 who are passionate about the environment and sustainability. Council members represent youth across SA and participate in leadership workshops, lead environmental projects in their communities, make recommendations to government, and share environmental initiatives and actions with other schools.
Become a sustainable site

Receive support from NRM Education by registering (free of charge) online with the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative SA (AuSSI-SA). Join over 400 schools and preschools across the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges that receive support from NRM Education.

Once registered, an NRM Education Officer will meet with you to discuss EfS goals and progress. An NRM Education Officer will be assigned to your site and provide a mentoring role to support you in a number of ways, including:

- co-developing environmental management plans incorporating learning
- setting achievable EfS goals
- assisting with strategic planning
- tailoring long-term sustainability programs and projects to build strong school communities
- running professional development for staff and the broader community
- supporting the establishment and maintenance of authentic youth voice initiatives
- accessing resources including units of work, student activities and equipment for loan
- linking to partner organisations and community groups to strengthen EfS
- sharing learning experiences through access to inspiring and innovative case studies from other sites
- subscribing to NRM Education’s weekly e-news with up to date information about sustainability, grants and new resources.

“I have nothing but praise for their approachability, professionalism and ‘can do’ approach. Thanks NRM Education.”
Educator feedback, 2017.
Sign up today!

To register with AuSSI-SA or for more information on NRM Education visit www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges

Or call your local NRM Education Officer

Northern: (08) 8406 8289
Central: (08) 8234 7255
Southern: (08) 8301 7268

Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges