

School Energy Management Program

Tandem Energy have developed an Energy Management and Education Program, Watts Next, for schools that delivers real energy savings while educating students in the process.

The program has been developed in conjunction with South Australian school teachers and can be mapped across the Australian Curriculum. It provides multiple opportunities for STEM-based projects.

The program is intended to evolve with the needs of the school and its students as part of an ongoing energy management cycle, as demonstrated.



Evaluate

Reducing your school's energy consumption starts with understanding how it is being used. It is important to understand where energy is being used and where the opportunities are to reduce it. An Energy Health Check is a quick and low-cost way to discover how your school currently uses energy and to identify potential savings and is recommended regardless of whether you want to involve your students in your school's energy saving journey or not. The Health Check includes:

- Energy bill review including SAPN tariff and metering charges
- Meter data analysis
- Solar feasibility assessment
- Easy to understand report highlighting potential energy and cost saving opportunities

Opportunities to learn

By engaging your students in the evaluation process, they have the opportunity to learn about energy and be a part of the solutions. Lesson plans can be adapted to suit year level and include live demonstrations and hands-on activities.

Example lessons include:

What is energy?

- Explanation of energy and where it comes from
- How we measure energy (kWh)

How are we using energy?

- How much does my school use?
- What items use the most energy in my classroom?

Develop

Developing an Energy Action Plan for your school is a great opportunity to involve your students in taking action to reduce energy consumption.

The first step is to find an enthusiastic bunch of students to work on the project. This might be an existing environmental committee, a purposely formed energy committee, or a class excited about energy or the environment. Then Tandem can work with the group define their role, purpose, and how they can participate in the creation and implementation of the school's energy policy.

Opportunities to learn

Based on the learnings from the Energy Health Check, we take your student group through the steps of developing an Energy Action Plan. The group can then present the findings to school management for discussion and approval.

In this stage we ask the questions:

- What is the role and purpose of the Energy Committee?
- What are the opportunities to save energy from the Energy Health Check report?
- What are the best actions to implement?
- How could we implement them?
- How do we develop our schools Energy Action Plan?
- How could we communicate the policy to the rest of the school?

Implement

Now that your school has a plan, it's time to take action! There will no doubt be a variety of energy saving opportunities to pursue, some relating to physical upgrades and other behaviour-based opportunities.

We can assist in the development and execution of an action plan with involvement of the Energy Committee. This action plan should include realistic goals, a breakdown of tasks to be completed, and timeline to adhere to.

Opportunities to learn

Energy efficiency and sustainability training is key for this stage and can be delivered across all year levels.

Energy and sustainability training can cover the following and more...

Climate change and energy

- Why is climate change important?
- How can energy efficiency help in fighting climate change?

Sustainability and waste

- What does living sustainability mean?
- Which resources are depleting and how can we preserve them?
- How can we reduce waste in our school?

Review

A crucial step of the Energy Management process is to review your school's progress and celebrate your successes! Reviewing your progress should happen regularly, ideally driven by your Energy Committee. The time line should be reviewed regularly to ensure milestones are being hit and tasks have been completed.

Tandem can be engaged at regular intervals to meet with the Energy Committee and review progress. As these goals are achieved savings are verified through evaluation – and the process of discovering more savings starts again!

Cost

Item	Price	Notes
Energy Health Check	From \$800	Dependant on complexity
Lessons	\$300 for the first hour, \$150 for subsequent hours	Includes lesson plan development.
Casual service engagement	\$150 per hour	

About Us

The Watts Next program team are a passionate group of people. While we enjoy using our technical skills to save businesses and organisations energy, we get really excited when given the opportunity to educate others about it. Here are two of our facilitators that head up the team:



Rachel Brdanovic

Rachel has been working in the environmental consulting field for nine years. She has a Masters of Sustainability from the University of Adelaide and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Her training sessions are lively as she encourages teachers and students to think about waste – of electricity, resources and time. How can we do things better with less?



Lynda Curtis

Lynda is an experienced trainer and Living Smart facilitator with experience in educating students about sustainability through her role as tour guide for eco village Christie Walk. Her skills in developing action plans and engaging with staff and students stem from her past life in business management, and she takes great pride in helping others achieve results through learning.



Energy savings and education for your school