



PRACTITIONER PRESENTATION

Sustainable Schools WA - A Whole-school Planning Framework for Education for Sustainability

Howard Flinders, Department of Education

Abstract

Sustainable Schools WA (SS-WA) has been designed and developed 'by schools, for schools' in partnership with a range of government and non-government agencies, led by the Department of Education.

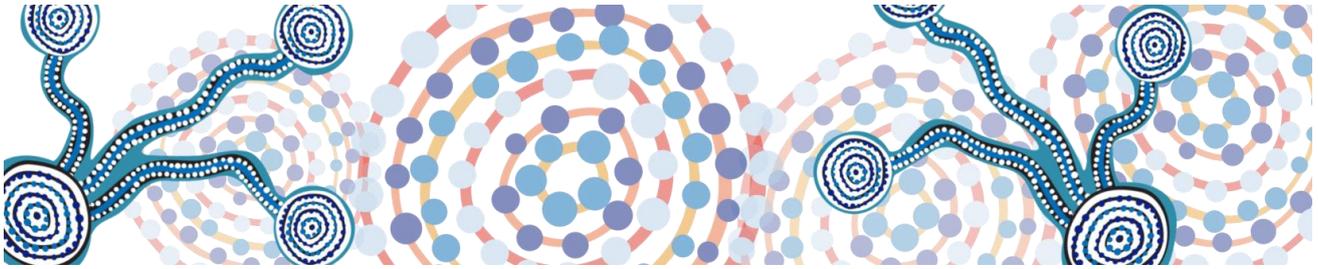
In response to clear and ever present challenges to a sustainable future, passionate educators continue to effect positive change through their transformative, action-based teaching and learning programs.

This framework aims to support those educators, showcase good practice, and encourage the develop of whole-school approaches to education for sustainability.

The mandated Western Australian Curriculum includes a sustainability cross-curriculum priority; SS-WA aligns fully with this priority, providing additional support for schools to deliver on this requirement as part of their teaching and learning programs.

SS-WA reflects an holistic, interconnected definition of sustainability and, as such, provides 'multiple entry points' for school community members to engage with, and take action for a more sustainable future.

Having multiple entry points, and specifically those relating to SS-WA's 'social handprint' concept, has facilitated broader connections to Department of Education strategies including its reconciliation action plan (in development), STEM and two-way science initiatives.



Acknowledgement

I acknowledge and respect the Wadjak Noongar people, the traditional custodians of the boodja (land) on which I work and live. I recognise their continuing connection to the boodja, bilya (rivers), ngamma (waterholes) and karda (hills) and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

Teachers, students, administrators and other school community members plus members of our SS-WA Alliance partnership group who have contributed to the ongoing development of this initiative.
The Department of Education

Speaker Profile

Howard Flinders has a background in primary education and taught for twelve years in primary schools in Western Australia and overseas.

Post-graduate studies in ecology and environmental science supported Howard to develop whole-school approaches to environmental education/science in the schools he worked in.

Howard took the opportunity to 'leave the classroom' to take on the role of (co) developing and rolling out Sustainable Schools WA (SS-WA) at the Department of Education, as part of the then national Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative. He continues to support SS-WA whilst also supporting the Department of Education to develop strategies and policies that will further support schools, and the Department more broadly, to embrace sustainability practices and processes.

Website links

