

What will you tell your grandchildren when they ask "what did you do to address climate change?"

Guiding our future generation towards sustainable practices in the local environment

SUSS
STUDENTS USING SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

Join SUSS in helping our children develop the means to make change for a sustainable future.

A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Current SUSS partners include Department of Environment and Climate Change National Parks Division, North East Waste Forum, Rous Water, Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Linnaeus Estate, Department Primary Industries & Dorrroughby Environmental Education Centre, Environmental Encouters, Ballina & Alstonville High Schools. Together they provided expertise, workshops, funding, in-kind support, displays, equipment, teaching resources, student training and more.

Also supported by:

National Parks Foundation from the Coles Community Grant program, Clarence Valley Council, Richmond Valley Council, Tweed Shire Council, Ballina Shire Council, Byron Shire Council, Kyogle Council, Lismore City Council, Bunnings, Country Energy, GeoLINK, Eco-options, EnviTE, Treemax, Richmond Waste, and Mullumbimby Hire.

Photo of SUSS 2008 participants



STUDENTS USING SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES FORUM

The SUSS supports high school students and teachers to develop practical strategies that can be incorporated into School Environmental Management Plans (SEMP) & implemented within their schools. This is achieved through an annual two day SUSS Forum and a post forum school support program.

■ **Students learning today, leading tomorrow as they address local and global environmental issues and impacts** - 200 students and teachers across the Northern Rivers region have participated in the two day SUSS Forum over the past two years.

■ **Empowering students and teachers to create an environmental vision and the commitment to take action in their own schools and lives.**

■ **The forum provides a stimulating, interactive and diverse learning environment.** Workshops include climate change; waste, water, energy and biodiversity auditing; management of organics; ecological footprinting; catchment management; sustainable transport; cultural heritage; and professional development for teachers.

■ **A partnership approach with organising and funding organisations.** SUSS brings together organisations in a partnership approach to sponsor, coordinate and implement the SUSS program.

■ **Ongoing assistance for schools.** The SUSS post-forum schools support and visiting program further assists schools in developing and implementing their environmental action plans.

Find out more about what SUSS has achieved in 2007 and 2008 at the Rous Water website www.rouswater.nsw.gov.au

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF THE SUSS FORUM

The SUSS program is dependant on in kind support from specific organisations. It also requires additional funding. Schools in the Northern Rivers region want to see SUSS continue in future years, but it needs ongoing support and financial resourcing for:

- coordination of future SUSS Forums
- support for teachers and students to attend the Forum
- funding for assisting schools in the post forum school support program
- enhancing the networks and communication channels established amongst the schools, partner, funding and sponsorship organisations
- developing the SUSS model for State and National implementation.

Contact the SUSS Steering Committee Coordinator at kate.adams@environment.nsw.gov.au or education@northeastwasteforum.org.au to find out more.

TEACHER PERSPECTIVES ON SUSS

Events like SUSS are crucial if we are to take our responsibilities as educators seriously. Many of our students are despairing about the state of the planet that they are going to inherit from us.

Our students need to know that they can be part of the solution to reducing our carbon emissions.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON SUSS

"We enjoyed SUSS as it was really mindblowing to see how much electricity and water could be saved by doing simple things around the house or school."

"Meeting people from other schools that were also passionate about the environment made the SUSS Forum great, as we got to see and hear their ideas on what they are doing, and also what they are thinking about doing around their school."

"We now have a lot more ideas that we will put into use on what we can do to our school to make it more energy, water and waste efficient."



A proven partnership program providing environmental education for sustainability for high school students.

