

SUSTAINABILITY



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SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PROCESS

A scaffold for investigating sustainability

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In the NSW Geography curriculum sustainability is a Cross Curriculum Priority and one of seven key Geographical concepts.

“Learning for sustainability seeks to enable and empower students to make decisions and take actions that contribute to creating a sustainable society and ecosystem”

Source: <https://www.sustainableschoolsnsw.org.au/teach/teaching-sustainability-cross-curriculum-priority>

Students benefit from the structured approach provided by the Sustainability Action Process, a scaffold for investigating real world sustainability issues and developing skills in authentic problem solving.

There are five steps in the **Sustainability Action Process** (SAP) designed to build student knowledge and understanding and develop skills needed to confidently propose and take action.

Step 1: Make a case for change

Step 2: Explore

Step 3: Plan

Step 4: Act

Step 5: Reflect and evaluate

SUSTAINABILITY

The Sustainability action process can be found on the following websites:

- the NSW Department of Education website under Learning across the curriculum – Sustainability <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sustainability/sustainability-action-process>
- the Sustainable Schools NSW website <https://www.sustainableschoolsnsw.org.au/teach/teaching-sustainability-cross-curriculum-priority>

There are resources for investigating sustainability issues for several geographical concepts and topics including Climate Change Preparedness, Biodiversity, Energy and Water.

SAP Example 1: Climate Change Preparedness (Geography Stage 5)

Climate change preparedness - sustainability action process
Secondary KLA: Human Society and its Environment
Educational levels: Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10
7 Views | 3 Downloads

[View the resource](#) [Download the resource \(text/html; charset=UTF-8\)](#)

This resource guides students through an extended school-based or local investigation focussed on climate change preparedness using the five step sustainability action process. Students develop and implement a chosen action for adaptation and resilience and then evaluate and reflect on their success and their learning.

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Source: <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/rap/resource/access/700e9ecf-86f1-4d25-90e0-6638684eb660/1>

SAP Example 2: Biodiversity

Examples of SPaRK (Shared Practice and Resource Kit) resources using the Sustainability Action Process for Geography and Science.

- **SPaRK – The Curious Garden** (Geography Stages 1, 3 and 4)
'How can we care for and improve our spaces and places?' using the picture book *The Curious Garden* <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/professional-learning/scan/past-issues/vol-37/spark-the-curious-garden>
- **SPaRK – NSW Ecosystems On Show** (Geography and Science Stages 2 and Stage 5 geography and science using the NSW ecosystems on show resource. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/professional-learning/scan/past-issues/vol-37/spark-nsw-ecosystems-on-show>

Impacts of climate change

Climate change will affect the natural, social and economic welfare of NSW. By better understanding the impacts of climate change on our environment, communities and lifestyles, we can prepare and adapt for the future. Changes in some types of natural hazards have already been observed. For example, there have been increases in the frequency and intensity of heat waves and in heavy precipitation.

New research on climate change impacts based on the [NARCIIM projections](#) is helping us to understand how our biophysical systems might change in the future. Access the information through the links below.

How climate change will impact NSW 2030-2070

Understanding and adapting to climate change impacts in New South Wales

Discover everything you need to know about climate change in NSW. Discover how. Explore where. Learn to adapt.

What can we expect NSW Climate projections

Show me changes in temperature

in region my local area state view

[See interactive climate change map](#)

- Biodiversity
- Bushfires
- East Coast Lows
- Floods and storms
- Heat
- Human health
- Coasts and sea level rise
- Soil
- Water resources
- 2010 NSW climate impact reporting

"The climate in NSW is changing and as a result communities and environments are at risk to the many impacts of climate change."

"Students will work through the steps in the sustainability action process to investigate the science of climate change, the risks facing their local community and local environment and take action to adapt and become more resilient to a changing climate."

The resource is a complete package that contains links to resources needed by students to complete their learning.

Source <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/climatechange-preparedness/home>

The following article by Gaye Braiding is a SPaRK (Shared Practice and Resource Kit) is based on the resource NSW ecosystems on show referred to above. Gaye shares teaching ideas for Stage 2 and Stage 5 Geography and Science and demonstrates the application of the Sustainability Action Process to an issue linked to biodiversity.