




Natural Resources Management Research Project Ideas


Natural resources management (NRM) is an approach that aims for the community, industry and three tiers of government to work together to manage the environment in a way that achieves a balance between the needs of people and those of nature.

Our vision is to create 'a healthy living landscape meeting the social, environmental, economic and cultural needs of the community, and ensuring the rights and wellbeing of future generations'.

Below is a list of business areas (themes and topic ideas) that Natural Resources SA works within. A few potential questions have been provided for many of the topic areas, but don't let these limit your imagination! The possibilities are endless. For further information about Natural Resources Management in South Australia please visit www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/home AND www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home

Theme	Topic Ideas	Potential Questions/Ideas
Land 	Sustainable Agriculture	The role sustainable agriculture can play now and into the future for rural communities.
	Urban Sprawl	How much green space do we need?
	Land Uses	How should we use our landscapes?
	Food Production	GM crops – opportunity or fear of the unknown?; How will technology shape the way we produce food into the future?
	Soil Health	
	Carbon Sequestration	
	Forestry	
	National Parks & Reserves	How do we get more people into National Parks?; Why have National Parks?
	Fire Management	Vegetation responses to fire – frequency and intensity the burning question; Indigenous fire management; Why controlled burns?
	Waste Audit	How much waste does my school generate and how can we reduce what goes to landfill?
Water 	River Murray	Effect from drought/climate change on the Basin
	Wetlands	
	International Agreements(e.g. RAMSAR)	
	Water Quality	How healthy is my local waterway?
	Stormwater Pollution	
	Water Allocation Planning	
	Desalination	
	Recycled Water	Would you drink it?; Pros and cons of stormwater harvesting
	Local Creeks & Rivers	What is special about them?; Why are they important?
	Water Sensitive Urban Design	
Water Audit	How much water does my school use and where can we improve?	
Coast and Marine 	Marine Parks	Why are marine parks so controversial?
	Recreational Activities	What effects do recreational activities have on our coast and marine environments?
	Sedimentation on Reefs	
	Marine Debris (litter)	Conduct a beach litter survey and find out where the litter could be coming from
	Seagrasses	What activities are significantly impacting seagrasses?; How do we replace seagrasses?
	Commercial Fishing	How do we make commercial fishing more sustainable?



	Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary	
	Marine Pests	What are our local marine pests and what impact do they have?
Plants and Animals 	Native Plants	Why are locally indigenous plants important?
	Native Animals	
	Pest Plants & Animals	
	Urban Biodiversity	How does our local biodiversity contribute to the global environment?
	Threatened Species & Ecological Communities	
	Animal Welfare	
	Domestic Pets & Native Wildlife	What effect do cats and dogs have on our native wildlife and how can we prevent this?
	Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary	Why create an international bird sanctuary?
	Revegetation	Can we recreate habitats in our schools and homes?
	Habitats	
	Biodiversity Audit	Do we have a biodiverse school?; How could we increase biodiversity at our school?
	Climate Change 	Adaptation & Mitigation
Energy Use		Consider the life cycle of a product; Conduct a school energy audit and suggest improvements
Transport		What modes of transport are the most sustainable?; What will travel look like in the future and how will it be done?
Conservation		How could a warming climate affect/impact on survival of species? (e.g. plants and animals)
Effects on Local Environment		What does Climate Change mean for me, for my local community and for my local environment?; How will life be different?
Energy Audit		How well do we conserve energy at school and where can we improve?
Air Quality		What do we breathe in?; Wood vs gas or electric heating?; Types of air pollution
Community 	Environmental Awareness Raising	How can I get my message out there and get people on board?
	Youth & Volunteering	How can we get more young people volunteering?
	Indigenous Links and Connections to Country	What is the importance of cultural heritage in natural resources management?; How do the historical practices of Aboriginal people managing the land apply to what we do today?
	Attitudinal Survey	What does my school community think about sustainability issues?
	Future Visioning	What do I want my future to look like and how can I make that happen?
	Exploring a Culture of Sustainability	What would building a culture of sustainability look like for my school?

For more information and support in exploring the above topics, please contact your local NRM Education Officer:

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Natural Resources
Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges



Government
of South Australia