**SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

**Progress Update - September 2015**

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a new sustainable schools program

So-Eco for Schools and United Energy realise their shared values across educating for sustainability and building strong community relations.

A joint initiative, the Sustainable Schools Program helps local schools effectively embed sustainability and raises awareness about energy efficiency and safety around power lines.

The Program delivers through Sustainability Victoria’s ResourceSmart Schools, a statewide initiative which focuses on school operations, teaching and whole school community engagement.

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partnering a passionate school

As a local primary school just a few hundred metres from United Energy’s offices, Pinewood PS are invited to sign up to the Program.

Principal Karen Jenkin is keen to embrace the program and is confident that with the support of United Energy and So-Eco for Schools, the school will become a great role model of sustainability within the community.

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progress snapshots

- We've kick started the Program! - Assembly Launch at Pinewood PS on 1st September
- Letting the community know - Media Release announcing Program Launch
- Forging stronger community relations - photo shoot with Anna Burke, MP and Waverley Progress Leader at the Launch
- We've started working together – kick off meeting between United Energy, So-Eco & Pinewood Primary School on 10th August
- Establishing the MOU – what it means for each of us
- Registering Pinewood PS on ResourceSmart
- Detailed planning underway - So-Eco and Pinewood PS Sustainability Coordinator developing detailed Action Plan

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Sustainable Schools Program launch

The So-Eco for Schools & United Energy Sustainable Schools Program launch was celebrated at Pinewood Primary School with a Green Dress and Crazy Hair Day on 1st September.

So-Eco and United Energy joined students, parents, teachers and Federal MP for Chisholm, Anna Burke at the Celebratory Assembly to mark the launch alongside Science Week.

Pinewood Primary School is set to become the first school reaching for the Stars under the new Sustainable Schools Program.

Joining over 1,000 schools currently on Sustainability Victoria ResourceSmart Schools, Pinewood Primary will be working through their Core and Energy Modules to achieve their first star of the 5Star program which encourages school communities to work together to save energy & water, reduce waste and promote biodiversity.

Year 6 Environment Captain Marcus said, “This is a great idea because schools burn up energy like there’s no tomorrow! It is very important to incorporate energy saving with Education.”

Co Environment Captain, Neha said, “I think this organisation is great because it is teaching our school to become more eco-friendly. We need to be aware of how much energy we consume and try to make our environment better for everyone.”