



Eco-Schools

Ellie-Mai decided that her bustling secondary school could and should be doing more to help the environment. Rather than waiting for a teacher to take the initiative, she decided to gather her own Eco-Committee and begin working towards a Green Flag award... Read on to discover how you (like Ellie-Mai) could help your school work towards a Green Flag award.

Step 1: Eco-Committee

To begin your Eco-School journey, the first thing you will need to do is form an Eco-Committee. An Eco-Committee should consist of pupils who want to make a positive change in your school – it should have representatives from each year group in your school and staff representation. Ellie-Mai began by recruiting her four closest friends, before branching out to other year groups. When she had enough pupils, she approached an appropriate member of staff to join (adults can be useful for signing things and completing online forms). She then called her Eco-Committee The Environmental Health Team.

Step 2: Environmental Review

Ellie-Mai didn't wait for a staff member to complete the school's Environmental Review; she took the lead in completing it herself alongside The Environmental Health Team she had formed. The Eco-Schools Environmental Review is designed to be completed by pupils, so head over to the Eco-Schools website to download and complete yours – you may have to ask your adult team member to print it for you.

Step 3: Action Plan

Ellie-Mai and The Environmental Health Team decided what they wanted to do in their school before talking to their teacher recruit about how they were going to implement their actions. Ellie-Mai decided that she wanted footsteps leading to bins, improvements made to the bike shed and her most ambitious project was collecting plastics bottles that could be turned into school ties. While the ideas came from Ellie and her team, they consulted the staff recruit for help in implementing them in her school.

Step 4: Curriculum Links

As a student, Ellie doesn't decide what lessons teachers are going to teach, so her and her team had to think of a solution to find the curriculum links needed for a Green Flag award. They began by targeting the GCSE biology and geography teachers (as their subjects link well to environmental issues). With the support of these teachers, they decided to host an Eco-Week in their school that encouraged each teacher to plan lessons around an environmental theme for a week. By the end of the week her team had more than enough evidence for their Green Flag award.

Step 5: Informing and Involving

Once Ellie had decided to form an Eco-Committee and had recruited her closest friends, they made their whole school aware that they wanted to become an Eco-School in an assembly. This allowed them to recruit further members from each year group. Since their initial assembly, her Environmental Health Team has held regular assemblies and wrote school newspaper articles to keep the school up-to-date on the progress of their Green Flag application.

Step 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

As well as regular monitoring of the actions Ellie-Mai's Environmental Health Team decided on, she thinks the best way to show that her campaign has been a success is by achieving the international Eco-Schools Green Flag award and joining the other 19.5 million students around the world that attend Green Flag schools.

Step 7: Eco-Code

**Ellie-Mai says:
Kids can lead change, what do you say?**

