



**Helen is a conservationist; her goal is to prevent reductions in biodiversity. Helen strives to protect all forms of life (plants, insects and animals) and teach those around her about conservationism. Below are Helen's tips for how you and other members of your school can become young conservationists... Read on to help save a species.**

**Step 1: Conservationists**

**Helen says that conservationism is for anyone who cares about the environment. She recommends beginning by recruiting the Eco-Committee. Once you have your Eco-Committee on board, work together to recruit more conservationists throughout your school.**

**Step 2: Reviewing Conservationism in Your Local Area**

**Helen recommends focusing on conservation projects that can be completed in your local area. Search for such projects on the internet or by contacting local wildlife groups or environmental charities. Once you have decided on a conservation project, complete an initial survey. For example, if you decided to focus on the recent decline in bee numbers you could begin by counting the number of bees seen in specific areas within your school grounds.**

**Step 3: Conservation Plan**

**Begin your journey to becoming a conservationist by identifying what species of animal or insect you want to conserve. Helen recommends contacting local wildlife charities or groups to help identify a project that could be a success in your area. A frustration for Helen and many other conservationists is the prioritisation of cuter or 'Flagship Species'. She recommends a focus on the species that are most at risk regardless of their aesthetics or profile. If you have contacted local wildlife charities or groups (or the Eco-Schools team) they will also be able to advise you on the actions needed to run a successful conservation project.**

**Alongside running your conservation project, Helen also thinks it is vital to educate the rest of your school on the purpose of your project. This will encourage involvement in conservationism. Finally, try to emphasise that the easiest way to be a successful conservationist is by making small changes that you can integrate into your daily lives.**

**Step 4: Conservation Nation in the Curriculum**

**Conservationism can link to many areas of the science or geography curriculums in primary and secondary schools, especially when you are studying habitats, climate change or biodiversity.**

**Step 5: Informing and Involving**

**Helen recommends using your school's social media accounts and website to spread the conservation message. She is also an advocate of one a more traditional method of informing people: through the production and distribution of leaflets. Obviously, she says a more sustainable method is to e-mail these leaflets rather than printing them. Whatever method you decide to use in order to spread awareness and increase involvement, emphasise the fun element of conservationism: it's being outside with your friends making a difference and shouldn't be seen as a chore.**

**Step 7: Conservationist Code**

**Helen says: we are the conservation generation, what do you say?**

**Step 6: Conservation Comparison**

**If you have chosen a specific conservation project, the easiest way to monitor whether it was a success is to complete a second survey. For example, if you monitored the number of bees in your school grounds before the project then monitor the number of bees again under the same conditions at the end of the project to see if your actions have had an impact. If you want to monitor the progress of your species on a larger scale, there are also many national and international monitoring websites – there is even one for lichen!**

