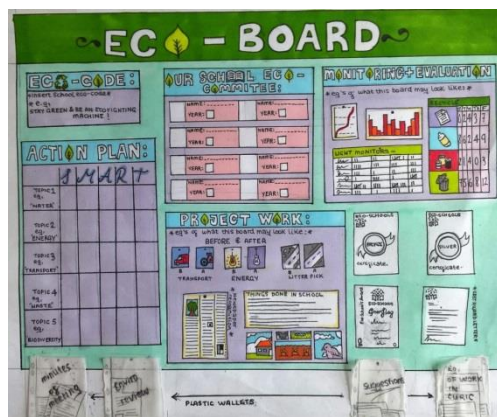




Eco-Schools Guide to Informing and Involving.

Here is the evidence that is needed for Step Five: Informing and Involving:

- The first thing you will need is an up-to-date Eco-Board. You can find our example on the Eco-Schools website:



- If you have involved the whole school in one of the actions in your Action Plan take photographs and display these on your Eco-Board.
- Curriculum evidence from a variety of year groups shows your whole school is involved.
- During your assessment visit, the assessor may ask other students not on the Eco-Committee about Eco-Schools project work or whether they are aware of your school's Eco-Code.



Guide to Informing and Involving your local community.

At Eco-Schools we encourage Eco-Committees to involve their local community in their environmental work including: parents and carers, local residents and local businesses. Since the Eco-Schools programme began in England, we have seen Eco-Committees successfully involve their communities in a variety of ways. If you are looking for some inspiration on how to involve your wider community here are some tips:

- Ask your Eco-Committee to present at school open evenings. Parents of potential Eco-Committee members will be delighted to hear a conscientious group of students talk about their efforts to care for the planet.
- Ask local businesses for help fundraising, this will help you raise funds to deliver your Action Plan as well as spreading awareness of your Eco-Message.
- As well as offering financial support, often local businesses can offer their skills, expertise or products as support.
- Adopt a green space outside the school grounds that your school could maintain and keep litter free for the benefit of your local community.
- If you know another local school that has achieved a Green Flag or would like to, you could collaborate with them to complete a local action. You could even help younger primary school pupils with their Eco-Schools work.
- Informing local press such as newspapers or radio stations can help gather support and tell your community about your Eco-Committees work.
- When you achieve your Green Flag award, display it proudly – this will let everyone know that your student body is passionate about the world we live in.



Guide to Informing and Involving parents or guardians.

One of the best things about the Eco-Schools programme is it can spread your school's ecological message beyond the student body. Part of this is trying to get parents or carers involved to maximise the impact of your eco-work. Parent and guardian involvement can also be a benefit to you - often they can volunteer time and skills to aid you in your eco-work. If you have your own ideas for involving parents, please use them and let us know about them. If not, here are some tips to get you started:

- Tell parents/carers about Eco-Schools at the start of your participation and ask them if they want to get involved. If any parents or carers are very eager, they can join you on your school's Eco-Committee.
- Invite parents to share ideas about what they think you could achieve on the Eco-Committee.
- Update parents using school newsletters and social media.
- Plan environmental actions that are easy for parents to be involved with, for example if you decide to keep chickens: sell the eggs to parents.
- Encourage students to apply what they learn, through participation in the Eco-Schools programme, at home.
- Organise community events such as litter picks.
- Host an Eco-Stall at school fairs or regularly throughout the year (you could sell eco-products or produce your school has grown).
- If you need help with one of your actions ask parents they might have knowledge or skills that you can benefit from.