



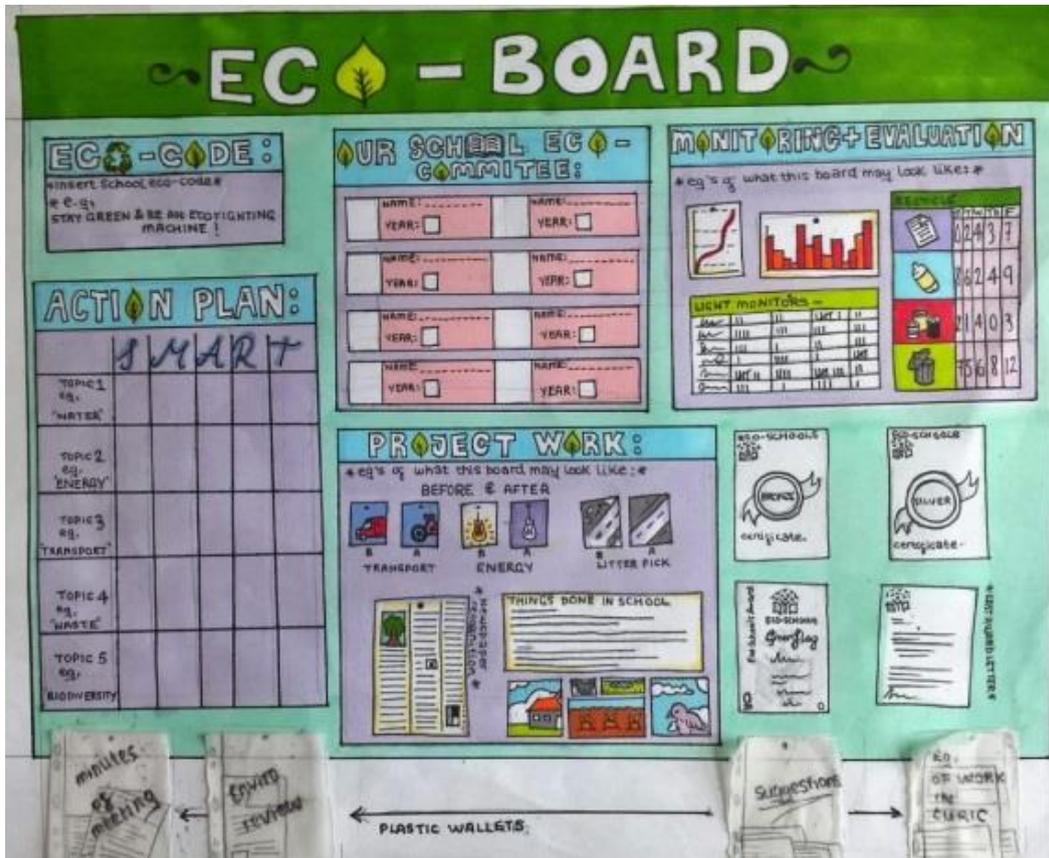
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# Eco-Schools Guide to Informing and Involving The Eco-Board



The Eco-Board is an essential part of your Eco-Schools work. The board acts as blue print for your eco-actions and a reminder that being an Eco-Schools is about a whole school approach. The Eco-Board can be designed and created by the Eco-Committee and it should be updated throughout the Eco-Schools process. Above is our Green Standard Eco-Board template which can also be found on our website by clicking anywhere the Eco-Board is mentioned. One of the main pieces of evidence the Eco-Schools team looks at when desk-assessing your Green Flag application, is the photo of your Eco-Board you are asked to upload – so try to upload a clear picture that clearly demonstrates you are meeting the Eco-Schools criteria.





The Eco-Board should contain the following information:

- The Eco-Committee including names, year groups and (if possible pictures).
- Meeting Minutes from Eco-Committee meetings.
- A copy of your completed Eco-Schools Environmental Review.
- A copy of the Eco-Schools Action Plan the Eco-Committee have decide on.
- Evidence of the environmental actions worked on in your schools Action Plan.
- Examples of curriculum work linking to environmental issues.
- Evidence that you have monitored the success of your Action Plan. One example of Monitoring and Evaluation should link to The National Curriculum (graphs, charts, pictograms etc).
- Previous Eco-School award certificates (Bronze, Silver and former Green Flags).
- Your Eco-Code that has been drawn up by pupils.

## Guide to Informing and Involving parents/carers.

One of the best things about the Eco-Schools programme is it encourages involvement from the wider school community. We have seen many examples of involvement from parents/carers in the past; some have even introduced the Eco-Schools programme to their child's school. If you have your own ideas for involving parents/carers, please let us know. If you need some inspiration, here are some of our top tips to get you started:

- Tell parents/carers about your participation in Eco-Schools at the start of your journey or academic year and ask them if they want to get involved. If any parents or carers are eager to be involved they can join your school's Eco-Committee. In your pre-step resource pack (available when you login to your Eco-Schools account) you can find a letter template to inform parents.
- Invite parents to Eco-Schools assemblies (especially if the Eco-Committee is delivering them).
- Give regular updates to parents via newsletters and social media.
- Plan environmental actions that are easy for parents to be involved with such as a walk to school week or allotment day.
- Your Eco-Committee could make their own 'Home Environmental Review' to see whose home is the most green. National campaigns like Switch Off Fortnight also have great resources to continue environmental education at home.
- Encourage children to take what they learn about being environmentally friendly and apply it at home. The Eco-Committee could even make a guide for parents, such as how to lower energy and water use.





- Organise community events such as litter-picks or adoption of communal land.
- Host an Eco-Stall at school fairs, you could sell eco-products or produce your school has grown – this will also help you raise funds for other environmental actions.
- At sports days have an Eco-Committee booth designed to keep all safe through providing healthy refreshments and sun cream.
- Ask for parents or grandparents' help; they might have knowledge or skills that your Eco-Committee can benefit from.

## Guide to Informing and Involving your local community.

At Eco-Schools we encourage schools to involve their local community in their environmental work this includes: other nearby schools, local residents and businesses. Since the Eco-Schools programme began in England, we have seen schools 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 of our 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 children 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-Code.
- As well as offering financial support, often local businesses can offer their skills, expertise or products as support.
- You could adopt a green space outside the school grounds that your school could maintain and keep litter-free for the benefit of your community.
- If you know another local school that has achieved a Green Flag or would like to, you could collaborate with them to complete one of your actions.
- Informing local press such as newspapers or radio stations can help gather support and tell your community about your Eco-Committee's work.
- When you achieve your Green Flag award, display it proudly – this will let everyone know that your school cares about protecting the world we live in. Remember your school is now part of the largest educational programme on the planet!





- Get in touch with your local council or water authority – they often have projects you can participate in or free resources available to schools.
- Link up with your local Friends of groups. The volunteers who look after parks would be delighted to have so many helpers – it also helps young people appreciate their local area.
- Enter local and national competitions – The Young Gardener of the Year is an Eco-Schools student and we have seen plenty of local gardening competitions won by Eco-Schools.

