



Informing and Involving

'Step by step' guidance



To maximise the impact of your Eco-Schools work it is important to Inform and Involve as many people as possible including: all children in your school/nursery, other members of staff (including leadership), parents, local businesses etc. Whilst this might seem like a challenge, done correctly, Step 5 is one of the most rewarding stages of your journey to Eco-Schools Green Flag. This guidance is not mandatory, instead it is designed to give practical advice (taken from Eco-Committees throughout England) to help your school or nursery strengthen the impact of your Eco-Schools work throughout the Seven Step framework.





Step 1: Eco-Committee

1. Choose the right children for your Eco-Committee, it's an important role that can help with their development and boost self-esteem. Some schools and nurseries opt to choose children who show the most interest in eco-issues, whilst others choose the children who need a confidence boost: it's up to you to decide how you want to use the Eco-Schools programme to enrich your learning.
2. Next choose the right adults, just because you're the Eco-Coordinator it does not mean you have to do everything yourself! Invite your site manager, school chef, governors and leadership team – they do not have to attend every meeting but can be very useful to have on board, especially if you decide to work on any food or school grounds related actions!
3. Invite parents to join your Eco-Committee, it's a great way to get them involved in their children's learning and you may benefit from their skills, contacts and enthusiasm.
4. When you have a complete Eco-Committee, introduce them to your school or nursery – let everyone know who is responsible for all things eco, this is a great way to make children on your Eco-Committee feel special.
5. Finally, display your Eco-Committee on your Eco-Board in a prominent position. If possible include pictures, names and ages (you don't have to put adult ages on your board!). This will let everyone know who is on your Eco-Committee and help you glide through the application process when it comes to applying for your Green Flag award.





Step 2: Environmental Review



1. When your Eco-Committee has completed your Environmental Review, their first task is to tell all their friends what they have discovered. With adult support, you should encourage members of the Eco-Committee to formally present or informally explain their findings to their room or class.
2. When everyone in your school or nursery knows what you found out, you should consider sharing findings with your wider community using your schools or nurseries e-newsletter or social media accounts.
3. Finally, attach to your Eco-Board, so anyone can read it.



Step 3: Action Plan



1. Most importantly, any actions in your Action Plan should aim to involve and benefit as many children from your school or nursery as possible.
2. When you have decided on your topic actions think about others you could involve:
 - Parents and family
 - Neighbouring schools and nurseries





- If possible other nurseries across the country who are part of your organisation.
- Local businesses
- Community groups
- Residential homes
- Your local authority

For example if you're working on our Litter topic why not arrange a litter pick in your local park and invite parents and family members along or if you're working on our Marine Topic to try and reduce your use of single-use plastics. Visit local cafes and restaurants to explain what you are doing and encourage them to try to reduce their use too.

3. Expand your Eco-Schools actions to children's homes by informing parents through social media and e-newsletters explaining why you're doing the actions and tips for how they can help at home.
4. If you complete an amazing, innovative and effective action you want to share let us know: @EcoSchools or ecoschools_england
5. Display your Action Plan on your Eco-Board so everyone can see your amazing plans and how they could help.

Step 4: Curriculum Links

1. Try to include environmental issues throughout your curriculum, this will provide contextual learning opportunities that enrich your curriculum.





2. Consider hosting an Eco-Day or Week where all learning is focused on one of the topics you are working on– this is a great way to make sure all children and staff are involved in the Eco-Schools programme.
3. Set Eco-Schools topic homework that parents can help with such as growing a sunflower, or turning one electrical item off standby, perfect for involving children and parents in Eco-Schools work.
4. Organise environmental educational visits to bring eco-learning to life for all children. RSPB nature reserves are a fantastic day out, go see wind turbines in action or often waste services and water authorities will offer free visits to their recycling centres.
5. Find good examples of environmental work and showcase them in e-newsletters, via social media and of course on your Eco-Board.



Step 5: Informing and Involving



1. The Eco-Board is an important part of every Eco-School, it tells everyone about the work you're doing and should be kept up-to-date using our Green Flag templates online. It is also an essential part of the Green Flag application process, you will be asked to send us a photo!
2. Tell parents and carers about Eco-Schools. Keep them updated on your progress making sure to invite them to any actions they can participate in.
3. Use a variety of mediums to tell everyone about your Eco-Schools work including your nursery website, E-newsletters and social media accounts.
4. Inform your local newspaper about any exciting actions you have planned.





5. Involve your local community in your Eco-Schools work including nearby schools, residents, businesses or across your group of nurseries if you are part of a bigger organisation.



Step 6: Monitoring and Evaluation



1. Show off your successes! Brag about your achievements on social media and via your e-newsletter.
2. Similarly, celebrate your failures, saving the world can be difficult – even if you didn't succeed, you tried and that is something to be proud of! You never know – help might be offered that allows you to succeed next time.
3. Share with us @EcoSchools this is the step most Eco-Committees find most difficult, if you have a great example that could help others let us know!
4. Host an award ceremony for your Eco-Committee and anyone else involved in your Eco-Schools work, invite parents and make your Eco-Committee and their friends feel special for what they have achieved.
5. Display your Monitoring and Evaluation on your Eco-Board – encourage visitors to ask your Eco-Committee what your data means.



Step 7: Eco-Code

1. Create a simple Eco-Code that young children can engage with learn – you may want to add the words to a nursery rhyme they know to help them remember.
2. Include your Eco-Code in an e-newsletter and share it on social media, some schools and nurseries even decide to perform their Eco-Code for parents or make a video of their Eco-Code.
3. Finally, print your completed Eco-Code and display it around your school or nursery, including in a prominent position on your Eco-Board.

