

Eco-Schools

- A Seven Step Programme



What is Eco-Schools?

- An international programme that recognizes and rewards schools for engaging students in taking positive action for the environment.



Eco-Schools International



Involved in 2010/11

- Students > 11m
- Teachers > 600000
- Schools > 37900
- Awarded > 12900
- Local Govt > 4000
- Countries: > 50

What is Eco-Schools?



➤ Children take the lead to investigate and improve use of resources on campus; at home; in their communities.

➤ Eco-Schools (Bahamas) topics:

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Energy
- Healthy Living
- Litter
- School Grounds
- Waste
- Water



STEP 1 - Establish an Eco-School Committee

- To organize and direct Eco-school activities
- Consists of the stakeholders of the school environment:
 - Students
 - Administrator
 - Teacher
 - Custodial staff
 - Parent
 - Local community member



Q: Who's on your eco-committee?

STEP 2 – Conduct an Environmental Review

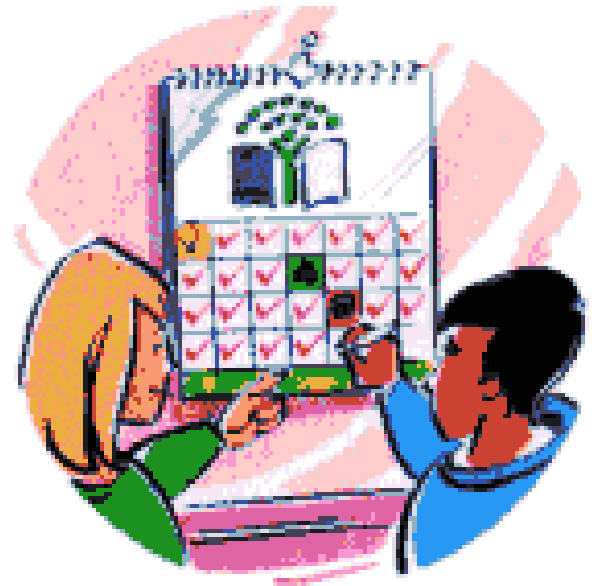
- Supervised by the eco-committee.
- Two Parts
 1. Students use checklists to assess the environment and record their findings.
 2. Observe and describe the general state of the school environment in key areas.



Q: Where are your problem areas?

STEP 3 – Create an Action Plan

- Evaluate your environmental review
- Identify priority areas
- Create a plan to resolve or improve the problem(s)
 - Set SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound)
 - Be sure to include a plan to keep the campus litter-free



Q: Are your goals SMART? Does everyone understand the plan?

STEP 4 - Monitor and Evaluate Your Progress

Hold regular meetings

- To assign duties
- To report on your progress.
- To record your progress.
- To make changes as necessary.
- To plan events to inform and engage the whole school; to celebrate achievements
- To ensure that you meet your goals.



Q: Who keeps minutes of your meetings? What other ways will you document your activities/progress?

STEP 5 – Make Curriculum Connections

- Look for curriculum links to Eco-School topics
- Use relevant Eco-schools data and activities to enhance classroom instruction



Q: Which topics are already taught as part of your school's curriculum? In which content areas? How might each topic be linked to a different content area?

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Litter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Living | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |

STEP 6 - Inform and Involve: The Whole School; The Community

- Involve the whole school in practical activities
 - e.g. saving water, recycling cans, preventing litter, planting native trees
- Invite the community to participate.
- Keep everyone informed:
 - **A school notice board**
 - Classroom displays
 - At school assemblies
 - Parent Newsletters
 - PTA meetings
 - School website
 - Local newspapers/social media

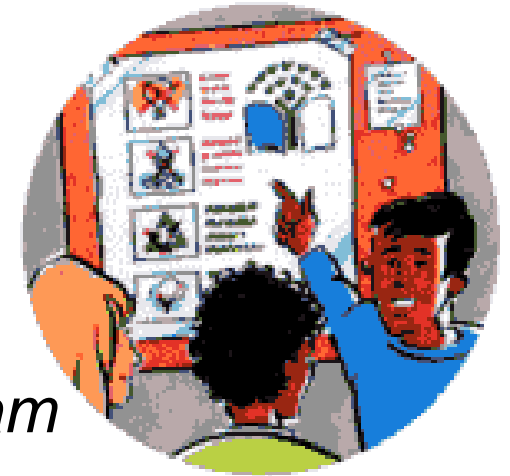


Q: What's the quickest way to get the word out in your school and community?



STEP 7 – Create Your Eco-code

- A motto, image or jingle outlining your values; goals; what the students are striving to achieve.



We can be green if we work as a team
- DCMS

We're first class, we recycle our trash.
Not to boast, but we compost
- FHA

'How does the programme work?'

Let's Review



Apply for Your Green Flag Award

- Achieve at least 2/3 of your goals.
- Campus must be mainly litter free.
- Activities must be student led.
- Complete the application for assessment.



Deep Creek Middle School, 2010
First recipient of Green Flag Award
In The Bahamas

YES, We Can Make a DIFFERENCE!!!



www.breef.org/web



TAKE ACTION



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