

Session 4



CONNECTING
CLASSROOMS



ZERO WASTE

Tackling climate change

In this session you will:

- *explore what you can do to address poor waste management in their community
- *familiarise yourself with the first three steps of Eco-Schools' Seven Steps
- *decide in groups which of the ten themes of Eco-Schools they would like to address

Lets watch this video about the work of Eco-Schools Global, a worldwide organisation that creates local action organised by students.



Now lets look at the different case studies on the Litter Less Campaign. There are many on the site, and each is only a few brief sentences, some of the more interesting ones are listed below:

- Lebone Ii College Of The Royal Bafokeng South Africa
- Ostrava Elementary School, Nádražní Czech Republic
 - Second Primary School Of Geroskipou Cyprus
 - Ebbw Fawr Community Learning School Wales.




What were the first three steps in the video?

What were the key messages that you heard from the video?

How did the case studies relate to the first three steps of the video?

Out of the case studies, which approaches do you think would work well?

What do you think about these approaches?
Benefits? Hesitations? Opportunities?

The seven steps... 

Today, we will focus on the first three.

Step 1: Form an eco committee

Step 2: Carry out an environmental review

Step 3: Action plan

You will need to work in groups of four or five.

How does waste affect your community?

The first task is deciding which aspect of the problem to address.

Each group will vote for which aspect of waste management they would like to address with their mini-project.

Step 1

Question

Step 1: Form an eco committee

The Eco-Schools committee is the driving force behind the Eco-Schools process and will represent the ideas of the whole school.

It is student-led.

The eco committee ensures that the entire school knows about Eco-Schools and will receive regular updates.

Composition can be: students/teachers/the principal/non-teaching staff (e.g. secretary, caretaker, cleaner)/parents/members of the board of management/interested and relevant members of the wider community.

The eco committee meets regularly to discuss environmental actions for the school.

Some questions to consider

Who might sit on your committee?

How might you get community members to take part?

How will you collate the views and issues of the different groups to help start your thinking?

How will you inform people of your purpose, why, how and what you are aiming to do?

Read how a school achieved this:

[Mini-case study 1](#)

[Mini-case study 2](#)

Step 2

Step 2: Carry out an environmental review

Carrying out an environmental review helps the school to identify its current environmental impact and highlights the good, the bad and the ugly.

The aim is to investigate the environmental issues in your school or community.

All ten main themes should be reviewed annually (the school is free to choose other areas of environmental concern that are more relevant to its needs and to devise appropriate checklists accordingly).

Make sure that the wider school community works as closely as possible with the eco committee to carry out the review. It is essential that as many pupils as possible participate in this process.

The results of your environmental review will inform your action plan.

Some questions to consider

Which of the ten Eco-Schools themes are most relevant to you?

How will you engage the eco committee to carry out the review?

What will be looked at?

How will this be recorded?

How will you involve as many people as possible?

Read how a school achieved this:

[Mini-case study 3](#)

[Mini-case study 4](#)

Step 3

Step 3: Action plan

The action plan is the core of your Eco-Schools work and should be developed using the results of your environmental review.

Use the environmental review to identify the priority areas in your school. To keep it manageable we suggest focusing on no more than three themes at a time.

Create an action plan to resolve those problems or improve the situation. It should include: the necessary tasks, the people responsible, and time frame for actions in order to achieve your goals or targets.

Make your action plan SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely).

As with every aspect of the Eco-Schools process, pupils should be involved as much as possible in the drawing up of the action plan.

Some points to consider

Looking at the results of the environmental review, what were the top three issues that people were concerned about?

Pupils can ask an adult to help them plan a SMART action plan (a template can be found below).

Read how a school achieved this:

[Mini-case study 5](#)

[Mini-case study 6](#)

These actions will need to be SMART

	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Realistic	Time - bound
Prompt	What is the exact issue and how is it affecting people negatively? What are you aiming to do?	What will be measured? How will you create a baseline? How will you know that it is being achieved? How will you know when it has been completed? How will you know it is effective? What will you notice?	How many people are needed? How much time will it take? How will you divide the tasks among your team members?	What is the budget? How will you get the money? What resources will you need?	When will this be achieved by? How will you document your work? Who will you share the outcomes with? How will you share the outcomes?
Example	Reduce the amount of plastic bags and bottles that are littering our community by 50 per cent and use to make eco bricks to build growing beds.	Currently, there is roughly one bottle and ten plastic bags for every square metre along the roadside. Success is indicated by roadsides clear of bottles and plastic. Bins will be used for this waste instead.	Each class of children will cover ten metres of the areas outside of the school once per week. Bins will be erected at each corner and emptied by the eco committee and contents monitored. Bottles stuffed by volunteers from the community.	Not a lot required. Need to speak to eco committee about. Sponsor a bin campaign? Make a bin? Training children to show community members how to make eco bricks.	Outside areas cleaned in seven weeks time. Bins installed within three months. Local Recycling Manger collects once per month.
Your group's ideas					