

# Eco-Schools Environmental Review



# How to do an Environmental Review

The Environmental Review is a tool to help you think about the things you see every day at school a little bit differently.

Answering these questions will help you write your Action Plan.

There are many different ways to do your Environmental Review. Each class might like to take a topic to work on, or you might do the Review together as an Eco-Committee.

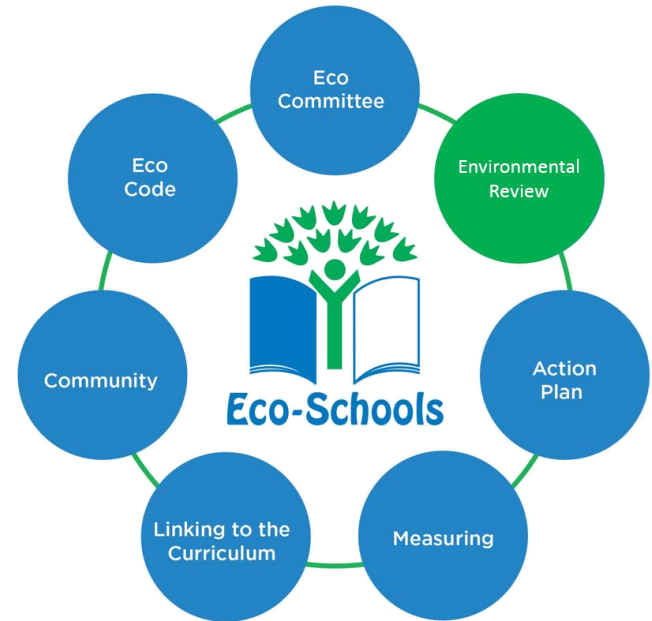
As you answer the questions, think about what you're doing well, and what you might like to change.

There are no wrong answers.

You might need to ask others in your school for help, maybe your catering staff, headteacher or janitor.

You can print your Environmental Review, or fill it out on a screen. You can divide the topics between groups of pupils, or fill it out together. Whatever works best for you. Use the next page to make notes for your Action Plan.

Carry out your Environmental Review at the start of each Green Flag Journey



# Ideas to help make our Action Plan

Things we are happy with:

Things we need to take action on:

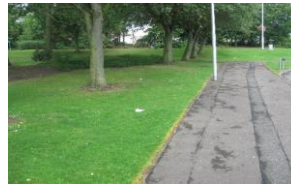


# Litter and Waste

**A** Litter Free



**B** Mainly litter free except for small items



**C** Litter is clearly visible but not widespread



**D** Litter is both clearly visible and widespread



1. How tidy do you think your school is? Circle your choice.

2. What kinds of litter do you find most often? (e.g. cans, crisp packets)

3. Have you done a [Clean Up](#) in the last year? If yes, do you know how much litter you collected?

Yes No

4. Have you adopted a local park, beach, waterway or other public space to keep clean?

Yes No

5. Are there enough bins at school?

Yes No

6. What types of materials are recycled at your school? Do you know how much is recycled?

Paper      Glass      Tins      Plastics      Clothing      Batteries      Printer Cartridges      Other

7. Does your school buy supplies made from recycled materials? (e.g. Paper towels, paper, uniforms, etc).

Yes No

8. Have you done a waste audit at your school?

(A waste audit looks at the kind of things that end up in the bin and where they come from).

Yes No



# Climate Action

1. Is the Climate Emergency part of your school improvement plan?	Yes	No
2. Have you calculated your school's carbon footprint? ( <a href="#">Guidance notes available here</a> )	Yes	No
3. Food waste is a major source of greenhouse gases in school. Do you reduce food waste in school?	Yes	No
4. Transport is a major source of greenhouse gases in school. Does your school encourage pupils to use active travel to get to school on most days?	Yes	No
5. Energy use is a major source of greenhouse gases in school. Is your school reducing emissions from energy use?	Yes	No
6. Consumption is a major source of greenhouse gases in school. Does your school reduce consumption of things like stationery, furniture, art supplies, paper towels?	Yes	No
7. Climate change is impacting our wildlife. Does your school have areas left wild for plants and wildlife to thrive?	Yes	No
8. Does your school protect <a href="#">Carbon sinks</a> ? (e.g. by using only peat free compost and forest friendly products).	Yes	No
9. Does your school support organisations that take action on climate change? (e.g. protecting wildlife, forests or peatlands).	Yes	No
10. Do you ask people in positions of power to take climate action? (e.g. local authority, Scottish Government, community council).	Yes	No



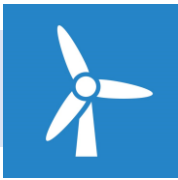
# School Grounds

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Termly	Other
1. How often do lessons happen outside the classroom?					
2. Have you investigated what is in your school grounds and how you use them? (e.g. through surveys, measuring or mapping)				Yes	No
3. Are there things for climbing, balancing, jumping or swinging on in your school grounds?				Yes	No
4. Are there quiet, shaded and sheltered areas outside to sit and talk?				Yes	No
5. Do your school grounds have spaces which can be used for different activities?				Yes	No
6. Do your school grounds have spaces left wild as habitat for plants and wildlife?				Yes	No
7. Do you or your class have your own place in the school grounds to grow plants in?				Yes	No
8. Do pupils help to make decisions about the design and use of your school grounds?				Yes	No
9. Do you work with other groups to develop your school grounds? (e.g. <a href="#">It's Your Neighbourhood</a> , Grounds for Learning, Local Authority, etc)				Yes	No



# Biodiversity

1. What plants and animals do you look after at your school?												
2. Do classes go outside your school grounds to explore nearby habitats? (e.g. gardens, parks, beaches, etc)											Yes	No
3. Have you done a survey of your school grounds to look for places which encourage biodiversity?											Yes	No
4. Have you grown plants to encourage wildlife like bees and butterflies to visit your school grounds?											Yes	No
5. Can you regularly observe and/or experience nature and wildlife in different ways?											Yes	No
6. Do you measure the types and numbers of wildlife in different habitats around your school?											Yes	No
7. What are the most frequent wildlife visitors to your school grounds?												
8. Which citizen science campaigns does your school take part in?												
RSPB Birdwatch	Bee Watch	Butterfly Count	What's Under Your Feet?	OPAL Biodiversity Surveys	MCS Marine Life Surveys	FIDRA Nurdle Hunt	Buglife Scotland	Plantlife Scotland	Other			
9. Are herbicides and pesticides used in your school grounds?											Yes	No
10. Have you built homes for wildlife? (e.g. a pond, bird boxes, bat boxes or bug hotels)											Yes	No



# Energy

1. Does your school use any sources of renewable energy?	Yes	No
2. Is the hot water supply properly managed? (e.g. no dripping taps, well-insulated piping, comfortably hot to use, etc.)	Yes	No
3. Are windows and doors properly insulated and draught-free with automatic closers on external doors?	Yes	No
4. Are curtains and blinds well-fitting and closed at night?	Yes	No
5. Is the heating temperature controlled within your school?	Yes	No
6. Is all electrical equipment switched off at the wall when not in use? This can include projectors, computers, monitors, smart boards, televisions, photocopiers.	Yes	No
7. Are electronic energy monitors or <a href="#">smart meters</a> fitted anywhere around your school?	Yes	No
8. Do you know how many kWh of energy has your school used in the past 6 months? (Your janitor or headteacher might be able to help you).		kwh
9. Do you know the <a href="#">Energy Rating</a> for your school? An Energy Rating tells us how good a building is at saving energy. (If you cannot find your Energy Performance Certificate <a href="#">you can look here</a> ).		

A+	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Don't know
----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	------------





# Water

1. Do you know how much water has your school used in the past 6 months? (Your janitor or headteacher might be able to help you).		m <sup>3</sup>
2. Has your school installed water saving devices? (e.g. automatic flush controls, push taps, water hippos, or low volume spray taps)	Yes	No
3. Do you collect rainwater for watering plants?	Yes	No
4. Do you know how water is cleaned before we drink it?	Yes	No
5. Do you know about the water cycle?	Yes	No
6. Have you learned about sources of water pollution?	Yes	No
7. Do you know why it is important to save water even in a country with as much rain as Scotland?	Yes	No
8. Do you know that people have unequal access to clean water around the world?	Yes	No
9. Have you learned about the <a href="#">water footprint</a> of everyday things? (e.g. crisps, clothes, paper, cars)	Yes	No



# Transport

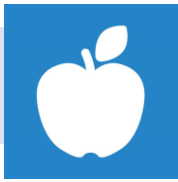
1. Does your school have a travel plan?	<b>No</b> We do not yet have a travel plan	<b>Yes</b> our travel plan is 3+ years old	<b>Yes</b> we are developing a travel plan	<b>Yes</b> we review and update our plan yearly		
2. Do pupils help to create a school travel plan?				Yes No		
3. How does your school promote active travel to and from school? Circle any projects below.						
Park and Stride sites	Walk to School Week/Month/WOW	Big Pedal	Cycle Friendly School	Bikeability Training	Other Cycling training	Special events
4. How does your school reduce the environmental impact of school trips?						
Walk to events	Cycle to events	Use public transport	Buses that run on renewable technology	Other:		
5. Is active travel taught as part of lessons?				Yes	No	
6. Does your school take part in travel surveys? Circle which ones you have done.		Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey	Traffic Survey outside School	Living Streets Travel Tracker	Other	
7. Does your school discuss active travel with parents and carers?		Eco-Schools notice board	newsletter	events	Other	
8. Is there safe and secure parking for scooters or bikes?				Yes	No	

Questions in the Transport part of your Environmental Review link to the [Hands Up Scotland Survey from Sustrans](#).



# Health and Well-being

1. Does your school support a wide variety of diet choices? (e.g. Halal, kosher, vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, nut-free)	Yes	No
2. Does your school have a place you can refill a reusable water bottle?	Yes	No
3. Do most pupils' packed lunches contain fresh fruit or vegetables?	Yes	No
4. Are school meals prepared on site from fresh, raw and local ingredients (where possible)?	Yes	No
5. Do you take part in physical activity other than your two hours of Physical Education each week? (e.g. The Daily Mile, after school sports clubs, dance etc)	Yes	No
6. Does your school have an anti-bullying policy and/or a buddy system?	Yes	No
7. Does your school have activities for mindfulness, growth mindset or relaxation?	Yes	No
8. Does your school work with other community organisations (e.g. senior citizens groups, food banks, etc.)	Yes	No
9. What extra-curricular activities does your school offer? (e.g. band, gardening, chess, etc.)		



# Food and the Environment

1. Does everyone help to grow food in or near your school grounds? (vegetables, fruit, grains, herbs or raising animals)	Yes	No
2. Do you look after the soil in your school grounds by using compost?	Yes	No
3. If you make food at school, do you use ingredients that are fresh, seasonal, or locally grown? (Perhaps food you have grown yourself?)	Yes	No
4. Have you hosted a <a href="#">One Planet Picnic</a> ? How many people took part?	Yes	No
5. Do you learn about the impact of different food choices on the environment? (e.g. climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution)	Yes	No
6. If you have one, does your school tuck shop sell snacks that are healthy and sustainable?	Yes	No
7. Have you visited local farms, fisheries, food processors or restaurants with your class or have any of these come to school to talk to you?	Yes	No
8. Do you ask your local authority or catering to make sure that your school lunches are sustainable? (e.g. Fairtrade, organic, low carbon)	Yes	No
9. Are pupils encouraged to bring snacks that avoid single use plastic packaging?	Yes	No
10. Do you learn about foods and cultures from Scotland and around the world? (e.g. Ramadan, harvest festival etc.)	Yes	No



# Global Citizenship

1. Are staff and pupils aware of the links between their own choices and global issues? (e.g. climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution)	Yes	No		
2. Do most staff and pupils know about the <a href="#">Sustainable Development Goals</a> and why they are important?	Yes	No		
3. Have you compared your carbon footprint to the <a href="#">average footprint in other countries</a> ?	Yes	No		
4. Does your school share work to reduce its carbon footprint with the community?	Yes	No		
5. Does your school have a UNICEF <a href="#">Rights Respecting Schools Award</a> ?	Bronze: Rights Committed	Silver: Rights Aware	Gold: Rights Respecting	Not yet
6. Does your school have a <a href="#">Fairtrade Schools Award</a> ?	FairAware	FairActive	FairAchiever	Not Yet
7. Are pupils and staff aware of logos on products that mean that they have been sustainably produced?	Yes	No		
8. Does your school have <a href="#">links with a school in another country</a> to discuss environmental issues?	Yes	No		
9. Do you learn about ways people in other countries are becoming more sustainable?	Yes	No		
10. Does your school support any environmental charities or campaigns?	Yes	No		

Keep Scotland Beautiful is the charity that provides education initiatives for children, young people and educators which focus on environmental issues to improve understanding and encourage positive action. It's part of our work to make Scotland clean, green and more sustainable.



T: 01786 471333 E: [info@keepscotlandbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepscotlandbeautiful.org)

 [facebook.com/KSBScotland](https://facebook.com/KSBScotland)  [@KSBScotland](https://twitter.com/KSBScotland)

[www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org)

