

Eco-Action Ideas

Leading the Way to a Sustainable School

Welcome, Sustainability Superheroes!

You're part of something special – the team that gets to make a BIG difference in your school! As members of the Eco Council, you're the leaders who can inspire everyone around you to help take care of the environment. From planting trees to saving energy, the ideas you share can have a real impact on how your school values and protects with nature.

This guide is full of fun, exciting, and easy-to-follow project ideas that you and your team can lead. Take a look through these ideas, discuss them with your team, and decide which ones you think will make the biggest difference in your school. You can then include some of these ideas on your **Eco Action Plan**.

Get ready to lead the way on improving sustainability in your school – one step at a time!

Develop a School Wildlife Habitat

Whether you have lots of outdoor space at your school or only a very small area, you can create spaces on the school grounds that support local wildlife.

For example, you could think about planting native trees, installing some bird feeders or birdhouses, creating a bug hotel, or planting flowers to encourage butterflies.

This enhances biodiversity and provides hands-on learning about ecosystems for all the classes in your school to enjoy.



Implement a 'No Single-Use Plastic' Campaign

Educate the whole school community about the environmental impact of single-use plastics. Encourage the use of reusable bottles, lunch containers, aluminium foil and paper bags to minimise plastic waste.

You could do this by:

- talking about the topic in an assembly
- putting up posters around the school
- writing something to go on the school website or in the school newsletter about it, to get parents and carers thinking about how much single-use plastic they use at home.



Organise a 'Walk, Scoot or Cycle to School' Week

Encourage pupils and their families to reduce carbon emissions by walking, scooting or biking to school, if they can.

You could plan a week-long event with rewards for participation to promote sustainable transportation habits. Or you could suggest that one day a week will be the day that no one travels by car.

For families who live further away, you could suggest that they drive part of the way to school, then park further away and walk or scoot for the last part of the journey.



Conduct an Energy Audit

Work with the staff in your school to assess energy usage in classrooms. Identify opportunities to save energy, such as turning off lights and unplugging devices when not in use.

Then think about how you will help everyone in school to use less energy. You could create some posters to put up in classrooms, reminding people to turn off lights and computers, and to keep doors and windows closed when the heating is on.



Start a Composting Initiative

Collect organic waste from the school kitchen and classrooms to create compost. You can then use the compost in the school garden or share it with the community. This will help people learn about waste reduction and improving soil health.



Plan an 'Environmental Awareness Week'

Dedicate a week to various environmental activities, such as tree planting, a school grounds clean-up, and workshops on sustainability topics.

Engage the whole school in learning and taking action to care for the environment. You could invite parents and carers to come in and help. You might even be able to run a 'Sustainability Saturday' and encourage participation from pupils, families and the wider community to work on some of the school's sustainability goals.



Create a School Garden

Transform a section of your school grounds into a garden where pupils can grow vegetables, fruits, and flowers. This hands-on project teaches about local food production, biodiversity, and responsibility.

Establish a Gardening Club

Form a group of pupils dedicated to learning about gardening, who can take care of the garden areas in the school grounds. With some adult support, they could grow plants to encourage wildlife and even vegetables that the school kitchen could use.



Participate in Local and National Projects

With the support of an adult in school, you might be able to find out about projects that are happening in your local area to protect the environment, such as a park or river clean-up project, that you might be able to help with.

There might also be national projects that your school could get involved in, like the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch, which takes place each year.



Start an Eco Newsletter, Magazine or Web Page

Any budding journalists might like to write a section in the school newsletter or create a newsletter dedicated to climate change and sustainability. Or perhaps, a 'Sustainability at Our School' page on the school website could be created. A team of you might even be able to produce a termly magazine.

You can provide accurate information about renewable energy and products made by environmentally responsible companies. You can help people understand which logos and symbols to look out for when making purchases (such as the recycling symbol or the FSC® symbol on paper products) and which packaging to avoid, where possible.

You can also let readers in your school community know all about what you are doing in school to reduce your carbon footprint and remind people of things we can all do to help protect the environment.



Sustainable Fashion Show and Sale

Why not organise an event where pupils upcycle and showcase outfits made from recycled materials or thrifted clothing? After the event, you could host a sale where people bring in their unwanted clothing for others to buy for a small cost.

This raises awareness about fast fashion's environmental impact and promotes sustainable choices.

Any money raised could be used to buy gardening equipment, seeds, plants or birdhouses.



Choose Paper from Sustainably Managed Forests

Work with the office staff in school to discover whether the paper they currently purchase carries the FSC® or PEFC symbols. Help them choose paper that carries these symbols, such as REY paper.

