



# Action Library

## EcoSchools Actions and Descriptions

Actions make up the backbone of EcoSchools certification, and consist of a variety of fun and educational projects, campaigns, lessons, and challenges that help schools assess and improve their environmental practices. Actions are designed to be flexible and adaptable to all curricula and school types to ensure that everyone across Canada can pursue certification. EcoSchools actions also connect schools to the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the [global FEE network](#).

Please find a full list of EcoSchools actions below.

	Action	Description
 SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being	 <b>Environmental Health</b>	Learn about environmental health hazards and ways to protect yourself, your friends, your family, and the environment.
	 <b>Let's Talk Air</b>	Explore the properties of air and why good indoor air quality is important for human health.
	 <b>Sit Spot</b>	Cultivate awareness and well-being by regularly visiting one specific spot where you can sit, slow down, awaken your senses, and learn more about yourself and the local environment.
	 <b>Take Me Outside Day</b>	Celebrate outdoor learning by hosting a one-day Take Me Outside Day event at your school to promote the importance of reconnecting with nature.
 SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	 <b>School Water Audit</b>	Explore how your school uses water through an audit, and implement School Water Audit water-saving strategies to protect this precious resource!
	 <b>School Water Footprint</b>	Collect consumption data to investigate your school's water use and provide a baseline for success!
	 <b>The Great Gulp</b>	Take a synchronized gulp of tap water to raise awareness about drinking water and the importance of reducing single-use plastic waste!
 SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy	 <b>Heating and Cooling</b>	Optimize heating and cooling systems at your school through data collection, communication, and monitoring.
	 <b>Phantom Power</b>	Reduce your school's energy footprint by monitoring and unplugging your appliances!
	 <b>School Energy Footprint</b>	Investigate your school's energy consumption to help understand your building's carbon footprint.
	 <b>Switch Off Lights and Devices</b>	Conserve energy by turning off lights, monitors, and other electronics when they are not needed!
	 <b>WWF Earth Hour</b>	Switch off your lights and make noise for the Earth Hour movement.
	 <b>WWF National Sweater Day</b>	Our planet is getting hotter. Your school can help by turning down the heat on National Sweater Day.



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SDG 11  
Sustainable Cities and Communities



Action	Description
 <b>Active and Sustainable School Travel</b>	Run a campaign to encourage low-carbon transportation options such as walking, cycling, busing, and carpooling to school.
 <b>Community Clean-Up</b>	Remove litter from the environment, learn about proper waste sorting, and demonstrate the power of working together!
 <b>Get Cooking!</b>	Learn how to cook from scratch, preserve food, support local food systems, and feed your school community.
 <b>Grow a Food Garden</b>	Get your hands dirty, grow food for your community, and learn about plants and nutrition in an outdoor food garden.
 <b>Idle-Free Zone</b>	Breathe clean air and reduce air pollution by promoting Idle-Free Zones at your school and in your community!
 <b>Indoor Gardening and Greenhouses</b>	Bring gardening inside for hands-on, year-round learning about plants, food systems, nutrition, health and wellbeing.
 <b>Conduct a Waste Audit</b>	Discover how much waste your school is producing so you can start reducing!
 <b>Divert Textile Waste</b>	Reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair, and recycle old textiles such as clothes, shoes, and bedding, and help to divert waste from the landfill.
 <b>GOOS Paper</b>	Get creative and reduce paper use at your school by using GOOS (Good On One Side) paper bins throughout your school.
 <b>Green Gatherings and Events</b>	Make your next school event or meeting green by going waste-free and incorporating eco-friendly practices!
 <b>Recycle Your Personal Electronic Waste</b>	Collect electronic waste (e-waste) from your school community and ensure items get properly reused and recycled.
 <b>Reduce Harmful Single-Use Plastics</b>	Raise awareness and take a pledge to reduce harmful single-use plastic waste at your school.
 <b>Repurposing and Innovative Recycling</b>	Recycle, repurpose, or repair items that are not recyclable through the regular recycling stream and help to divert waste from the landfill.
 <b>Reduce Your Food Waste</b>	Get your school ready to reduce avoidable food waste through an awareness campaign and school-wide pledge.
 <b>Sort Your Waste</b>	Track and reduce contamination in your garbage and recycling bins, raise awareness, and establish an effective waste sorting program.
 <b>Vermicomposting and School-based Composting</b>	Get your hands dirty and turn your food scraps into nutrient-rich soil.
 <b>Waste-Free Lunch</b>	Reduce your school's waste by encouraging students and staff to bring waste-free lunches!

SDG 12  
Responsible Consumption and Production






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 <b>Climate Hero Escape Room</b>	Do you have what it takes to “escape” climate change? Increase your awareness of the global climate crisis while engaging in a fun and immersive online learning experience.
 <b>Create Your Own Action</b>	Do you have a plan for an action that doesn't quite fit? Let us know all about it!
 <b>Earth Day</b>	Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22nd. Engage in collective action to support climate change resilience, biodiversity, and ecosystems.
 <b>EcoCode</b>	An EcoCode is your school's environmental policy or mission statement that demonstrates your commitment to climate action.
 <b>Eco-Friendly Meals</b>	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase food sustainability by trying eco-friendly meals and food habits.
 <b>Environmental Fair or Conference</b>	Organize a day of environmental learning for your school or broader community.
 <b>Environmental Literacy</b>	Deepen environmental literacy by providing opportunities for all students at your school to learn IN, ABOUT, FOR, and FROM the environment.
 <b>Extend Your Action</b>	Has your school extended an EcoSchools action to a larger school project? Let us know about it!
 <b>Getting Started</b>	Start your year by building a strong EcoTeam, reflecting on student interests and community needs, then making an action plan for success!
 <b>Staff Professional Development</b>	Create opportunities for school staff to enhance their environmental knowledge and skills by participating in webinars, workshops, and conferences.
 <b>Track School Transportation Emissions</b>	Track how staff and students travel to and from school to better understand transportation-related GHG emissions and the transportation options you have.
 <b>Young Reporters for the Environment</b>	Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) Canada is a national environmental journalism competition for writers, photographers, and videographers aged 11-18.
 <b>Zero-Emission Vehicles &amp; Low-Carbon Driving</b>	Explore how zero-emission vehicles and low-carbon driving can contribute to a more sustainable future.



There are two locked  actions that will help to form the foundation of a strong EcoSchool. They cannot be removed from a school plan. While it is recommended that schools try to implement these actions, they may choose to complete as much, or little, of each of these actions.



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 <b>Community Science</b>	Become a community scientist (also known as citizen scientist) and contribute to important environmental research projects from across Canada, and beyond!
 <b>Create Nearby Nature Guides, Maps and Signs</b>	Grow deeper connections to nearby-nature and share your learning by developing place-based field guides, maps, or signage!
 <b>Create Homes for Wildlife</b>	Help protect local species and support biodiversity by creating safe homes and spaces for wildlife, where they can nest, feed, and thrive!
 <b>Greenbelt Biodiversity</b>	Learn about Ontario's Greenbelt and take action to track and enhance biodiversity on your school grounds.
 <b>Low-mow Zone</b>	Let a grassy area of your school grounds grow wild and start studying with nature!
 <b>Pollinator Garden</b>	Plant a pollinator garden at your school and create a space that is not only beneficial to pollinators like bees and butterflies, but is also fertile grounds for learning.
 <b>Supporting Canadian Species at Risk</b>	Take action to raise awareness and support a species at risk in Canada.
 <b>The Bondar Challenge</b>	Take inspiration from the work of Dr. Roberta Bondar and get connected to nature through the lens of a camera!
 <b>Tree Planting and Maintenance at School</b>	Plant and care for trees on your school grounds and experience the benefits for decades to come.
 <b>School to School Mentorship</b>	Collaborate with another EcoSchool to strengthen leadership and environmental impact in school communities across the country.

SDG 15  
Life on the Land



SDG 17  
Partnerships  
for the goals

