



School Sustainability Review

Pre-assessment and Action Planning



Review your school's environmental practices and make your action plan for the year ahead!

Steps to complete your Sustainability Review:

- 1 Answer each question below to gather a baseline for your school's current environmental practices.

YES:

These actions take place annually or are already an established practice at your school. You may add a few of these actions to your plan, to continue the momentum and to see how your school can take the action deeper.

SOMEWHAT:

These are actions that your school is already beginning to implement. This is a good place to start when deciding which actions to add to your plan for the year.

NO:

These actions are a new practice, concept, or campaign to your school. Select a few of these actions to start tackling this year! Focus on actions that are important to your students, link to classroom curriculum, or connect to local issues or regional priorities.

- 2 Based on your answers, select a set of actions to add to your EcoSchools action plan for the year. You may use the organizer on [page 5](#) to help generate your plan and calculate the associated points and level of achievement. For more details on the four levels of achievement (Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum) please see [page 5](#).

- 3 Go to the EcoSchools Certification Application (app.ecoschools.ca) to add actions and create your plan!

	Question	Review			Action	Points	Select
		Yes	Somewhat	No			
 SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being	Do students at your school learn about environmental health concerns such as air quality, chemical safety, extreme heat, or radon?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Health	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do students explore the properties of air and learn about the importance of indoor air quality for human health?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Let's Talk Air	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do students regularly visit one specific spot in nature to increase environmental awareness and well-being?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sit Spot	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do you plan to participate in Take Me Outside Day this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Take Me Outside Day	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
 SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	Do you explore water use and conservation at your school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Water Audit	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do you collect water consumption data at your school to better understand your school's water footprint?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Water Exploration	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does your school plan to participate in The Great Gulp, to raise awareness about drinking water and reducing single-use plastic waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Great Gulp	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
 SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy	Does your school take action to optimize heating and cooling systems through simple steps such as drawing the blinds to keep classrooms cool?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heating and Cooling	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do you regularly unplug electronics and appliances, or switch off the power bar they are connected to when not in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phantom Power	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do you collect energy data at your school to better understand your school's carbon footprint?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Energy Footprint	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do you conserve energy by turning off lights, monitors, and other electronics when they are not needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Switch Off Lights and Devices	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Are you planning to host an Earth Hour campaign this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WWF Earth Hour	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Are you planning a National Sweater Day campaign this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WWF National Sweater Day	5	<input type="checkbox"/>



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SDG 11
Sustainable Cities and Communities



Question	Review			Action	Points	Select
	Yes	Somewhat	No			
Do you plan on running a campaign to encourage low-carbon transportation options such as walking, cycling, busing, and carpooling to school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Active and Sustainable School Travel	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have plans to organize a clean-up event to remove waste from your local area or school grounds?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Clean-up	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you plan on running a cooking activity to support local and sustainable food systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Get Cooking!	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your school planning to plant, or maintain an existing food garden this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grow a Food Garden	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do students engage in campaigns to educate the school community about the impacts of idling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Idle-Free Zone	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school actively tend to indoor plants or plants in a school greenhouse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indoor Gardening and Greenhouses	5	<input type="checkbox"/>

SDG 12
Responsible Consumption and Production
















Does your school conduct annual waste audits to monitor and reduce school waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conduct a Waste Audit	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair, and recycle old textiles to help divert waste from the landfill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Divert Textile Waste	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school have GOOS (Good On One Side) bins in place to save paper and trees?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GOOS Paper	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school incorporate eco-friendly practices in gatherings and events?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green Gatherings and Events	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school have a process in place for recycling personal electronic waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recycle Your Personal Electronic Waste	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school raise awareness about and reduce the use of harmful single-use plastics?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce Harmful Single-use Plastics	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school recycle or repurpose items that are not recyclable through the regular recycling stream (e.g., markers)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repurposing and Innovative Recycling	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you planned a campaign to reduce food waste at your school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce Your Food Waste	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school properly sort waste into different streams (i.e., recycling, garbage, organics)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sort Your Waste	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school have a school-based composting or vermicomposting system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vermicomposting and School-based Composting	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your school practice waste-free lunches?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waste-free Lunch	10	<input type="checkbox"/>




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	Question	Review			Action	Points	Select
		Yes	Somewhat	No			
SDG 13 Climate Action	 Have your students explored the impact of and solutions to climate change through an interactive online game?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Hero Escape Room	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Do you have a plan for an action that doesn't quite fit with any of the actions in this document? There are three Create Your Own Action options on the ECA!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Create Your Own Action	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Will your school participate in activities or events to celebrate Earth Day?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earth Day	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Does your school have an environmental statement or commitment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EcoCode	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Does your school promote eco-friendly eating habits by encouraging the reduction of meat consumption and favoring local, seasonal foods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eco-Friendly Meals	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Will your school be participating in any environmental fairs or conferences this year, virtual or otherwise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Fair or Conference	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Do you provide opportunities for students to learn IN, ABOUT, FOR, and FROM the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Literacy	10	✓
	 Have you extended an EcoSchools action to a larger project in your school community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extend Your Action	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Do you have an EcoTeam, regular EcoTeam meetings, and a plan to review your school's environmental practices?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Getting Started	5	✓
	 Do school staff engage in learning opportunities related to environmental, sustainability, Indigenous, or climate education?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff Professional Development	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Do you track how staff and students travel to and from school to better understand your school's transportation-related GHG emissions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Track School Transportation Emissions	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Does your school participate in the Young Reporters for the Environment competition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Young Reporters for the Environment	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Do students learn about Zero Emission Vehicles & Low-Carbon driving topics as a way of reducing GHG emissions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zero Emission Vehicles & Low-Carbon Driving	10	<input type="checkbox"/>











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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	Question	Review			Action	Points	Select
		Yes	Somewhat	No			
SDG 15 Life on the Land	 Do you actively contribute data to community science projects in your local area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Science	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Do students connect to nearby-nature by developing place-based field guides, maps, or signage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Create Nearby Nature Guides, Maps, and Signs	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Does your school plan to create homes for wildlife, such as bees, birds, or bats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Create Homes for Wildlife	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Do students conduct plant inventories and/or plant native species on the school grounds to support biodiversity and learn about Greenbelts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenbelt Biodiversity	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Has your school established an area on your school grounds where the grass is left to grow, or is mowed infrequently?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low-mow Zone	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Does your school have plans to plant or maintain a pollinator garden, to increase biodiversity and support local pollinator species?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pollinator Garden	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Have you planned a campaign to spread awareness about Canadian species at risk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting Canadian Species at Risk	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Does your school participate in the Bondar Challenge?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Bondar Challenge	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals	 Will your school plant or maintain trees on your school grounds this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Planting and Maintenance at School	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Is your school interested in collaborating with another school to exchange knowledge and share expertise related to environmental learning and action?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School to School Mentorship	10	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Based on your answers, add actions to the organizer below. Include points for each action to determine the level of achievement associated to your plan.

Action	Points	Action	Points
Getting Started	5		
Environmental Literacy	10		

Total number of points

Once you have finalized your EcoSchools action plan for the year, go to the EcoSchools Certification Application (app.ecoschools.ca) to add these actions to your schools application and get started on your EcoSchools journey!

Levels of Certification



Bronze: 50-65 points

If you're new to EcoSchools or want to focus on a few key actions this year, we suggest aiming for Bronze certification. It is important to start slow and lay a foundation for environmental learning and action at your school.



Silver: 66-74 points

Silver certification is suited to schools that have started to develop a solid foundation of environmental learning and action throughout their school community.



Gold: 75-100 points

Aiming for Gold certification is a challenge that will provide a comprehensive framework for environmental learning and action at your school.



Platinum: 101+ points

Platinum is the highest level of certification and a challenge that we recommend for schools that are ready to take on diverse environmental actions and engage their community. Schools that certify at Platinum are equivalent to Green Flag schools in the [international Eco-Schools program](#). Please ensure you have reviewed the [Platinum Certification FAQ](#) if your school is interested in pursuing the Platinum level this year.



Participant Schools

Any school that creates a plan on the EcoSchools Certification Application but is unable to submit for certification (a minimum of 50 points) will be recognized as a [Participant school](#). Participant recognition celebrates a school's effort in taking environmental action and acknowledges a school's attempt in becoming EcoSchools certified. Schools that are recognized as Participants will be awarded with a digital Participant seal and are valuable members of the EcoSchools network, but are not considered certified EcoSchools.