



# Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres

## Certification Process 2023-24



School Board/District-operated Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres (OEECs) provide experiential opportunities for students that are pivotal in fostering environmental learning and active engagement. EcoSchools hopes to frame our relationships with OEECs as partnerships, where OEECs and EcoSchools staff can collaborate to support schools using the EcoSchools framework.



### Certification Process

**Step 1:** Register your OEEC using the [OEEC Certification Form](#). This form should be completed by one staff member from your centre. See [pages 2 and 3](#) for an outline of what to expect on the form.

**Step 2:** Support the partnership aspects of this certification model by participating in four engagement activities of your choice such as:

- **Coordinating and hosting community hub** meetings for teachers in your board/district
- **Creating locally-relevant resources** that enhance and/or support school certification efforts
- **Acting as a liaison for regional community organizations** that can support school certification efforts
- **Presenting at student and/or teacher conferences** with links to the EcoSchools program
- **Hosting workshops or webinars for teachers and/or students** with links to the EcoSchools program
- **Visiting schools to provide on-site support** for environmental learning and campaigns linked to the EcoSchools program
- **Fostering opportunities for nature connection and environmental learning** within the broader community, including families and the public (e.g., leading nature hikes, building local species lists, creating a tracking club, hosting a public event, etc.)
- **Deepening knowledge** through regular professional development opportunities for OEEC staff
- **Utilizing communication channels** (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.) or online tools to support ongoing learning for visiting students and/or staff and that support school certification efforts
- **Have another idea? Email us at:** [oeec@ecoschools.ca](mailto:oeec@ecoschools.ca)

**Step 3:** After completing your four engagement activities, return to the [OEEC Certification Form](#) to describe activities and upload supporting documentation (e.g., photos, brochures, minutes, agendas, workshop outlines, etc.) demonstrating that the selected activities have occurred.

**Step 4:** Submit your completed [OEEC Certification Form](#) by the second Friday in May (May 10, 2023).



### Assessment, Recognition, and Support

- OEECs will not be certified via a point system but are part of a certified/not-certified assessment.
- Certified OEECs will receive a certification seal and digital recognition in June
- Invitations to attend professional development sessions with EcoSchools (e.g., EcoSchools conferences, webinars, etc.)
- Ongoing access to EcoSchools staff to provide feedback, offer suggestions, and troubleshoot challenges

### Certification Form Outline

See below for an outline of what to expect on the OEEC Certification Form. When you are ready to register, please click [here](#).

To register for the program, you only need to complete the first "Registration" section of the form. After completing the Registration section, you will be sent an email copy of your responses. Please be sure to **save the email** for easy access. You may then update the form throughout the year, as your centre engages in activities and supports schools.

#### Registration

- Your Email Address
- Your Name
- OEEC Name
- School Board/District
- OEEC Address
- Province/Territory
- What are the Indigenous territories, treaties, and/or languages in the area you work, learn, and live?
- Does your staff team meet regularly to set goals, plan activities, and reflect? [select one]
  - Never
  - Once a year
  - Monthly
  - Weekly
  - Other
- Does your centre participate in any other environmental network, partnership, or certification programs? If so, please include a list of other programs.
- On average, how many classes visit your centre each year?



### Engagement Activity 1

- Which engagement activity did you participate in? [list of activities]
- Please list which, if any, EcoSchools Actions were directly integrated into your Engagement Activity 1. Our [Action Library](#) provides names and descriptions of all actions.
- Supporting documentation for Engagement Activity 1 (e.g., photos, brochures, minutes, agendas, workshop outlines, etc.)
- Additional details (optional)

### Engagement Activity 2

- Which engagement activity did you participate in? [list of activities]
- Please list which, if any, EcoSchools Actions were directly integrated into your Engagement Activity 2. Our [Action Library](#) provides names and descriptions of all actions.
- Supporting documentation for Engagement Activity 2 (e.g., photos, brochures, minutes, agendas, workshop outlines, etc.)
- Additional details (optional)

### Engagement Activity 3

- Which engagement activity did you participate in? [list of activities]
- Please list which, if any, EcoSchools Actions were directly integrated into your Engagement Activity 3. Our [Action Library](#) provides names and descriptions of all actions.
- Supporting documentation for Engagement Activity 3 (e.g., photos, brochures, minutes, agendas, workshop outlines, etc.)
- Additional details (optional)

### Engagement Activity 4

- Which engagement activity did you participate in? [list of activities]
- Please list which, if any, EcoSchools Actions were directly integrated into your Engagement Activity 4. Our [Action Library](#) provides names and descriptions of all actions.
- Supporting documentation for Engagement Activity 4 (e.g., photos, brochures, minutes, agendas, workshop outlines, etc.)
- Additional details (optional)