

The Eco-Schools Framework

A Guide for Implementation & Certification

Just as wildlife needs specific elements to survive and thrive, your school requires specific elements to implement, organize, and sustain its Eco-Schools program and earn certification as an Eco-School in the U.S.



FORM AN ACTION TEAM



**AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGE
THE COMMUNITY**



**CELEBRATE, REFLECT,
AND CREATE
AN ECOCODE**



**DEVELOP AN
ACTION PLAN**



**IDENTIFY CURRICULUM
CONNECTIONS**



**TAKE ACTION, COLLECT
DATA, MEASURE IMPACT,
AND SHARE STORIES**



**MONITOR AND
EVALUATE PROGRESS**



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While the Framework is outlined in a linear manner, we recognize that all schools are unique, and will come into the Framework in different ways. For example, some schools have strong community connections and already have a well-formed action team and are ready to jump into the development of their action plan. All steps are required for certification.



1 | FORM AN ACTION TEAM

Create a student-led committee with diverse abilities and perspectives to drive environment-based education and actions for the school community.



2 | AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Foster genuine, reciprocal connections and share intergenerational and transcultural stories from working together at the nexus of environment, community, and economy.



3 | DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN

Annually create an action plan that aligns with the committee's values, focusing on nature-based solutions for the community resilience, health, and wellbeing.



4 | TAKE ACTION, COLLECT DATA, MEASURE IMPACT, AND SHARE STORIES

Identify community and nature-based solutions for the team's action plan, measure the school's impact, and share accessible, fact-based stories to raise awareness, and promote collaboration moving toward whole-school engagement.



5 | MONITOR AND EVALUATE PROGRESS

Collect data before and after taking action to evaluate how well the plan is working. Revise plans as needed and keep the school community informed about action progress.



6 | IDENTIFY CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

The team's environment and community-based actions will connect to what students are learning in classrooms.



7 | CELEBRATE, REFLECT, AND CREATE AN ECOCODE

Celebrate successes big and small, reflect on lessons learned, and creatively display the school's commitment to the community and sustainability in an EcoCode.

