



## Step 1: Form an Eco-Action Team

### The heartbeat of Eco-Schools action and learning

*Leadership | Listening | Respect | Facilitation | Empathy | Cooperation | Negotiation*

#### What is it?

The Eco-Action Team is the driving force behind Eco-Schools USA. Ideally, your Eco-Action Team should represent the whole school community - including people beyond your school walls, such as facilities staff, board members and community members. Keep in mind students should play a leading role on the team and represent the views of the entire student body.

#### How Does it Work?

The Eco-Action Team should meet formally a minimum of four times a year and informally as needed when conducting investigations and completing projects. Try to make sure at least one student from each grade level is on the committee. An Eco-Action team is supported and facilitated by an adult Eco-Coordinator, but led by students. Eco-Coordinator roles can be shared and it is actually a good idea to get several teaching staff involved if possible.

#### Award Criteria



The Eco-Action Team consists of students and adults | The team meets at least 4 times a year | Minutes are kept at each meeting | Decisions and actions are shared with the school community



The Eco-Action Team consists of students, staff and community members | The team meets at least 6 times a year | Students are integral in the decision making process and share responsibility for keeping minutes | Students are responsible for communicating team information to the school community



The Eco-Action Team consists of 50% students, and also includes, teachers, staff, and community members | The team meets at least 8 times a year | Students take significant responsibility for conducting the Eco-Action Team meetings and the team's decision-making process | Students share responsibility for keeping minutes for each meeting and communicating information to the whole school | Student representatives actively engage other students and collect suggestions from the greater student body

### How can you help?

Use the [Eco-Action Team planning worksheet](#) to help you organize your group. You can attend meetings to help students develop their teamwork and collaboration skills. Provide inspiration. But remember, Eco-Schools is a student-led process, please try not to impose your project ideas and activities onto them, help them to find the project they want to do.