



Step 2: Conduct an Environmental Audit

Investigating the schools environmental and sustainability performance

Inquiry | Independent Learning | Number Sense | Creativity | Reflection | Scientific Investigation

What is it?

The Environmental Audit is an essential tool for understanding the current environmental situation in your school. It will provide the basis for your Eco-Action Plan.

How Does it Work?

Completing the [Environmental Review Checklist](#) is a recommended first step before completing one of the more in-depth pathway audits. The results from this checklist can help your Eco-Action Team focus on a specific pathway. The Environmental Review is optional, but highly recommended if you are just beginning your sustainability journey. The Environmental Audits should be led by students. All pathway audits are available for free on our website. Carry out surveys, monitor behaviors, use questionnaires, create graphs, take photographs and video and present the results to the school via announcements, information boards, social media and/or electronic communications.

Award Criteria



A formal or informal audit is conducted | Schools can develop their own criteria or use an Eco-Schools USA audit checklist.



Two formal audits are conducted using an Eco-Schools USA audit | Audit findings are documented | Students play an active role in conducting the audit | Results are shared with the whole school



A minimum of three formal and comprehensive audits are conducted using an Eco-Schools USA audit | Audit findings are documented | Students are actively involved in conducting the audit and engage resource specialists from the community | Results are shared with the whole school along with the wider community | Environmental audits are conducted yearly to evaluate overall progress

How can you help?

If you or another adult have detailed knowledge of one of the Eco-Schools USA pathways, you could offer to help the Eco-Action Team to do an in depth review in your area of expertise. Remember, it is the Eco-Action Team who will complete the Environmental Audit, but your expertise could offer additional insight and evidence.