



Training materials

STEP 3: ACTION PLAN

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What is an Action Plan?



It is the core of your Eco-Schools work and should be developed using the results of your Sustainability Audit. It will help the Eco committee set priorities, implement solutions and create SMART goals that will engage the whole school community.

<https://www.ecoschools.global/seven-steps-methodology>

The form is titled "Eco-Schools Action Plan" and includes the following sections:

- School name:** _____
- Eco-Schools topic:** _____
- Date range of this plan:** _____
- Our overall aim(s) for this topic:** [Large empty box]
- What will success look like?:** [Large empty box]
- Action Plan cover?** [Large empty box]
- Progress indicators:** Three colored circles (red, orange, green) with the text: "Keep an eye on progress throughout the year, perhaps you could use a traffic light system."
- Table:** A table with 4 columns: "Problem statement", "Actions that can address the problem", "How will you implement the identified action?", and "What will success look like?".
- Global Goals:** A sidebar showing icons for SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), along with the text "THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development" and "www.un.org 'About Us' section".
- Footer:** "ink saving Eco" logo.



What are the steps you need to take to create an Action Plan?



1. **Use the Sustainability Audit to identify the priority areas in your school.** To keep it manageable we suggest focusing on not more than three Themes at a time. In this stage, the Eco Committee should analyze the findings and identify the key areas where the school is performing well, areas that need improvement and set priorities based on the audit.
2. **Create an Action Plan to resolve or improve those problems.** It should include: the necessary tasks, the people responsible and time frame for actions in order to achieve your goals/targets
3. **Make your action plan SMART** (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely)
4. As with every aspect of the Eco-Schools process, **pupils should be involved as much as possible** in the drawing up of the Action Plan. For example, they can
 - take leadership roles or create smaller group and delegate responsibilities to more people
 - suggest a number of solutions and vote on the best one
 - start an awareness campaign and design the activities that need to be implemented
 - organize celebrations or award winning contests regarding the Action Plan

Let's put the theory into practice

Solving environmental problem through Bioeconomy should certainly be a main part in all schools' action plans . Let's analyze the following findings on waste management at a school in Athens with Grade 2 students and see how they can inform our action plan. The students collected the waste in a box, grouped them and registered them in a check list.



Kind	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Foil Paper	1	6	2	1
Juice carton	1	1	2	1
Paper bags	1	2		1
napkins	4	2	4	1
Chocolate carton	1			
Chocolate papers	5			
Candy paper	1			
Plastic membrane	1	1	1	3
Big plastic bag		2		
Package from cereal bars		1		1
Plastic bottle			1	1
Straws			2	

Let's put the theory into practice ^{GEN}

- The Eco Committee realized that:
 - the students didn't recycle the packages from their snacks because the recycling bins were too far away from the recess area.
 - the students used a lot of extra packaging and plastic bags to carry the snack at school
 - The students threw the banana and apple peels in the garbage bin instead of the compost bin.

After studying the findings, the Eco Committee decided on the priorities and formed three subgroups with specific goals and course of action:

- To talk to the Head of the School about the spots the recycling bins were placed and find a solution
- To inform the students about the Bio Snack Box and bags so that the students stop using plastic bags
- To run a campaign and persuade the students to throw the fruit peels in the compost bin.

Let's put the theory into practice

➤ In the specific Action Plan on waste management where a recycling programme was suggested as a possible solution, the Eco Committee was comprised of 15 students, the Head of the School, a parents association representative and the school's technician They:

- ❖ conducted a research on the best spot to place the bins
- ❖ organized the placement of them around the school
- ❖ created informative posters and an awareness campaign on what can be recycled.
- ❖ Formed a group of volunteers, the "Robin Woods" who took turns monitoring the bins, ensuring proper use, encouraging recycling and reporting any issues.



ROBIN WOODS – A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WHO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO RECYCLE DURING RECESS

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NO LITTER – ZERO WASTE

- THE YELLOW BINS IN THE RECESS AREA



Let's put the theory into practice

- To inform the students about the Bio Snack Box and bags so that the students stop using plastic bags.



We encourage the students to bring Bio Snack Boxes and bio fabric bags for their snacks



Let's put the theory into practice

- The third group informed the students about the benefits of composting in the compost garden they had at school and ran a campaign.

They dressed up as Ancient Greek gods and goddesses and used the motto “Even the Gods compost their fruit peels! Will you?”



Educational Resources



- <https://www.ecoschools.global/seven-steps-methodology>



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