Training materials

STEP 7: PRODUCE AN ECO
CODE

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What is an Eco Code?

- **A statement that represents the school's commitment to sustainability.**

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An Eco Code …

- should be **memorable** and **familiar to everyone** in the school

To do that you can:

➤ Use Visuals

➤ Use Mnemonics or Acronyms

➤ Use chants or songs with rhyming words

➤ Personalize with the school slogans

➤ Use interactive game / activities to help students

An Eco Code…

➢ should have <u>a flexible format</u>, it can be a song, drawing, model, poem, etc.

➢ The students are free to choose the way they want to express their Eco Code. Teachers can help the students find the way that is age- appropriate and appealing to the target group.

An Eco Code…

> should list the main objectives of your Action Plan. This means that the Eco Code should be based on the objectives set at the beginning and it should also depict the course of actions taken and the impact they had on the community (change of attitudes, acquiring knowledge regarding the concept of bioeconomy, making people aware of the benefits the school had.)

> should be developed by the students, as this will give them a greater sense of responsibility towards the values the Eco Code represents

An Eco Code…

- should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that its content continues to reflect the school's ecological aims and targets

- should be prominently displayed throughout the school. This is crucial for the dissemination of the Eco Code as a pledge that all students have agreed to follow. You can use biobased materials and recycled paper to decorate the board (cork, bark, leaves).

Let's put the theory into practice

✓ In waste management through Bioeconomy eco school project, the students can create an Eco Code based on the initials of the term "Bioeconomy".

e.g In our School, we:

B: Believe in Innovation

I: Inspire Action

O: Optimize resources

✓ Use songs or chants:

Eat your fruit

Compost the peels

You can do it
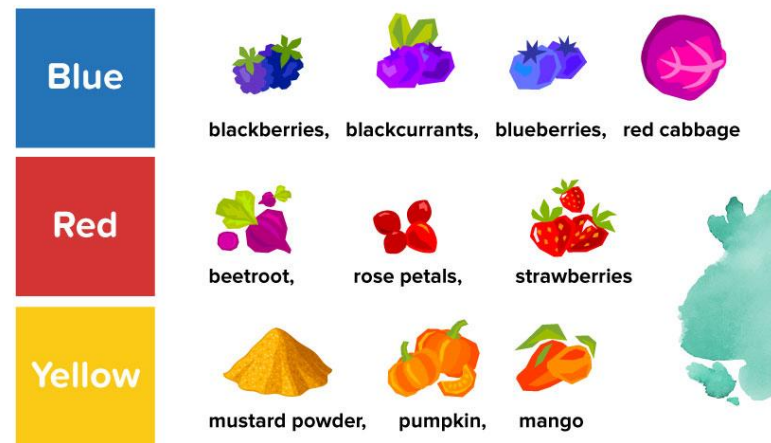
Just do it!

✓ Use visuals to help the students remember the Eco Code.

In our School, we:
1. Compost the peels of the fruit

2. We grow our own vegetables.

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Let's put the theory into practice

- You can help the students organize a contest for the Eco Code and ask them to use biocolors (or colors created from fruit and veggies) to draw their posters.

- Then the students can present their works to the school community and vote on the best Eco Code. This way they all participate in the process and undertake the responsibility to follow the Eco Code.

Blue	blackberries,	blackcurrants,	blueberries,	red cabbage
Red	beetroot,	rose petals,	strawberries	
Yellow	mustard powder,	pumpkin,	mango	

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Let's put the theory into practice

In the action plan which involves using bio snack boxes and bags, recycling and composting the fruit peels, an example of an ECO CODE could be the following:

- **Our Bioeconomy Pledge for a Sustainable Tommorrow, Today!**

In our school we:

➢ **Recycle . We save trees, energy, water and the human effort needed to produce paper, glass, metal and other materials.**

➢ **Compost the fruit peels after our snack. We save the land,**

water, energy and human effort needed to make fertilizers for our

plants and we reduce our rubbish.

➢ **Carry our snacks in reusable bags/boxes. We save fossil fuels, the water, the energy and the human effort needed to produce plastic. We also save sea and land animals from pollution.**

Protection of Nature
HELLENIC SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

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Let's put the theory into practice GENB

- The members of an Eco Committee can work together in teams to create the Eco Code. They can agree on the roles they will take (one can draw the pictures on the Eco Code, another can write the words etc), share the workload and decide on the content of the Eco Code.

- This way they practically realize the term "save resources" by saving "human effort". Through cooperation they move from the individual perspective to the group perspective and gradually to the global perspective. This is a very important step especially because the end product, the Eco Code, will be the result of their cooperation and the evidence of their commitment to keep following the rules they agreed upon.

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Let's put the theory into practice

- ➤ Every code needs to be reviewed from time to time because it is a dynamic element that should reflect the changes of attitudes. There may be objectives regarding bioeconomy that are met and there is evidence in the attitude of the school community (e.g. all students compost the leftovers of their snack) and others that may need more time to become an integral part of the school's philosophy (e.g. we never carry our snack in plastic bags).
- ➤ It is the Environmental Committee's responsibility to observe and evaluate (with the use of questionnaires, interviews e.t.c) the progress of the objectives set, and remove them or add more.

- • A good idea to help the students **monitor whether the Eco Code needs to be reviewed or not is through a Padlet** where students can share their concerns or ideas regarding the implementation of some bioeconomy activities and the need for a rule to be stated in the Eco Code. Padlet is a flexible means of communication as:
- ➤ students can enter it any time at their disposal
- ➤ they can see all students' opinions and ideas
- ➤ It is environmentally friendly and democratic
- ➤ Students can share pictures, links, charts and exit polls that will help them decide on the content of the Eco Code and if it needs to be reviewed.
- ➤ It can easily be shared with teachers, parents and policy makers

Let's put the theory into practice GENB

The implementation of activities and the project related to waste management through bioeconomy that led to the Eco Code should be easily accessible and displayed all year long. A good idea would be:

➤ a display board at the main entrance with the Eco Code (poster, song, chant, acronym, etc)

➤ a QR code with the presentation of the 7 steps the committee followed to decide on the specific Eco Code. The code can be shared not only on the poster (song, chant, acronym etc) but also on the classroom's display board

➤ An online version of the Eco Code which will be included in the School's Mission Statement page and can be accessed by students, parents, teachers and all members of the community that would like to learn more about the school's philosophy

➤ For those schools that print out the students' notebook or year calendars, the Eco Code can be printed on the front or back cover of a cork eco friendly notebook.

Educational Resources

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

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