

# Green Flag Criteria



All School Students and  
Teachers

# Introduction



## Applying for an Eco-Schools Green Flag

In order to apply for an Eco-Schools Green Flag you must have answered all of the compulsory Seven Step questions and have a total of 100 Eco-Schools Green Flag points.

Your Eco-Committee need to work on **3 of our Eco-Schools Themes** per school year. If you don't feel you can cover three, we will award a Bronze Eco-Schools award for 1 Theme covered, and a Silver Eco-Schools award for covering 2 Themes in the school year.

The questions on each of the Seven Step sections are worth a different amount of points, this is based on how much work you and your Eco-Committee have to do to meet the international Eco-Schools criteria and 'complete' this step. The points are allocated as follows:

- Step 1: Eco-Committee: 15 points
- Step 2: Environmental Review: 15 points
- Step 3: Action Plan: 15 points
- Step 4: Curriculum Links: 10 points
- Step 5: Informing and Involving: 15 points
- Step 6: Monitoring and Evaluation: 25 points
- Step 7: Eco-Code: 5 points

# Eco-Schools Criteria



## Step 1 – Eco-Committee

- We have an Eco-Committee representative of the whole school community that meets at least once a term.
- The core members of your Eco-Committee and which groups they represent (e.g. Students, teachers or other staff members, principal or representative, parent or guardians).
- Students take significant responsibility for running the committee, e.g. chairing, voting, taking minutes (At teachers' discretion, based on age and strengths of students)
- The school displays photos or a list of Eco-Committee members in a prominent location.
- We have an agreed method for electing and training new members to ensure continuity of the Eco-Committee and its initiatives? Tell us about this process.
- Please explain how Eco-Committee meetings are run:
  - Who chairs/organises the meetings
  - Who takes the minutes/records the proceedings of team meetings?
  - How often has the committee met to date?
  - How often has a member of the extended school community (e.g. parent, volunteer, local expert) attended the meetings?
  - What is the Eco-Committee's decision making process?
  - How does the Eco-Committee communicate with the rest of the school and the community?
  - How can students who aren't members of the Eco-Committee volunteer ideas or suggestions?

# Eco-Schools Criteria



## Step 2 – Eco-Review / Environmental Review

- The Eco-Committee has completed an Environmental Review of the school against all Eco-Schools themes. (Renewal, this needs to be completed every 12 months)
- Results of the review have been recorded and discussed by the Eco-Committee and shared with the whole school to generate project ideas which form the basis of the Action Plan.
- Provide a copy of the Eco-Review

## Step 3 – Action Plan

- The Action Plans includes SMART targets (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-framed) and details time frames, targets, who is responsible for action, how action will be linked to the community and curriculum.
- The Action Plan has been shared with the entire school community.
- The Action Plan is regularly reviewed at Eco-Committee meetings and updated based on evaluation of previous projects and environmental review findings.
- Achievements of the Eco-Schools Action Plan are prioritised in the overall school strategic plan.
- Copy of Action Plan covering three Themes must be provided.

# Eco-Schools Criteria



## Step 4 – Link to the Curriculum

- The school can demonstrate that all students have an opportunity to explore Eco-Schools themes in three or more curriculum areas. Provide evidence.
- The Eco-Schools 7 steps are integrated into a range of subjects across the curriculum for the majority of classes and year groups. Briefly explain how the school explores Eco-School themes within the curriculum and integrates the 7 steps within curriculum work. Where possible include direct links to Australian or State curriculum.
- The school has a named individual responsible for promoting Eco-Schools/ESD throughout the curriculum. Staff/Student name.

# Eco-Schools Criteria



## Step 5 – Monitor and Evaluate

- The Eco-Committee collects evidence of completed and ongoing Eco-School activities in a portfolio or scrapbook that demonstrates achievements against at least three Eco-Themes. Provide copy of evidence.
- The Eco-Committee leads the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress towards achieving the actions stated in the Action Plan. Describe.
- The Eco-Committee has evaluated the longer-term impacts of Eco-Schools initiatives by reflecting on information they collect (e.g. waste/ electricity audits). Describe.
- The Eco-Committee uses this information to build on successes and decide on remedial action when activities are not proving successful. Provide at least one example.
- The whole school is regularly updated on the progress and results of Eco-schools initiatives and they have the opportunity to evaluate their effectiveness. Explain how this occurs.
- Monitoring data is used for curriculum work by at least one year group. Provide one example.

# Eco-Schools Criteria



## Step 6 – Inform and Involve

- The school has shared good practice with other Eco-Schools or with other schools who wish to join the Eco-Schools program.
- The school has a dedicated environmental day or event at least annually. Provide information.
- The school has involved the wider community in environmental activities; for example local council officers and members of local businesses, or environmental organisations.
- The school has involved local or wider media with Eco-Schools activities. Please provide clippings/ screenshots.

## Step 7 – Eco-Code

- The school has now officially adopted their Eco-Code. Share your Eco-Code.
- The Eco-Code is displayed on: School notice board, All classrooms, School website.
- The Eco-Code is known and understood by the whole school community.
- The Eco-Code has been reviewed annually to ensure it is relevant.
- There is evidence that the Eco-Code is shaping school practice and culture. Provide evidence.
- Provide at least one photo that best demonstrates your achievements in the Eco-Schools program (not necessarily Eco-Code related!)