

**NEW!!**

## Portfolio Binder Q&As

1. What is an EcoSchools Portfolio Binder?

The EcoSchools portfolio binder is a structured framework for holistic assessment of your school's EcoSchools program. It contains evidence of achievement of the EcoTeam's and school's efforts over time. The EcoSchools department provides each school with a binder as needed.

2. Why are portfolios used?

Schools themselves are learning organizations. The EcoSchools Portfolio Binder is used to document progress and support self-assessment. It can also be used to transfer learning within and between schools. Its content becomes part of an EcoSchools succession strategy for sustaining effective leadership and teamwork in the face of changing staff and student populations.

3. What should go into an assessment portfolio?

In general, important milestones of your program should be included. Specific recommendations for what to include appear in the EcoSchools Portfolio Binder that schools receive at the beginning of the year.

4. Who is responsible for collecting the portfolio material?

The EcoTeam is responsible. You may wish to have one person take the lead. Consider involving students to varying degrees in taking responsibility for building and maintaining the Portfolio Binder.

5. How does the portfolio assessment relate to reducing impact on the environment?

An EcoSchools Portfolio Binder is one tool that supports self assessment. The deepest change occurs in schools which self assess and understand their impact on the environment, and are self directed in making decisions to reduce that impact.

6. Are portfolios worth the time they take to compile?

The EcoSchools Portfolio Binder does take considerable time to compile, but less so as it becomes second nature to deposit materials in it. If it is not used by the EcoTeam as a tool to reflect on and communicate achievements, then its primary purpose will be the evidence required by an EcoSchools auditor to fairly judge the strength of your program.

7. How should the EcoSchools Portfolio Binder used?

Staff development is very important for improving the EcoSchools programs in our schools. Taking the time at staff meetings to review and explain the EcoSchools program and the purpose and value of the EcoSchools Portfolio Binder can help build a greater shared understanding of work being done.

8. How much material is too much?

The binder should be useful to your team in future years. Reflection on how things worked, and how you might do things differently have more value than sheer volume of material.