



# Action Library

## EcoSchools Actions and Descriptions

Actions make up the backbone of EcoSchools certification, and consist of a variety of fun and educational projects, campaigns, lessons, and challenges that help schools assess and improve their environmental practices. Actions are designed to be flexible and adaptable to all curricula and school types to ensure that everyone across Canada can pursue certification. EcoSchools actions also connect schools to the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the [global FEE network](#).

Please find a full list of EcoSchools actions below.

	Action	Description
 SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being	 <b>Environmental Health</b>	Learn about environmental health hazards and ways to protect yourself, your friends, your family, and the environment.
	 <b>Sit Spot</b>	Cultivate awareness and well-being by regularly visiting one specific spot where you can sit, slow down, awaken your senses, and learn more about yourself and the local environment.
	 <b>Take Me Outside Day</b>	Commit to spending at least one hour outside with your class for Take Me Outside Day!
 SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	 <b>School Water Audit</b>	Explore how your school uses water through an audit, and implement School Water Audit water-saving strategies to protect this precious resource!
	 <b>School Water Footprint</b>	Collect consumption data to investigate your school's water use and provide a baseline for success!
	 <b>The Great Gulp</b>	Take a synchronized gulp of tap water to raise awareness about drinking water and the importance of reducing single-use plastic waste!
 SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy	 <b>Heating and Cooling</b>	Optimize heating and cooling systems at your school through data collection, communication, and monitoring.
	 <b>Phantom Power</b>	Reduce your school's energy footprint by monitoring and unplugging your appliances!
	 <b>School Energy Footprint</b>	Investigate your school's energy consumption to help understand your building's carbon footprint.
	 <b>Switch Off Lights and Devices</b>	Conserve energy by turning off lights, monitors, and other electronics when they are not needed!
	 <b>WWF Earth Hour</b>	Switch off your lights and make noise for the Earth Hour movement.
	 <b>WWF National Sweater Day</b>	Our planet is getting hotter. Your school can help by turning down the heat on National Sweater Day.



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 <b>Active and Sustainable School Travel</b>	Run a campaign to encourage low-carbon transportation options such as walking, cycling, busing, and carpooling to school.
 <b>Anti-Idling</b>	Breathe clean air and reduce air pollution by tackling vehicle idling at your school and in your community!
 <b>Community Clean-Up</b>	Remove litter from the environment, learn about proper waste sorting, and demonstrate the power of working together!
 <b>Get Cooking!</b>	Learn how to cook from scratch, preserve food, support local food systems, and feed your school community.
 <b>Grow a Food Garden</b>	Get your hands dirty, grow food for your community, and learn about plants and nutrition in an outdoor food garden.
 <b>Indoor Gardening and Greenhouses</b>	Bring gardening inside for hands-on, year-round learning about plants, food, and nutrition.
 <b>Conduct a Waste Audit</b>	Discover how much waste your school is producing so you can start reducing!
 <b>Divert Textile Waste</b>	Reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair, and recycle old textiles such as clothes, shoes, and bedding, and help to divert waste from the landfill.
 <b>GOOS Paper</b>	Get creative and reduce paper use at your school by using GOOS (Good On One Side) paper bins throughout your school.
 <b>Recycle Your Personal Electronic Waste</b>	Collect electronic waste (e-waste) from your school community and ensure items get properly reused and recycled.
 <b>Reduce Harmful Single-Use Plastics</b>	Raise awareness and take a pledge to reduce harmful single-use plastic waste at your school.
 <b>Repurposing and Innovative Recycling</b>	Recycle, repurpose, or repair items that are not recyclable through the regular recycling stream and help to divert waste from the landfill.
 <b>Reduce Your Food Waste</b>	Get your school ready to reduce avoidable food waste through an awareness campaign and school-wide pledge.
 <b>Sort Your Waste</b>	Track and reduce contamination in your garbage and recycling bins, raise awareness, and establish an effective waste sorting program.
 <b>Vermicomposting and School-based Composting</b>	Get your hands dirty and turn your food scraps into nutrient-rich soil.
 <b>Waste-Free Lunch</b>	Reduce your school's waste by encouraging students and staff to bring waste-free lunches!
 <b>Waste-Free Meetings and Events</b>	Make your next school event or meeting waste-free!

SDG 11  
Sustainable Cities and Communities



SDG 12  
Responsible Consumption and Production





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 <b>Create Your Own Action</b>	Do you have a plan for an action that doesn't quite fit? Let us know all about it!
 <b>Earth Day</b>	Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22nd and is a great opportunity to take action for the environment!
 <b>EcoCode</b>	An EcoCode is your school's environmental policy or mission statement that demonstrates your commitment to climate action.
 <b>Environmental Fair or Conference</b>	Organize a day of environmental learning for your school or broader community.
 <b>Environmental Literacy</b>	Deepen environmental literacy by providing opportunities for all students at your school to learn IN, ABOUT, FOR, and FROM the environment.
 <b>Getting Started</b>	Help us get to know your EcoSchool this year and build a strong foundation for success!
 <b>Meatless Mondays</b>	Reduce greenhouse gas emission by participating in Meatless Monday!
 <b>Staff Professional Development</b>	Create opportunities for school staff to enhance their environmental knowledge and skills by participating in webinars, workshops, and conferences.
 <b>Track School Transportation Emissions</b>	Track how staff and students travel to and from school to better understand transportation-related GHG emissions and the transportation options you have.
 <b>Young Reporters for the Environment</b>	Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) Canada is a national environmental journalism competition for writers, photographers, and videographers aged 11-18.
 <b>Community Science</b>	Become a community scientist (also known as citizen scientist) and contribute to important environmental research projects from across Canada, and beyond!
 <b>Connect With Nearby Nature</b>	Grow deeper connections to nearby-nature and share your learning by developing place-based field guides, maps, or signage!
 <b>Create Homes for Wildlife</b>	Support wildlife populations by creating safe spaces they can nest, feed, and play.
 <b>Low-mow Zone</b>	Let a grassy area of your school grounds grow wild and start studying with nature!
 <b>Pollinator Garden</b>	Plant a pollinator garden at your school and create a space that is not only beneficial to pollinators like bees and butterflies, but is also fertile grounds for learning.
 <b>Supporting Species at Risk</b>	Take action to raise awareness and support a species at risk in Canada.
 <b>The Bondar Challenge</b>	Take inspiration from the work of Dr. Roberta Bondar and get connected to nature through the lens of a camera!
 <b>Tree Planting and Maintenance at School</b>	Plant and care for trees on your school grounds and experience the benefits for decades to come.

SDG 13  
Climate Action



SDG 15  
Life on the Land



There are two locked  actions that will help to form the foundation of a strong EcoSchool. They cannot be removed from a school plan. While it is recommended that schools try to implement these actions, they may choose to complete as much, or little, of each of these actions.