



# GETTING IT RIGHT

## ECO SCHOOLS ; SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION IN ACTION

Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) aims to *“empower students to be the change our sustainable world needs by engaging them in fun, action-orientated, and socially responsible learning.”*



# VIHREÄ LIPPU: FINLAND GOT IT RIGHT SINCE 1998

- Eco-Schools is the world's largest sustainable school programme. Globally the program operates in 68 countries, and it has been run in Finland with the name Vihreä lippu (Green Flag) already for over 20 years. Currently there are more than 300 schools registered in the program in Finland.
- Eco-Schools empowers children to drive change and improve their environmental awareness through the simple Seven-Step framework. Eco-Schools develops pupils' skills, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and creates financial savings for schools.



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# It all starts in the classroom

- **Include everyone**

Combining learning with hands-on experiences, the whole programme is run according to an all-inclusive, participatory approach involving students, teachers and the local community at large.

- **Improve school environments**

The Eco-Schools programme is an ideal way for schools to embark on a meaningful path towards improving the environmental footprint of a school, a change which inevitably leads to a more sustainable, less costly and more responsible school environment.

- **Motivate**

Eco-Schools challenges students to engage in tackling environmental problems at a level where they can see tangible results, spurring them on to realise that they really can make a difference.

- **Improve attitudes**

Eco-Schools instills in students a sense of responsibility and cultivates a sustainable mindset which they can apply on a daily basis. It equips those involved with the drive to really make a difference and to spread such proactive behaviour amongst family and friends, ultimately passing it on to future generations.

- **Involve communities**

Eco-Schools places great emphasis on involving the local community from the very beginning. By doing so, the lessons the students pick up are transferred back into the community where they take hold and lead to more sustainable, environmentally responsible behaviour patterns all round.

- **Connect Globally**

Eco-Schools facilitates contact between participating institutions not just at the national level, but also internationally. These links provide an opportunity for schools to share environmental information, they can also be used as a means for cultural exchanges and for improving language skills.

# How Eco-Schools works

## THE SEVEN STEPS FRAMEWORK



## THEMES

**Biodiversity & Nature**

**Climate Change**

**Energy**

**Global Citizenship**

**Health & Wellbeing**

**Litter**

**School Grounds**

**Transport**

**Waste**

**Water**





Eco-Schools

# Seven Steps Methodology

The Eco-Schools Seven Steps methodology is a series of carefully engineered measures to help schools maximise the success of their Eco-School ambitions. The method involves a wide diversity of individuals from the school community - with students playing a primary role in the process. **The most important aspect for schools to remember is that every school is different and it is therefore critical that a school fits the seven steps around its circumstances and situation and NOT try to fit the school into the seven steps.**



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# Green Flag Award



# Green Flag Application

## **1. Before a school can apply for the first Eco-Schools Green Flag it must have carried out the following:**

- Registered with Eco-Schools International
- Be working on the programme for at least one school year
- Completed all Seven Steps of the Eco-Schools programme
- Completed an Environmental Review for all 10 Main Themes
- Have a current Action Plan, with future targets. Either Global Citizenship or Climate Change have to be a Theme which is addressed on in the Action Plan.

## **2. Fill in Application Form and send to Eco-Schools International**

## **3. A pleasant on-site meeting, usually between the Eco Committee and the Assessor. It generally takes about two hours.**

Note: Since the Green Flag is of extremely high standard, it will take the school at least one school year to be eligible for assessment, and generally it will take two years.

Note: Once you have received your first flag you must renew it every two years. For this renewal we expect you to take on, at least, one new Theme in the Action Plan.



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- **Learner-centered classroom and personalized instruction:**As students have access to any information possible, there certainly is no need to spoon-feed them knowledge or teach one-size-fits-all content. Students have different personalities, goals, and needs, so when they are allowed to make their own choices, they own their learning, increase intrinsic motivation, and put in more effort—an ideal recipe for better learning outcomes.
- **Students as producers:**Today's students have the latest and greatest tools making them viewed as digital natives with capabilities to produce beautiful and creative blogs, movies, or digital stories that they feel proud of and share with others.
- **Learn new technologies:**In order to be able to offer students choices, having one's own hands-on experience and expertise will be useful. For example, a short-term subscription to Lynda.com, allows access to many resources for learning new technologies.
- **Go global:**Today's tools make it possible to learn about other countries and people firsthand. Of course, textbooks are still sufficient, yet there's nothing like learning languages, cultures, and communication skills by talking to people from other parts of the world. Teaching students how to use the tools in their hands to visit (at least virtually)any corner of this planet will hopefully make us more knowledgeable and sympathetic.
- **Be smart and use smartphones:**When students are encouraged to view their devices as valuable tools that support knowledge (rather than as distractions), they start using them as such. Teaching students to be independent and know how to find the answers they need makes the class a different environment.
- **Go digital:**Go paperless—organizing teaching resources and activities on one's own website and integrating technology can bring students' learning experience to a different level. Sharing links and offering digital discussions allows students to access and share class resources in a more organized fashion.

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- **Create Hidden Curriculum** : “formal” curriculum consists of the courses, lessons, and learning activities students participate in, as well as the knowledge and skills educators intentionally teach to students, however, the hidden curriculum consists of the unspoken or implicit academic, social, and cultural messages that are communicated to students while they are in school. It creates the **school culture** that reinforces the vision and mission of the school.
- **Harness the power of 3D models in the classroom**

- Resources:

<https://www.iste.org/explore/Computer-Science/Harness-the-power-of-3D-models-in-the-classroom#:~:text=3D%20models%20are%20realistic%20looking,engaged%20and%20excited%20about%20learning.>

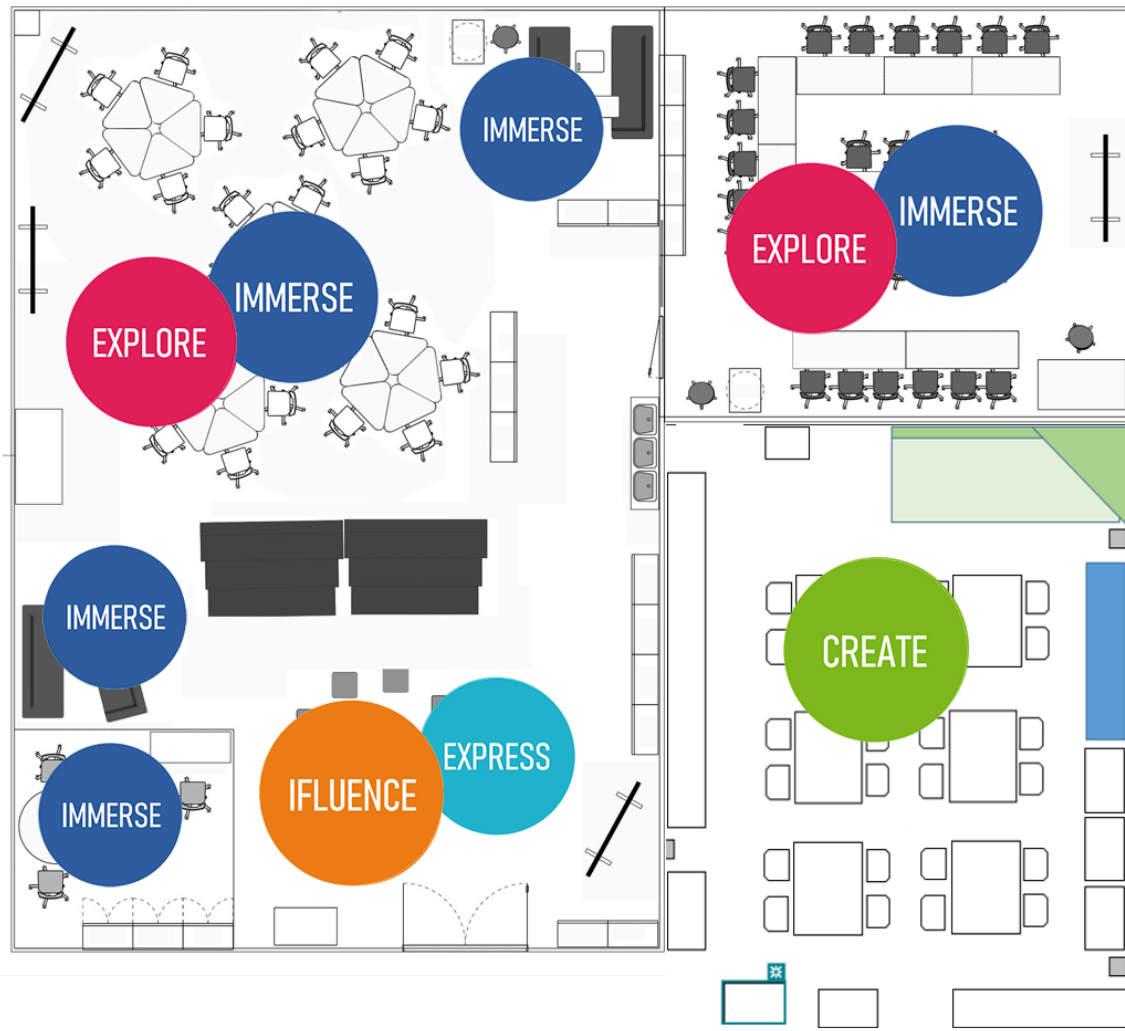
<https://www.tinkercad.com/planters>



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- **Collaborate:** Technology allows collaboration between teachers and students. Creating digital resources, presentations, and projects together with other educators and students will make classroom activities resemble the real world. Collaboration globally can change our entire experience.
- **Connect:** Connect with like-minded individuals. Today's tools allow us to connect with anyone, anywhere, anytime. Have a question for an expert or colleague? Simply connect via social media: follow, join, ask, or tell.
- **Project-based learning:** As today's students have access to authentic resources on the web, experts anywhere in the world, and peers learning the same subject somewhere else, teaching with textbooks is very 20th-century. Today's students should develop their own driving questions, conduct their research, contact experts, and create final projects to share, all using devices already in their hands. All they need from their teacher is guidance.
- **Build your positive digital footprint:** Today's teachers should model how to appropriately use social media, how to produce and publish valuable content, and how to create sharable resources. Maintaining professional behavior both in class and online will help build positive digital footprint and model appropriate actions for students.
- **Innovate:** I invite you to expand your teaching toolbox and try new ways you have not tried before, such as teaching with social media or replacing textbooks with web resources.
- **Keep learning:** As new tools and new technology keep emerging, learning and adapting is essential.



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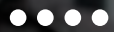
- **Harness Future Classrooms** that aspire students to be its creators and future leaders.

■ Resources:

<https://fclab.fi/home-en/>

<https://fcl.eun.org/>

# THANK YOU



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