

Background

The WESSA WWF-SA Eco-Schools programme was developed in South Africa as a school improvement programme that aims at achieving sustainable environmental management. The programme is designed to encourage whole-school learning and action for a healthy environment.

Eco-Schools is an international programme of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). There are Eco-Schools in 40 countries around the world! For more information on the international Eco-Schools programme visit www.eco-schools.org. For more on Eco-Schools in South Africa see the education pages of www.wessa.co.za.

How will the Eco-Schools programme benefit your school?

Eco-Schools is a curriculum-based programme, which offers opportunities to:

- Achieve NCS objectives of integrating environment into all learning areas
- Improve your school environment
- Build young people's confidence and sense of citizenship through participation
- Increase environmental awareness
- Involve the local community
- Reduce litter and waste
- Reduce costs by saving water and energy
- Gain local publicity
- Develop relationships with other schools around the world



About the programme?

The Eco-Schools programme is designed to encourage curriculum-based action for a healthy environment. It is an internationally recognised award scheme that accredits schools that make a commitment to continuously improve their school's environmental performance.



- **Curriculum:** The Eco-Schools programme raises awareness of and supports action in environmental and sustainable development issues through lesson plans and activities linked to curriculum learning areas.
- **Action:** The Eco-Schools programme encourages learners to take an active role in how their school can be run for the benefit of the environment. Practical steps are taken to reduce the school's environmental impact.
- **Community:** The Eco-Schools programme extends learning beyond the classroom and develops responsible attitudes and commitment, both at home and in the wider community, promoting sustainable development and building community ties.

Contacts

For more information please contact:
The National Co-ordinators at (033) 3303931
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Or your Regional Co-ordinator:
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How to become an Eco-School...

A. Registration

Use this form to register your school. See details on next page. Receive a certificate and an Eco-Schools Toolkit.

B. Eco-School Activities

- 1 Form an Eco-Committee & appoint a teacher co-ordinator
- 2 Write up your Eco-Code
- 3 Do an Eco-Audit and choose a theme
- 4 Plan for Teaching & learning
- 5 Plan and take Action
- 6 Report and share
- 7 Develop and submit a portfolio, towards achieving your award

C. Portfolio *Send in by 31 Oct 2009

Your school will need to report on its progress in a portfolio. Guidelines are provided.

Note: If you need longery our school may submit its portfolio in October 2009, but will need to re-register.

D. Awards

Successful schools will be awarded their award during November 2009, after the portfolio has been assessed.

Note: The school may keep its Eco-School status for one year. To keep your status a school must register each year and submit a new portfolio (end of October) reporting on ongoing Eco-School work showing development and sustainability within the school.