



Eco-Schools: A Global Model for Environmental Action & Impact



Eco-Schools

Eco-Schools mobilises young people worldwide to deliver science-based environmental solutions, transforming schools into drivers of measurable action that reduces pollution, restores ecosystems and strengthens climate resilience.

- A student-centred, bottom-up, & whole-school approach
- Reorientates curricula around priority environmental challenges
- Introduces action-learning pedagogies for real-world impact
- Improves relevance of learning and competencies of learners
- Transforms learning environments into hubs of sustainability
- Involves families and communities as multipliers of change



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: A GLOBAL SNAPSHOT

Eco-Schools is a scalable, science-based solution that delivers measurable environmental impact through education systems. It contributes directly to environmental protection and planetary health by enabling young people to design and implement practical, measurable, environmental solutions within their schools and communities.



21,000 Green Flag schools have greened their school environment, delivering biodiversity and ecosystem restoration



54,500 Eco- Committees (at least 327,000 students*) design and implement environmental solutions according to priority themes.



Government backing in 36 countries, supporting Eco-Schools at national level



Teachers in 177 countries trained to deliver environmental action in schools through FEE Academy

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: SCIENCE BASED ACTION



STRUCTURED, SCIENCE-BASED METHODOLOGY

Eco-Schools applies a **scientifically grounded, systems-based approach** that integrates environmental and behavioural science with practical action.

At its core is a ***Seven-Step framework*** that guides schools through:

Investigation → Data collection → Action →
Monitoring → Evaluation.

This cyclical process mirrors **scientific inquiry** and **environmental management**, ensuring that learning is directly linked to measurable environmental outcomes.



GLOBAL IMPACT AND SCALABILITY



Eco-Schools Global Reach



13 Mil

students received ESD
from over 400K teachers



There are FEE
registered
international schools
in 26 countries

3.7 % ↑

The percentage increase in
the number of Eco-Schools
in one year



Skills Developed

Communication &
Advocacy

Collaboration &
Leadership

Critical Thinking &
Problem-Solving

Scientific & Systems
Thinking

Ethics, Sustainability &
Global Citizenship

100



Member Countries

>500K

teachers received
ESD training

>21K

Green Flags

have been awarded



>54K

Eco-Schools

are registered working with the
Project-Based Seven Steps
Framework creating lasting
change in schools and
communities

>3Mil

parents and external
partners make Eco
Schools a community
movement

The Whole-School Approach

Our approach embeds ESD
holistically across curricula,
changing systems.

January 2026

SYSTEM LEVEL CHANGE



System-Level Transformation: From Schools to Policy



POLICY & SYSTEM IMPACT

Eco-Schools extends beyond individual schools to drive system-level change, influencing education policy, national frameworks, and global sustainability initiatives.

Embedded in education systems across 36 countries through government support and public funding

Working with Ministries of Education globally to influence curriculum, school standards, and sustainability policy

SCALING THROUGH GLOBAL COLLABORATION & MENTORING



Eco-Schools scales globally through a peer-to-peer network model, where established national operators support newer members to implement and adapt the programme.

HOW THE MODEL WORKS

Sharing methodologies, tools, and implementation experience
Providing mentorship and capacity-building
Ensuring quality and consistency across diverse contexts

South Africa → Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana
→ enabling regional expansion and capacity building
→ Enabling rapid, scalable growth while maintaining programme quality

ADDRESSING GLOBAL INEQUALITIES



Expanding Access Through Global Teacher Training



FEE ACADEMY

Eco-Schools addresses global inequalities by providing free, accessible training that enables educators worldwide to lead environmental action.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

Free of charge → eliminating financial barriers
Multilingual → English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Greek, Norwegian, German
Flexible, self-paced → accessible in remote and low-resource contexts

GLOBAL REACH & IMPACT

Educators in 177 countries engaged
Supporting teachers where environmental education and youth led action is not yet embedded.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Equips teachers with practical tools and sustainability frameworks
Supports student-led action in:
biodiversity protection, climate resilience & resource conservation
Evidence shows increased teacher confidence and action-oriented practice

MEASURABLE IMPACT ON POLICY AND PRACTICE



Global Policy to Practice: Delivering Measurable Impact

Eco-Schools translates international sustainability frameworks into practical, measurable action within education systems worldwide.

UNESCO GREENING EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP



A key delivery mechanism for global education transformation:

- Contributing to all four pillars:
 - o Greening schools (infrastructure & operations)
 - o Greening curricula (climate & sustainability education)
 - o Greening teacher training
 - o Greening education systems (policy & governance)
- Providing a proven implementation model across its global school network

UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (2021–2030)



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030

Mobilising schools to deliver real-world environmental restoration:

- Supporting tree planting, habitat restoration, and biodiversity monitoring
- Engaging students, educators, and communities in local ecosystem action
- Linking global targets to locally led environmental solutions

YOUTH LEADERSHIP



Youth Leadership at Scale: The Eco-Committee Model

Eco-Schools places young people at the centre of environmental action, empowering students to investigate challenges, design solutions, and lead change in their schools and communities.

STUDENT-LED ACTION IN PRACTICE

Through Eco-Committees, students:

- Conduct environmental audits and data analysis
- Develop and implement sustainability action plans
- Monitor progress and drive continuous improvement



GLOBAL REACH

- 54,000+ Eco-Committees worldwide
- Engaging 500,000+ students in sustained leadership roles
- One of the largest coordinated youth-led environmental networks globally

RWANDA: FROM INTRODUCTION TO IMPACT IN FIVE YEARS

The Eco-Schools programme in Rwanda, implemented by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), demonstrates rapid and measurable environmental impact in a climate-vulnerable context. Since 2020, the programme has delivered tangible outcomes across four districts:

RESULTS

- 40 Green Learning Zones established in participating schools, including tree nurseries, school gardens, composting systems, and climate-resilient agriculture projects
- 48,000 students and 1,600 teachers engaged in environmental stewardship
- 85,000 tree seedlings produced
- 31,000 parents and community members engaged

SOMALIA: YOUTH LEADERSHIP BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

In Somalia, Eco-Schools is emerging as a platform for student-led environmental action in climate-vulnerable contexts, with growing interest in programme expansion.

YOUTH-LED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

At Sheikh Hassan Barsame School, students led a tree-planting and environmental protection initiative to address limited green space, soil erosion, and low environmental awareness:

- 80%+ of students participated
- 200+ trees planted and maintained
- Students developed leadership, teamwork, and stewardship skills
- Adapted to flood damage, reinforcing long-term care and resilience

Empowering young people to lead environmental action in climate-affected communities

A TRANSFORMATIONAL MODEL FOR PLANETARY IMPACT



WHY ECO-SCHOOLS IS TRANSFORMATIONAL

Science-Based & Proven

- Grounded in environmental and behavioural science
- Demonstrated impact through research and measurable outcomes

System-Level Change

- Embedded in national education systems and global policy frameworks
- Influencing policy, curricula, and institutional practice

Global Equity & Inclusion

- Removing financial, geographic, and knowledge barriers
- Enabling participation in communities most affected by environmental change

Scalable Global Solution

- Operating in 100+ countries across diverse contexts
- Adaptable to local environmental challenges while maintaining a common framework.

Youth-Led Action at Scale

- 54,000+ Eco-Committees mobilising millions of students
- Developing lifelong environmental leaders and changemakers

Transforming education into a global force for environmental protection and planetary health

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