

EcoSchools Framework

A Guide for Implementation & Certification

Just as wildlife needs specific elements to survive and thrive—food, water, shelter, and a place to raise young—your EcoSchool requires specific elements to implement and sustain the program and to certify as an EcoSchool in the U.S.



FORM AN ACTION TEAM



**AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGE
THE COMMUNITY**



**CELEBRATE, REFLECT,
AND CREATE
AN ECOCODE**



**DEVELOP AN
ACTION PLAN**



**IDENTIFY CURRICULUM
CONNECTIONS**



**TAKE ACTION, COLLECT
DATA, MEASURE IMPACT,
AND SHARE STORIES**



**MONITOR AND
EVALUATE PROGRESS**



EcoSchools U.S.
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

To learn more visit
www.nwf.org/eco-schools-us

While the Framework is outlined in a linear manner, we recognize that all schools are unique, and will come into the framework in different ways. For example, some schools have strong community connections and have already formed an action team and are ready to jump into the development of their action plan.



1. FORM AN ACTION TEAM

Create a student-led committee with diverse abilities and perspectives to drive environmental-based education and actions for the school community.



2. AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Foster genuine connections and share transformative stories from working at the nexus of environment, community, and economy.



3. DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN

Annually create an action plan that aligns with the committee's values, focusing on nature-based solutions for the community's health and wellbeing.



4. TAKE ACTION, COLLECT DATA, MEASURE IMPACT, AND SHARE STORIES

Explore community and nature-based solutions for the team's action plan, measure the school's impact, and share accessible, fact-based stories to raise awareness and promote collaboration.



5. MONITOR AND EVALUATE PROGRESS

Collect data before and after taking action to evaluate how well the plan is working and keep the school community informed about the progress and results.



6. IDENTIFY CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

The team's nature and community-based actions will connect to what students are learning in classrooms.



7. CELEBRATE, REFLECT, AND CREATE AN ECOCODE

Celebrate successes big and small, reflect on how to improve for the future, and creatively display the school's commitment to nature-based solutions in an EcoCode.

