

# Criteria for awarding the Green Flag

for International Schools in Finland



## 1. ECO COMMITTEE

- The school has an Eco Committee, which acts as the driving force of the Eco-Schools programme. It directs and addresses all phases of the programme and ensures that all of the Seven Steps are carried out.
- Eco Committee work is **student-driven**.
- Students make up at least **2/3** of the Eco Committee members.
- The Eco Committee meets at least **eight times a year**.
- Student members of the Eco Committee are responsible for reporting to other students and for bringing their ideas back to the Eco Committee meetings.

## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- The Eco Committee undertakes an Environmental Review at the beginning of each Eco-Schools project to evaluate the school's impact on the environment and overall progress on **all Eco-Schools themes**.

## 3. ACTION PLAN

- Based on the Environmental Review, the Eco-Committee decides on **three priority themes** to focus on in the Eco-Schools project. One of these should always be **Global Citizenship or Climate Change**. (When renewing the Green Flag at least one new theme should be taken on.)
- The Action Plan identifies and lists theme-specific goals for:
  - the reduction of environmental impacts as identified in the Environmental Review
  - promotion of skills and knowledge needed for a sustainable lifestyle
- The Action Plan includes a **structured timetable** where these goals are scheduled to be achieved over a fixed time scale.

## 4. MONITORING & EVALUATION

- The Eco Committee will **monitor and review progress** against the Action Plan's set targets and timeframe and identify areas for continuous improvement. They build on successes and decide on remedial action if activities are not proving successful.

## 5. LINK TO THE CURRICULUM

- Eco-Schools programme is a part of the school's year plan.
- The chosen Eco-Schools themes are **included in school subjects**.
- Students develop knowledge, skills (e.g. decision-making) and attitudes through real life, engaging activities in the curriculum. They are empowered to be change agents for solving environmental issues in school or the community.
- Eco-Schools theme days, events, competitions, projects, celebrations etc. are included in the school's curriculum and schedule at least **six times per year**.

## 6. INFORM & INVOLVE

- **The whole school** is involved in Eco-Schools activities.
- **At least 70%** of students participate in Eco-Schools events and activities.
- Parents and families are informed of the Eco-Schools programme and the various Eco-Schools activities.
- Eco-Schools events, activities, projects and achievements are highlighted and updated on the school website, social media, school newsletter, etc. or in the local press.

## 7. ECO CODE

- The school produces an Eco Code that **describes the school's commitment to environmentally friendly actions**.
- The Eco Code is produced/updated by the Eco Committee. The rest of the school is also given a chance to participate in forming the Eco Code.
- The Eco Code is **known and recognized by the whole school** (e.g. by keeping it visible in all classrooms).

## ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

- The duration of one Eco-Schools project (the 7-step cycle) may range **between 1 and 2 school years**. The project starts at the beginning of a school term.
- The school reports to FEE Finland of progress on steps 1-3 in the beginning of the project by sending the Environmental Review and Action plan in for feedback.
- At the end of the project, the school completes and submits an application for the Green Flag Award to FEE Finland. After submitting the application, an on-site assessment visit will be arranged.