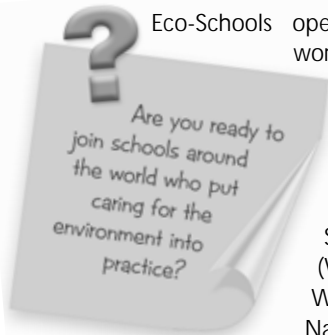
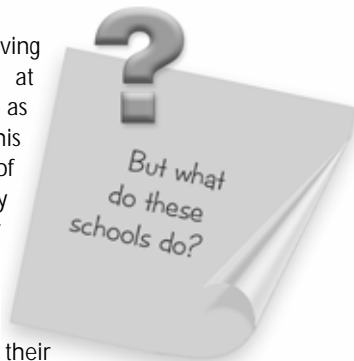


What is Eco-Schools about?



Eco-Schools operates in over 40 countries worldwide. It is an international programme of the Foundation for Environmental Education (Fee), managed locally by the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA) in partnership with WWF-SA, with support from Nampak. Various other organisations support Eco-Schools. As many as 850 South African schools have already joined.

Eco-Schools is about improving environmental management at the school, as well as environmental learning. This means that groups consisting of teachers, learners, community members and/or partner organisations get together and undertake a project to improve some aspect of environmental management at their school. This could range from saving electricity to starting a garden; the possibilities are endless! At the same time, teachers draw on these practical projects to strengthen environmental learning at the school. Each year they strive to improve on their efforts, thereby qualifying for an internationally recognised symbol of excellence, the Eco-Schools Flag.



Eco-Schools South Africa supports the National Curriculum Statements for Grades R-9, and Grades 10-12. Both primary and secondary Schools can sign up for the programme, and so can pre-primary schools, schools for learners with special needs, home schools and environmental clubs.



Registration

Schools register by completing a registration form and sending to WESSA at the address in the back of this Handbook. Download the registration form from <http://www.wessa.org.za> (click on Education and go to Eco-Schools) or contact WESSA. After registering, you will receive an Eco-Schools Toolkit. You then follow the 7 steps of the programme, putting together your Eco-Report (portfolio of evidence) along the way. By 31 October you submit your Eco-Report to the Regional Coordinator or the national coordinating team.

Registration Options

Eco-Schools registration fee per calendar year:	R110
Eco-Schools registration <i>plus</i> membership of WESSA:	R260 per year
(R260 registration includes quarterly copies of the <i>EnviroKids</i> and <i>African Wildlife</i> magazines)	

You may register at any time, but if you register before March, you can be considered for an award by the end of that year. Schools must be registered for at least eight months before they can be considered for an award.

7 Steps to becoming an Eco-School

To become an Eco-School you need to work both in the classroom and as a school whole. All you have to do is follow these 7 basic steps that Eco-Schools all over the world follow.

- 1. Form an Eco-Committee:** *Ideally, everyone is involved in an Eco-School – the staff, learners, parents and other community members. But you need someone to start the process, keep things together, and report on progress.*
- 2. Write an Eco-Code:** *An Eco-Code is a statement of the ideals you strive for when it comes to environmental management and environmental learning, and an undertaking of how teachers and learners will conduct themselves in this regard.*
- 3. Do an Eco-Audit and Choose a Theme:** *We use the term audit for a review of the way things stand right now at your school – a checklist of the current conditions. Take a good look at all aspects of your school. What can be done to improve your*

school, its environment and the learning that takes place there? There are five themes that will help to guide you:

- *Resource Use*
- *Nature and Biodiversity*
- *Local and Global Issues*
- *Healthy Living*
- *Community & Heritage*

- 4. Plan for Teaching and Learning:** *In addition to identifying opportunities for environmental improvements at your school, you need to identify environmental learning opportunities in the curriculum that relate to the theme you chose. Schools must teach at least three lessons related to their chosen theme, during the year, as part of their Eco-Schools programme.*
- 5. Plan and Take Action:** *Your Whole School audit and specific Theme Audit will have shown which areas of environmental management need attention. Take action! And involve the whole school and wider community where possible.*
- 6. Report and Share:** *In order to qualify as an Eco-School, you must share what you have done, in the form of an Eco-Report. This is a portfolio of evidence that shows that you have taken all the required steps.*
- 7. Receive an Award!** *From 2008 Eco-Schools South Africa is introducing a new award system, which is used elsewhere in the world as well. It works as follows:*

Year in which Report is Presented	Requirements	Award
Year 1	Project and at least three lessons on one theme	Bronze Certificate
Year 2	Project and lessons on two themes areas (including theme from Year 1)	Silver Certificate
Year 3	Project and lessons on three themes (including themes from Years 1 - 2)	Green Flag
Year 4	Project and lessons on four themes (including themes from Years 1 - 3)	Gold Certificate
Year 5	Project and lessons on five themes (including themes from Years 1 - 4)	International Flag
After Year 5	Project and lessons on Special Themes	Special Merit

A Special Theme will be announced at the start of every year for those schools who have kept their flags for five years or more. (In 2007, the Special Theme was Climate Change.) If you are registering for the first time, and would like to qualify for a Green Flag straight away, you are welcome to tackle three themes from the start. **NOTE:** If an Eco-School does not submit a portfolio after two years of earning the flag, the flag will need to be returned to the national office.

Contact

The National Coordination Team (WESSA)

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Regional Coordinators

Western Cape	WESSA WC PO Box 30145, Tokai, Cape Town (021) 701 1397
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Mpumalanga	Zuzette de Beer PO Box 9379, Sonpark, Nelspruit 083 273 5392 zetdebeer@gmail.com



"I enjoyed learning about global warming, because I find it very important to learn about and I did not know about it before. It has helped me to learn more about the world and it has opened my eyes to the things that are going on in the world."

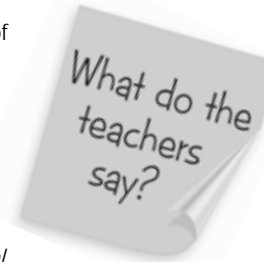
Thobeka Ndlela 12 years old, Hilton Intermediate School

'Arbor day is about getting nature its turn to be celebrated, at least once a year. Nature keeps us living so lets give it its rights. We get our rights, why cant nature have its?'

Gemma, Grd 5, Manor Gardens Primary, Durban

'Eco-schools has created a sense of pride. Learners and staff are more aware of environmental issues. Audits have been beneficial both from a conservancy point of view and a financial aspect. The school has been put in a good light with the community.'

Longmarket Girls School



'Eco-Schools has assisted us in implementing the NCS by giving us lesson guidelines and activities. We regard now environmental education as important. The ES Programme should be implemented in all schools.'

Mr Silulami Nkqezo, Litha Primary School, Western Cape

'It was eye opening, as were treating environment and curriculum separately, now we can integrate them and we have learned that we are not the most important creatures.'

Rethusitiswe Primary, Limpopo

'Learning and teaching should encompass the immediate environment, Eco-Schools helps us do this.'

Walter Morudu, Johane Mokolobetsi Primary, North West

'Eco-Schools helped me to understand what the NCS entails and what the principles of it are. This way, I am able to help my colleagues in planning lesson plans with an environmental focus.'

Gloria Gwebani, Cintsas Public School, Eastern Cape

'Eco-Schools has had very positive effect on our school – community involvement has improved and we are able to save more water and has improved the relationship among the learners and has strengthened the sense of belonging. Parent involvement in our school has improved.'

Moses Mangaamelana, Thelamama Primary, Ndumo, KZN



The Eco-Schools Toolkit

