

Eco-Schools

introduction

The Eco-Schools Award Scheme is a national programme taking whole school approach to tackling environmental issues. It is a flexible way to extend environmental lessons out of the classroom and apply green principles to the day-to-day running of the school.

Eco-Schools promotes active citizenship in the school by encouraging all members of the school community to work together to improve their school's environmental performance.

Schools receive national awards for meeting environmental criteria based on the modules: litter, waste minimisation, water, energy, transport, school grounds and healthy living. The awards are graded as Bronze, Silver and the top award, Green Flag.



project

Since 2002, Groundwork Thames Valley has supported eight schools in Slough to help them work through the national Eco-Schools programme. Groundwork provides each school with practical help and guidance throughout the scheme.

Funding is currently provided by the landfill tax credit scheme from both Summerleaze and the Grundon Group, as well as from the Slough Education Action Zone.



services provided

Groundwork helps by:

- Tailoring the scheme to the individual need of the school
- Carrying out the necessary administration and paperwork on behalf of the schools making it easier for them to take part as they do not need to dedicate specific staff to the project.
- Organising activities for the schools such as an Environment Week, focusing on relevant issues, organising talks and tours and inviting external speakers.
- Setting up activities such as an Eco Club that actively looks at litter and waste minimisation in the school.

quotes

"Getting involved with in the Eco-Schools Award Scheme is a great way to get the whole community working together to tackle environmental issues and to get an award at the same time!"

Having Groundwork involved opens up new opportunities for the school through their potential to develop links between us and local industry, business and communities".

Kerri Knibbs, who co-ordinates the Environment Committee at Wexham Secondary School.

