

School Environmental Assessment

Introduction

This Environmental Assessment has been designed to audit the school based on different environmental measures such as energy usage, biodiversity, transport, and water usage. This is for learners to identify the positive actions that the school is already doing for the environment, while also identifying areas where the school could improve.

Instructions

Start by reading through the questions - some you will be able to answer sat at your desk, some will require you to take a walk around the school, and some will require you to ask your teacher.

Tick **Yes** if your school does have this in place, tick **No** if your school doesn't.

Yes = 1 point

No = 0 points

Add any of the questions you tick **No** into the 'Actions/Comments', can you think of ways you can change the **No** into a **Yes**?

Once you have finished your audit, calculate how many points your school has and add them to 'total points' at the bottom of the document. Points mean progress. More points mean your school is already taking positive action. Scores of zero just highlight areas your school can improve.

Finally, at the bottom of the document is 'What Went Well' and 'Even Better If'. This should include at least one action from each section. E.g., 'Have labels which promote which equipment can be turned off when not in use'.

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Energy Questions	Yes	No
Do you see any information about energy savings around the school?		
Are windows and doors always kept shut when heating is on?		
Are the radiators free from obstructions?		
Are reflector panels fitted behind radiators? (Metal reflective foil behind radiator)		
Does the classroom have a thermostat and is it set correctly? (E.g., normal teaching areas 18°C)		
Are windows clean to allow natural light in?		
Are lights turned off in empty rooms?		
Are lights turned off as soon as there is enough daylight?		
Are there labels next to equipment promoting shut down when not in use? (Computers, Monitors, Printers, Projectors)		
Is this equipment shut down when not in use? (Computers, Monitors, Printers, Projectors)		
Is there someone responsible for monitoring energy consumption in your school? (Looking at how much is being used day to day)		
Do students know how to take energy readings?		
Does your school have any renewable energy sources? (wind turbines, solar panels). If yes, answer the next question		
Is there information available about how much renewable energy is generated (E.g., energy meter)?		
Is everyone aware of how saving energy can save the planet and costs?		

Actions/Comments:

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Waste Questions	Yes	No
Do students bring reusable lunchboxes/bottles?		
Are recycling bins available in key locations around the school?		
Do the recycling bins have the correct waste in them?		
Is all waste at break/lunch put into the recycling bins?		
Is there any litter on the school grounds?		
Does the school kitchen recycle its waste? (Food, Cardboard, Plastic)		
Does your school have a compost bin and is it used?		
Is paper used on both sides?		
Does the school buy products made from recycled materials? (Books, Pencils)		
Do offices/printers use recycled paper?		
Does the school have a swap shop? (Books, Games, Uniform)		
Do students know why it is important to refuse, reduce, reuse, repair and recycle?		

Actions/Comments:

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Transport Questions	Yes	No
Do students walk, cycle, or get the bus to school?		
Is there somewhere to store bikes/scooters?		
Is the surrounding area of the school safe for pedestrians and cyclists? (Street lighting, Pedestrian crossing, Cycle lanes, Lollipop attendant)		
Does the school have a school travel plan?		
Does the school partake in any active travel campaign? (Cycle bus, Walk to school Wednesday)		
Does your school have an 'active travel' champion?		
Actions/Comments:		

Water Questions	Yes	No
Does your school have water saving devices? (Push taps, Low-volume flush toilets, urinal flush only on request)		
Does the school have a water butt to collect rainwater? (To water plants)		
Is rainwater collected and used for anything else in the school? (Flushing toilets, adding to pond levels)		
Do students have access to the water meter & know how to read it?		
Actions/Comments:		

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Biodiversity	Yes	No
Does your school have trees/hedgerows?		
Are these trees/hedgerows grown to help nature (E.g., grow wild)?		
Does your school have a pond/marshy area?		
If so, is the pond accessible for wildlife?		
Does your school provide any other measures which help wildlife? (Bird baths, long grass, Wildlife boxes, Orchard, Bug hotel, Butterfly/bee friendly plants, wildlife feeders)		
Does your school record the different types of plants/animals that are found on the school grounds?		
Have you limited the number of herbicides/pesticides on your school grounds?		

Actions/Comments:

Total Points =	
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What Went Well?

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Even Better If:

