

Environment Club Guide



Young people see a problem and are instantly motivated to act. A school environment club gives students the platform they need to take action on the environmental issues they feel passionate about.

Channelling student energy and enthusiasm into an environment club will let students take a leadership role in identifying and achieving your school's environmental goals.

This guide is designed to help you kick-start your school environment club.



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STARTING A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT CLUB

Step 1: Find Your Champions

Start with a teacher or adult who can support and supervise the group. An adult sponsor provides continuity throughout the years as students graduate and move on.

Put out a call for environment club members by advertising and holding a general interest meeting.

Visit mmsb.nl.ca for sample PA announcements to help bring together interested students.



Step 2: Organize

At the general interest meeting, introduce the idea of a student-led environment club and work together to identify goals and objectives.

After the general interest meeting, provide a sign-up sheet so interested students can officially join the environment club. For older clubs, create an email list.

Decide on a consistent meeting time, place, and frequency. This gives students a chance to fit meetings into their busy school day.

Goals:

The club's vision or purpose.
"Why are we here?"

Objectives:

Steps to achieve the club's goals.
"What are we going to do?"

TIP: Make sure your environment club leads by example – start by making meetings waste-free.

Step 3: Plan

Identify environmental issues in your school and community and brainstorm ideas to help remedy those issues.

TIP: Contact your local environmental organization for information and ideas on environmental concerns in your community.

When planning environment club initiatives, be **"SMART"**:

S: Specific	Be specific about what you are going to do and how you are going to do it.
M: Measurable	Find a way to measure your success.
A: Achievable	Set ambitious goals but make sure they are realistic.
R: Relevant	Stay within the club's goals and objectives.
T: Timely	Create a clear timeline. Students will want to see tasks achieved within the school year.

Step 4: Take Action

When it comes time to carry out your environmental initiatives, be sure to involve the whole school community.

Put out a call for volunteers and fundraise when necessary. Promote your activities through PA announcements, posters, school website, community announcements, and emails/memos to parents.

TIP: MMSB encourages schools to reinvest matched recycling funds into environmental initiatives at school.

Step 5: Share Your Story

We'd love to recognize your school environment club's success. Send us a picture of your group along with a brief description of your eco-initiatives and we'll share your story with other schools.



ENVIRONMENT CLUB IDEAS

Your environment club's eco-initiatives can be big or small and may take the form of awareness activities, school events or programs. The following are some ideas to get you started.

Awareness

- Hold a "wear green" day.
- Show an environmental film.
- Create a green school mural.
- Deliver environmental presentations to peers.
- Go on an environmentally-focused field trip.
- Perform skits/songs with a green message at holiday assemblies.
- Create environmental tips and memos for your school website, newsletter, bulletin board, or hallway digital monitor.
- Promote special occasions like Waste Reduction Week, Environment Week, and Earth Day.



Activities and Events

- Hold a waste-free lunch day.
- Hold a recycling blitz.
- Host a school swap meet.
- Start schoolyard composting.
- Start classroom vermicomposting.
- Start a vegetable garden.
- Host a schoolyard clean-up.
- Start a schoolyard naturalization project.
- Construct an outdoor classroom.
- Hold a walk or bike to school day.
- Get involved in local environmental initiatives.



Programs and Guidelines

- Introduce paper reduction guidelines.
- Start a comprehensive recycling program.
- Implement waste reduction initiatives in the cafeteria.
- Create idle-free zones.



TIP: For help with some of these ideas, look for the resource guides in your Get to Half at School Resource Binder or online at mmsb.nl.ca.

INFORMATION

For more information on organizing a swap meet at your school, contact MMSB:

Marketing & Public Education Officer

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