

The Action Plan

After completing the environmental review, the EkoSkola committee can proceed to the next step in the EkoSkola process: the compilation of an action plan.

The data gathered from the environmental review will highlight the environmental issues that the school needs to address. The EkoSkola committee will now need to go through and prioritise these environmental concerns. The sections marked **Action needed**, **Action to be taken** and **Cost involved** (refer to the Environmental Review Checklist) can serve as discussion primers as well as good indicators for items to be considered in the formulation of the action plan.

The action plan consists of a series of timetabled targets aimed at achieving the goals identified by the environmental review. The action plan should identify deadlines, persons responsible for the actions and (if possible) how the actions are related to the curriculum. A sample action plan is given below:

Action	Aim	Person Responsible	Time	Curriculum Link
Anti-litter poster campaign	Raise awareness of the anti-litter campaign throughout the school	Junior Pupils	Month 1	Arts & Crafts
Anti-litter presentation to school during morning assembly	Awareness raising	Senior Pupils	Month 1	Maltese English Religion
Newsletter to parents about anti-litter campaign	Informing and involving the wider community	Senior Pupils	Month 1	Maltese English IT
Monitor litter in school	Monitoring activities	Committee	Ongoing	
Display and update litter graphs on the EkoSkola Notice Board	Awareness raising	Committee	Ongoing	Maths
Review targets	Programme evaluation	Committee	Month 3	
Repeat awareness raising activities		Junior & Senior Pupils	Month 4	
Review targets	Programme evaluation	Committee	Month 6	
Celebrate success	Encourage further participation in EkoSkola	Whole school	Month 6	

Make sure that ...

If prior to participating in EkoSkola, environmental issues were not considered a priority for your school, then there is a tendency that the environmental review unearths a large number of targets. Avoid being too over ambitious. Do not give in to the temptation to address all the issues at once.

It is important that as pupils progress along the action plan, they experience success. Therefore, make sure that you:

- ✓ set realistic and achievable targets,
- ✓ distinguish between short, medium and long term targets, and
- ✓ prioritise targets.

Remember that the EkoSkola award celebrates commitment to improve the school environment rather than achieving environmental perfection. The process is more important than the product.

When compiling the action plan remember that you need to monitor and measure your progress. Besides identifying what needs to be done, it is useful to clarify WHY are you taking that particular action and HOW will you decide whether you achieved your objectives or not.

Requests for more information and queries can be referred to the EkoSkola national co-ordinator:

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