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## **Activity 1 - Setting up your Eco Team Plan**

### **Step 1:**

Decide which staff will be in your team and then open it out to self-selection or election by the pupils.

The eco team usually consists of pupils with one teacher supporting them, some schools choose to combine it with the school council, but this group does need to include senior management staff as well.

You may want to use the Learning to Lead programme as inspiration.  
See [www.learningtolead.org.uk](http://www.learningtolead.org.uk) or email [briony\\_waite@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:briony_waite@bathnes.gov.uk) for more information.



## Step 2:

Educate your team about climate change and energy by using some of the resources listed in the Communication, Behaviour Change and Curriculum Guide.

Make sure they are really knowledgeable about the importance of energy and climate change, at an appropriate level for their age. It is important that pupils have significant input into the decision-making process – this is a requirement of Eco-Schools, and will ensure that pupils take ownership of any plans made.

## Step 3:

Set up the times and places for your team to meet, including when they will report to the management team and governors.

Your team may not meet as a whole but one group could focus on building use (facilities and senior management) and one group focus on occupant use (pupils and teachers) . The team should report to the Senior Management Team and Governing body on a regular basis.

## What the team will do:

Your pupils' Eco-Team will be responsible for reviewing the current situation, developing an action plan, and monitoring, recording and reducing your energy use. They will particularly be responsible for communicating to your school, conducting switch off campaigns and measuring how much energy is saved or wasted by occupant behaviour.

The group may decide to have a high profile energy efficiency campaign involving the whole school, possibly linked to a national initiative such as the POD's switch off fortnight in November (<http://www.jointhepod.org/campaigns/switch-off-fortnight/>) Climate Week in March (<http://www.climateweek.com/>) or World Environment Day in June (<http://www.unep.org/wed/>). You will also need to revisit energy issues on a regular basis to ensure that changes made are sustained over time

The pupils' Eco-Team might find it motivating to work towards an Eco-Schools award through their energy management work. The Eco-Schools programme provides a structure and award as well as support through events, resources and campaigns. Eco-Schools has 7 themes of which energy is a compulsory topic, and is a useful model for your Eco-Team. (Full details can be found at [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)).

More information on the set-up, role and operation of the eco team can be found at this link: <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/gettingstarted/ecocommittee>



## Newbridge Primary School

Paula Malone is the Eco Co-ordinator at Newbridge Primary School

“At Newbridge we have an extra-curricular eco club. In the past we’ve run Sustrans cycling events and made displays about the solar energy our school produces. Our BIG current project is transforming a boring square lawn in school into a glorious Minibeast City, a garden which will be teeming with bug life. We know this will help insects but we’re also looking forward to using it for our lessons.

Several year groups also have eco responsibilities: the Year 5s recycle paper, the KS1s compost their snack waste and the Year 4s collect the fruit waste from the staffroom and playground bins to compost.

In the past the Year 6 energy group transformed the way we used energy in the school, by cutting our electricity bill by 25% and winning the school the Bath & North East Somerset Local Energy Champions prize. Inspired by this, an eco parents’ group ran a program to help parents reduce energy use at home by lending out OWL monitors.

Our plans for the rest of the year include setting up a school farm so that children can learn more about where food comes from and producing food to sell in a farmer’s market. We’ve also been working on growing plants with a volunteer from the Young Person’s Trust for the Environment charity.”

