

It's wonderful that you have appointed such a large and representative Eco-Committee, this shows your school's excellent commitment to both the programme and the eco-cause. We loved that you had such a large group of eager volunteers! We were delighted to see that you kept minutes from your meetings and that they helped to track, guide and prompt activity, and that young people were responsible for completing meeting minutes – this helps them develop new skills. This is a mature and professional approach. Great work! Your Environmental Review is incredibly in depth and has clearly taken much effort. It was wonderful to see how completing your Environmental Review raised awareness in the school, helped to focus on the key issues and assisted your Eco-Committee to spot gaps in your school's existing environmental activity. But equally important is that it helped you to recognise the great work that you were already doing. It's a really professional piece of work! We love the range of activities that you and your Eco-Committee planned for delivery. The fact that they cover a wide range of both indoor (a 'switch-off' campaign, reducing single-use plastics, battery & electrical item recycling, increasing indoor plants and watering them with recycled water and installing reduced-flush toilets) and outdoor (Litter picking, tree planting, a Big Plastic Count and a beach clean) activities. Wow, it's quite an ambitious list! You've clearly embedded the ethos of the Eco-Schools programme far and wide in your school! We were impressed by your ambition in tackling areas where you scored lowest in the Environmental Review. This shows you have a confident Eco-Committee dedicated to maximising their impacts. We're really impressed at how you've linked environmental issues to a variety of curriculum areas. We loved seeing the excellent examples of your Curriculum links and the photos of student activities. This is great example of layering in sustainability and climate change into your studies. We loved reading about how you had incorporated learning about global issues not only into the Geography and Science Curriculum (the most common ones) in your school but also into other areas such as Humanities and Biology as well. Your Eco-Board is great. Your board is incredibly visual and engaging and promotes your work in a very attractive way. It's also good to see your Eco-Committee members on the board. This is a great way to raise their esteem and make their schoolmates feel like they can approach them and get involved with your Eco-Schools work! We loved seeing how active your Eco-Committee was in communicating their activities school-wide with both regular assembly and class feedback, the school newsletter (loved seeing the 'Green Corner' examples), website and social media, as well as the Eco-board itself. These all combine to make a great approach! We love that your pupils have taken their great work beyond the school gates and into their local community with initiatives like the community litter picks and the beach clean with Durham County Council – who also supplied your excellent battery and small electrical item recycling boxes!). We were also hugely impressed by your creation of a new hedge with Trees For Tees – did you really plant over 100? Outstanding achievement there! Not to mention hosting your own COP26 and Green Jumper Day. The parent quote is a great testament to the work you are doing with your Eco-Committee, that they are taking their Eco-Schools work home with them and getting their families involved is something to be proud of! I hope you and your Eco-Committee take great pride in your achievements, when listed it's almost astonishing how many there are – however, the improvements to your school environment with the tree planting, 'switch-off' and recycling campaigns and a beach clean, all nicely stand out! Everyone involved should be incredibly proud of the changes they have made. Your Eco-Code is really smart and concise. It's a great message and its punchy nature will definitely help it be processed by everyone passing by your Eco-Board. Congratulations to everyone for the great work you have managed to do, earning your Green Flag in style. You should all be very proud of your work and the application you have submitted!