



The EkoSkola Eco-Community Collaboration Award

For outstanding partnerships between EkoSkola Schools and Local Councils

About the Award

Nature Trust – FEE Malta, in collaboration with the Local Councils' Association, is excited to introduce the **EkoSkola Eco-Community Collaboration Award**, designed to recognize and honour local councils that have demonstrated exceptional collaboration with the EkoSkola committees within their locality. This award aims to celebrate the efforts and achievements of local councils in promoting sustainability, environmental awareness, and community engagement.

The **EkoSkola Eco-Community Collaboration Award** acknowledges the critical role that local councils play in supporting and facilitating sustainable development initiatives within their communities. By collaborating with EkoSkola committees, local councils contribute to the development of a sustainable future by fostering environmental stewardship, empowering young people, and promoting community involvement.

How to nominate your local council

An EkoSkola committee can nominate its local council for the **EkoSkola Eco-Community Collaboration Award** by filling in the [Nomination Form](#) demonstrating the local council's collaboration with the committee. Applications need to be submitted by no later than **end of May of the respective year**. The applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges, and the winning councils will be selected based on the criteria outlined below.

Award Criteria

- 1. Inclusive Engagement:** Evaluates the local council's active and meaningful involvement of children and youth in decision-making processes related to environmental and sustainability issues, in collaboration with EkoSkola committees.
- 2. Community Participation and Inclusivity:** Assesses the local council's ability to facilitate broad-based resident engagement in sustainability initiatives, including marginalised communities, through joint efforts with EkoSkola committees.
- 3. Support for EkoSkola Projects:** Measures the level of financial and logistical support for the successful implementation of EkoSkola projects.
- 4. Educational Collaboration and Support:** Examines the local council's collaboration with schools and EkoSkola committees to create educational opportunities focused on environmental awareness and sustainability.
- 5. Sustainability Impact:** Evaluates the tangible environmental benefits resulting from joint initiatives between the local council and EkoSkola committees.

6. Transparency and Communication: Assesses the clarity, frequency, and transparency of the local council's communication with residents and EkoSkola committees about sustainability efforts and project outcomes.

7. Long-term Vision and Innovation: Measures the local council's commitment to long-term sustainability planning and the implementation of innovative solutions to sustainability challenges, in partnership with EkoSkola committees.

The Awards

The panel of judges reviewing the nominations will issue a list of awarded local councils who will receive a Certificate of Merit based on the following scheme:

- **Gold Award:** Outstanding performance (26 - 30 points)
- **Silver Award:** Above the threshold (16 - 25 points).
- **Bronze Award:** Achieving the minimum threshold (6 - 15 points).

The local council with the highest score will be honoured with the **Shield for Outstanding Support**, featuring the council's name and the award year engraved. The shield will be held by the winning council for one year. All awards will be presented during the Green Flag award ceremony.

We encourage all local councils and EkoSkola committees to apply for the **EkoSkola Eco-Community Collaboration Award** and showcase their dedication and collaboration with the EkoSkola committee. For inquiries or further information, please contact Ms Cynthia Caruana at cynthia.caruana.2@ilearn.edu.mt.

Thank you for your commitment to building a greener, more sustainable future for all.

Award Criteria

Criterion	Excellent (5 points)	Good (3 points)	Needs Improvement (1 point)
Inclusive Engagement	Consistently involves a wide range of children and youth in decision-making processes, with clear evidence of their input influencing significant environmental policies or projects.	Engages children and youth from EkoSkola committees in decision-making occasionally, with some impact on policies or projects, but participation may not be consistent or fully integrated.	Minimal or tokenistic involvement of children and youth from EkoSkola committees, with little to no evidence that their input influences decisions.
Community Participation	Effectively engages diverse community groups, including marginalised or underrepresented populations, in EkoSkola activities, ensuring broad-based participation and representation.	Engages a range of community groups, but there are gaps in representation or participation from marginalised communities.	Limited community engagement, with participation primarily from a narrow demographic, lacking inclusivity.
Support for EkoSkola Projects	Provides substantial and ongoing financial and logistical support, enabling the successful implementation and expansion of multiple EkoSkola projects.	Offers moderate support, contributing to the success of some EkoSkola projects, but support may not be consistent or comprehensive.	Minimal support was provided, with limited impact on the success or growth of EkoSkola projects.
Educational Collaboration	Actively collaborates with schools and EkoSkola committees to create and sustain robust educational programs, with demonstrable outcomes in environmental awareness and learning.	Engages in educational collaborations but with limited scope or impact, resulting in moderate educational outcomes.	Little to no collaboration on educational initiatives, with negligible impact on environmental education in the community.
Sustainability Impact	Initiatives result in significant, measurable environmental benefits (e.g., large reductions in waste, significant increases in green spaces), with clear data to support the outcomes.	Initiatives lead to moderate environmental benefits, with some measurable impact, but not at the scale of excellent projects.	Initiatives have minimal measurable environmental impact, with little to no data supporting substantial outcomes.
Transparency and Communication	Maintains open, regular communication with residents and EkoSkola committees	Communicates with residents and EkoSkola committees about sustainability	Poor communication and transparency, with residents and EkoSkola committees

	about all sustainability efforts, with high levels of transparency and responsiveness, using multiple platforms.	efforts, but transparency may be inconsistent, and not all platforms are utilized effectively.	receiving little information or updates about sustainability initiatives.
Long-term Vision and Innovation	Has a clearly articulated, long-term sustainability plan that includes continuous support for EkoSkola initiatives, with innovative approaches leading to substantial improvements in environmental outcomes.	Has a sustainability plan that includes EkoSkola, but it may lack some long-term strategies or sufficient detail.	The approach to sustainability is short-term or reactive, with little evidence of strategic planning or long-term support for EkoSkola initiatives, with few innovative solutions and a reactive approach to sustainability challenges.