

Sanitation & Hygiene

Sustainability Audit

This guide will help you actively observe your surroundings by zooming in on Sanitation and Hygiene in your school grounds. Investigate, analyse and start planning your Eco-School actions!



EXPLORE SANITATION AND HYGIENE WITH ECO-SCHOOLS

Sanitation and Hygiene facilities and behaviours are fundamental pillars of a healthy learning environment. Access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities, and proper hygiene practices not only safeguards the health of students and staff but also positively impacts students' well-being and learning experiences. Access to quality hygiene and sanitation increases girl child enrolment and retention.

This theme is closely connected to the theme of “Water” and the theme of “Health and Wellbeing”. Have a look at them to see how they work together and how they can be implemented together!



Your Eco-Committee can choose to focus on the theme Sanitation and Hygiene, or explore several themes at once. Forming sub-groups within the committee ensures continuity, with each group taking long-term responsibility for a specific theme and developing expertise over time. Use the Eco-Schools Seven Steps to explore and weave the theme throughout every part of your school.

SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED...

Local Practices

- What everyday behaviours in our school support good hygiene and sanitation (e.g. handwashing, toilet use, waste disposal)?
- What barriers (time, facilities, supplies, social attitudes) prevent good hygiene practices?

Health Implications

- How well do students understand the link between handwashing and preventing stomach illnesses, diarrhoea, and infections?
- How does access to safe drinking water support hydration, concentration, and overall health?
- How do sanitation and hygiene conditions influence student attendance and learning outcomes?
- What links can we see between hygiene practices and the spread of illness in our school?
- How can our school better support menstrual health education for all genders?



Challenge assumptions, slow down, and really observe your surroundings. Your school has its own unique challenges and solutions that only sharp, curious minds will discover. Record what you see - notes, sketches, photos, or simple counts - at different times and seasons.

Ask critical questions: *What's here? What's missing? Why is it like this? What could change?* Use these insights to understand the current situation and move towards high-impact actions for Sanitation and Hygiene at your school.



Sanitation & Hygiene in Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Water		
Does the school community have access to safe drinking water?		
Where in your school is drinking water located, and is it easy for everyone to reach?		
Are water points clean, well-maintained, and free from rubbish or insects?		
How do you test if the water is safe for drinking?		
How often is the water tested for safety in your school?		
Who is in charge of water-testing and do students participate in the activity? If yes, how many?		
Do students bring reusable water bottles, and where can they refill them?		
Hand-washing		
Do you have access to adequate hand-washing facilities in your school?		
Are soap and water always available at the hand-washing stations?		
Are the hand-washing stations easy to reach for younger pupils or students with disabilities?		
Are there posters or signs showing how to wash hands properly? Who is in charge of creating them? Are they easy to understand for everyone?		



Sanitation & Hygiene in *Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit*

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Can you calculate the number of hand-washing facilities per student in your school?		
Ask around: Do students regularly wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet?		
Toilets		
To what extent are the toilets clean, ventilated, and free of bad smell? <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> low <input type="checkbox"/> medium		
Do the toilets have working locks to ensure privacy?		
Are there lights in the toilets so they can be used safely during cloudy days or after school hours?		
How many toilets are there for students with disabilities and are they accessible and well distributed around school?		
Can you calculate the number of functional toilets per student in your school? (e.g. number of toilets divided by number of students)		
Who is responsible for cleaning the toilets?		
Does your school have a toilet maintenance schedule? Who is in charge of creating it and who oversees it?		
Does your school have adequate gender separate toilets?		
Does your school have the option for gender neutral toilets?		



Sanitation & Hygiene in *Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit*

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
How often are the toilets and sanitation facilities cleaned and disinfected? <input type="checkbox"/> Once a day <input type="checkbox"/> Twice a day <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Less often		
Menstruation		
Do students miss school days because of menstruation? Can you estimate how many school days a year are lost in total across the school?		
Does the school have facilities for menstrual hygiene management such as disposal bins or changing rooms? If so, how many?		
Are there menstrual products (such as pads, reusable materials) available at school? If yes, who provides them?		
Do students know where to go for help or support regarding menstruation? If so, where?		
Are disposal bins inside toilet cubicles and are those emptied regularly?		
Is there a private space where students can change comfortably and safely?		
Hygiene		
Do students miss school days because of stomach problems or diarrhoea? If so, how many in one month? <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-more		
Where are cleaning materials stored and is it safe?		



Sanitation & Hygiene in *Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit*

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Do students report stomach or digestive illnesses (e.g., diarrhoea or vomiting)? If so, who keeps track of those reports?		
Who is responsible for cleaning and maintaining hygiene facilities (e.g. students, teachers, cleaners, or others)?		
Do you see litter, stagnant water, or blocked drains near drinking water areas?		
Are there rules or reminders in visible places encouraging hygiene practices?		
Has your school ever organised a hygiene awareness activity, club, or campaign? If so, how many people participated? Did anyone outside of school staff and students take part?		

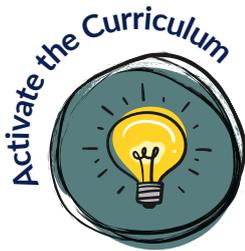


Sanitation & Hygiene in *Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit*

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Your questions		

Choosing Sanitation and Hygiene as a key theme for action?

Follow these next Eco-Schools steps...



What knowledge or skills do you still need to start putting your ideas into action? Take some time to identify what's missing and discuss it within your Eco-Committee. Then, reach out to your teachers and tell them what you'd like to learn more about, whether it's drinking water safety, how to hygienically dispose menstrual products, or understanding how to hand washing practices are linked to stomach illnesses. Together, you can build the knowledge and confidence needed to start real change!



Work together to turn your ideas into reality by creating an Action Plan for Sanitation and Hygiene. Mobilise your Eco-Committee, teachers, school staff, parents, and the wider community to help you reach your goals. You could:



Facilitate hand-washing workshops



Provide menstrual products facilities



Ensure access to clean toilets



Test water safety

Whatever actions you choose, make sure they are realistic, measurable, and long-lasting, so your Eco-Committee's work continues to grow year after year.



Monitor your actions to see the difference you have made! Have you controlled drinking water safety? Are more people aware of the importance of proper hygiene? You could compare before-and-after stomach illnesses reports, or note how many people joined your activities. Measuring your impact helps you celebrate success and plan even better actions for the future!



Make sure the whole school and local community are part of your Sanitation and Hygiene journey. Share your findings and actions through assemblies, newsletters, posters, or social media. Invite teachers, students, parents, and local experts to join activities or share their knowledge. By including different perspectives and experiences, your Eco-Committee will build stronger, more creative solutions that last.