

Name	Dairsie Primary School
Type	Rural primary
Numbers	42 pupils, HT and 2 staff (one part-time)
Joined Eco Schools in...	2002
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How did our involvement with Eco Schools come about?

Dairsie Primary School's involvement with Eco Schools came about through hearing of the good work other schools were doing. We had begun to develop the school garden through Grounds for Learning and Eco Schools seemed an ideal deal way both of formalising our plans and identify future developments.

Who's involved and how we communicate

The Eco Committee, which includes pupils from all year groups, staff and parent members, leads developments. They carry out various eco tasks, send out regular newsletters and talk to assemblies, as well as ensuring that minutes are typed up and displayed on the Eco Board for all to see.

Actual activities and topics studied

- The whole school has been involved in studying biodiversity through a range of local visits, developing a range of habitats in the garden and through topic work.
- The whole school continues to work to reduce waste and keep our environment tidy. Litter picking rotas are organised and we recycle paper, printer cartridges and aluminium cans. We reuse envelopes and compost what we can and we have spread the recycling message into the wider community with our Christmas recycling campaign and workshops recycling waste materials into handmade crafts.
- Everyone is responsible for reducing the energy consumption in school by turning off lights and computers. We have a healthy tuck shop which is very successful and we encourage physical activity.
- We did a poster competition to highlight water conservation and the winning posters are displayed to constantly remind us to turn off taps and not to waste water. We also have a rainwater butt in the garden which we use to water plants.

- Future plans include continuing to develop a healthy lifestyle and attitudes through becoming a Health Promoting School and by developing our Travel Plan.
- All staff are committed to Eco Schools and we are continuing to develop topic work to link in with this wherever possible

Hot tips for success...

- Link as much as you can to curricular areas, Enterprise and HPS.
- Make use of services offered by outside agencies – workshops on alternative energy, the Rag Bag collection scheme.
- Use work done in Eco activities as a stimulus for writing- reports, news, letters etc- you get much better results when work is based on something that the children have done or are going to do.

What our Green Flag assessors thought

- Real sense of whole-school involvement and fantastic links to the local community, with pupils regularly writing articles about their eco activities for the local paper. The Eco Committee had a high degree of pupil involvement and responsibility eg P5-P7 had developed the Litter Policy.
- Excellent Eco Board - very visible and regularly updated by the pupils with important news and articles.
- Innovative Action Plan design - the children had created an eco 'tree', on their notice board with each of the 'branches' representing the main topics being studied. Each 'leaf' on these branches contained details of the actions that pupils had decided on for that topic. These actions were colour-coded in red, yellow or green with a small sticker to show the progress of each action. A very visible and easily understood method to inform the whole school about the progress of their eco actions.
- All pupils we spoke with from P1 upwards showed a very good understanding of the school's eco work and also **why** they were doing it. They had a good grasp of the 'bigger picture' and the part they could play in helping the environment.