

STOP ECOCIDE: CHANGE THE LAW

ECOCIDE is *serious loss, damage or destruction of ecosystems*, and includes climate and cultural damage. We believe ECOCIDE should be recognised as an atrocity crime at the International Criminal Court - alongside Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity.

ECOCIDE has severe impacts on all of Earth's inhabitants, not just humans. We need to expand our collective duty of care to protect the natural living world and all life. International ECOCIDE crime is a law to protect the Earth.

Find out more at www.stopECOCIDE.earth

FIRST STEPS: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

Developing Understanding and Raising Awareness

Invite a Stop Ecocide representative to come and give a presentation for students and staff during an assembly so that they understand the significance of supporting this change in the law. This could take place prior to students embarking on a PSHE scheme of work through the educational resource group ThoughtBox who are partnered with Earth Protector Communities.

Reducing Impact

Using the carbon calculator tool CAT has devised, Schools can assess the impact of their emissions. From this audit, Schools can devise an action plan and begin to take significant steps to reducing their carbon footprint.

Regenerative Practice

Adopt a degraded, neglected plot of land or local area and involve students in nurturing it back into a fully functioning ecosystem with a thriving biodiversity. Provide students with the opportunity for immersion in nature and through this, encourage and restore connection with the natural world. Give students the opportunity to explore their responses/relationship with this area through creative expression.

You will find guidelines about the further stages of how to become an Earth Protector School on our web site detailed above. Please join our initiative so that together we can help to create a legacy to be proud of for future generations to follow.

Contact us at schools@earthprotectorcommunities.net
to join the conversation visit
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HOW TO BECOME AN EARTH PROTECTOR SCHOOL



“It feels good to dream big. It feels good to dare to be great. Our inner landscape is echoed in the world in which we wish to live, so it can only be that our world will one day be free from Ecocide. *Why do it?*, you may ask, *why live life free?*. It's a great place to be.” **Polly Higgins**

What is an Earth Protector School?

Earth Protector Schools play an integral, vital part in the educational aspect of Earth Protector Communities. This global collaborative movement of schools, colleges and universities sets out to protect the Earth, using an interactive process including specific goals and guidelines.

In declaring itself an Earth Protector School, a school undertakes to collaborate and cooperate with staff, students and parents; other schools and educational establishments; local communities and other relevant organisations to protect land, wildlife, soil and water. An Earth Protector School puts at the heart of its educational practice the emotional, psychological and physical wellbeing of young people and staff, in recognition that wellbeing is intrinsically connected to planetary health and thriving local ecosystems. The school also publicly endorses its support for the campaign to amend the Rome statute and declare Ecocide a crime at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

How is the Earth Protector School Different?

An EP school is moving into the understanding that we are all part of the interdependent web of life.

At this critical planetary moment, we are tasked with the response-ability to care for each other and for all life forms. The EP school seeks out opportunities for adults and young people to engage in the challenges we face collectively. Safeguarding mental and emotional wellbeing is prioritised through frequent opportunities for time and immersion in Nature. Restoring our connection with the natural world - with the understanding that we are Nature - leads us to learn and live in a healthier way.

In practical terms an EP School comes from the principle

“First Do No Harm”.

Looking through such a lens at energy use, waste, catering, procurement and curriculum opens up a new standpoint: one of seeking to protect, to regenerate what has been lost or neglected, to devise projects where imagination and creativity can flourish. Student initiative and self-empowerment is encouraged so that confident exploring, monitoring and research can map the school's impact in all these areas.

What does my school have to do to become an Earth Protector School?

There are five goals for Earth Protector Schools:

- 🌱 Recognise that building emotional resilience is a key aspect of responding effectively to the climate crisis
- 🌱 Engage students and staff in moving beyond the concept of sustainability to the regenerative model. Find whole school strategies to this end with time specific goals in place (including a strategy and date to achieve a carbon zero future).
- 🌱 Protect and enhance eco-systems, habitats and species in and around the school
- 🌱 Pioneer the reduction and elimination of single use plastic
- 🌱 Explore and promote awareness of, and solutions to, climate and ecological emergencies

The school pledges that environmental considerations and implications are taken into account with any future spending decisions.

How do I get involved?

The pilot project is in process with an evolving, collaborative framework. Get in touch with us to register your interest. The blue-print for Earth Protector Schools will be launched on 22nd April 2020 and will be shared for schools across the world to use.

In the meantime, you could create a staff/student steering group for your school to look at what is currently being done and audit the activities of the school to identify where improvements can be made.

Has your school declared a climate emergency and committed to become carbon neutral by 2025?

Are there other things your school is doing that you'd like to tell us about?

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