



# Eco-Schools Scotland is changing



Enhancing progress in  
Learning for Sustainability

# Introduction

As you will know, we are refreshing and enhancing the Eco-Schools Scotland programme to provide a framework for action towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to promote broader participation and engagement in developing a whole school and community approach to Learning for Sustainability.

As part of this work we have also improved the Green Flag application and renewal process:

- We have created and are testing an online Green Flag application and assessment process. We have made this process much simpler and you will be able to upload evidence throughout the year as you progress.
- Entry to the online application and assessment process will signify the beginning of your next Green Flag journey. To celebrate the work you've been doing up until you join the new process, we have created an interim Green flag application process which we are now opening.
- We're ready to hear about the great work you've been doing and our interim Green Flag application will act as a bridge between the old and new process.

On the following pages you can read about these changes and find out how to renew Green Flag status using our interim application process.

We can now also share some of the key changes to the broader Eco-Schools Scotland programme and outline how it will support and enhance whole school and community progress in Learning for Sustainability.

*“ By providing the opportunities for learners to engage with their own environment, the initiative equips our children and young people with the skills, values and attributes for life and work in a sustainable and fair Scotland and contributes to our aims for excellence and equity in education. ”*

Minister for Learning, Science & Scotland's Languages, Alasdair Allan MSP



# What should I do next?

To find out when your establishment needs to make a Green Flag application through our interim process, please visit [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/renewalgroups](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/renewalgroups) and click on your local authority to see if your establishment name is on the list.

If your establishment is not included in this list, you will be able to apply for your Green Flag through our new process, and we will contact you to let you know when to do this.

## Green Flag last awarded before April 2014 (Group 1)

If you have two years of action and evidence, please send us an interim application (available at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/interimapplication](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/interimapplication)) **between 18th April and 30th May 2016.**

If you do not have two years' of action and evidence you can fly your Green Flag for two years from your previous award date but then your Green Flag status will be withdrawn. You will be able to register and reapply through our new system, and begin your Green Flag journey again – details of when and how will be available on our website later this year.



### **Green Flag last awarded between April 2014 and January 2015 (Group 2)**

If you have up to two years of action and evidence, please send us an interim application (available at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/interimapplication](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/interimapplication)) **between 1st October and 30th November 2016.**

If you do not have up to two years' of action and evidence you can fly your Green Flag for two years from your previous award date but then your Green Flag status will be withdrawn. You will be able to register and reapply through our new system, and begin your Green Flag journey again – details of when and how will be available on our website later this year.

### **Green Flag last awarded between January and July 2015 (Group 3)**

If you have up to two years of action and evidence, please send us an application (available at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/interimapplication](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/interimapplication)) **between 1st April and 30th May 2017.**

If you do not have up to two years' of action and evidence you can fly your Green Flag for two years from your previous award date but then your Green Flag status will be withdrawn. You will be able to register and reapply through our new system, and begin your Green Flag journey again – details of when and how will be available on our website later this year.

## Green Flag last awarded between August 2015 and May 2016

You can prepare for your application in our new system by exploring the Sustainable Development Goals ([www.globalgoals.org](http://www.globalgoals.org)) and preparing for the changes described on the next page. We will contact you to let you know when and how to join the new process.



### If you would like to apply for your first Green Flag

If you have completed your bronze or silver award and have one year of action and evidence you can apply for a Green Flag using our interim application (available at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/interimapplication](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/interimapplication)) **between 18th April and 30th May 2016.**

If you are considering beginning your Green Flag journey, please get in touch with us now.



# The new Eco-Schools

## Scotland process

Here are some highlights of our new Green Flag process, many of which you can start exploring now to prepare for these changes:

- **Online** – you can upload stories, photos, and documents in real time as evidence of your work towards Green Flag status. This will provide us with the means to assess your progress and allow you to keep track of progress should circumstances change.
- **Programmed certification** – you will be asked to upload evidence of your Green Flag journey at specific times. For example, your Action Plan will also form a proposal which we will provide feedback on. This will support you to make links between your Green Flag work, other awards and initiatives and your school improvement and development cycle.
- **Sustainable Development Goals** – The first step in the new process is a whole-school community exploration of the Sustainable Development Goals. Have look here [www.tes.com/worldslargestlesson/](http://www.tes.com/worldslargestlesson/)
- **Theme** – you will create a theme for your Green Flag journey based on the Sustainable Development Goals rather than choosing the traditional three topics. This means that you can approach other priorities within the school and local community through your Eco-Schools work and link to your improvement plan.
- **Support** – we will provide support when you need it the most, rather than at the end of your journey. A network of local Eco-Schools 'supporters' will be identified to assist with your Action Plan.
- **Reporting** – we will ask you to record annual information on energy use, waste, active travel, biodiversity and water.
- **Eco-Schools groups** – working with those schools and establishments within your geographical area will mean you can support each other and collaborate to achieve your goals.
- **Individual achievement** – Eco-Schools is a whole school approach to learning for sustainability. We understand that being an Eco-Schools Coordinator or Eco-Committee member is a great responsibility and will work with you to create individual awards for those roles, recognising the knowledge and skill you develop.

## Great things to explore on our website



Energy, Enterprise and Environment



Wrigley Litter Less Schools Project



Young Reporters Scotland



One Planet Picnic

## Top 6 actions to get ready....

Begin to gather your Green Flag evidence digitally so you can upload to our new system.

**Upload**

Use Education Scotland's Learning for Sustainability reflection tool to connect your Eco-Schools work and School Improvement Plan.

**Discuss**

Identify your professional learning needs. We can offer a range of opportunities, visit our website for more information.

**Identify**

Explore local issues connected to the Sustainable Development Goals as a basis for whole school interdisciplinary learning.

**Explore**

Share your work as widely as possible. @EcoSchoolsScot #globalgoals #ThisIsLfs

**Tell everyone**

Sign up to our e-bulletin for our latest news and ideas that you can take forward with your learners.

**Sign up**

Keep Scotland Beautiful is the charity that campaigns, acts and educates on a range of local, national and global environmental issues to change behaviour and improve the quality of people's lives and the places they care for. We are committed to making Scotland clean, green and more sustainable.



T: 01786 471333 F: 01786 464611

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