



10 tips for integrating climate activities in school

In [Let the children lead: growing greener schools and communities](#), eco-champion Edd Moore shares experience gathered from years of inspiring pupils with environmental learning. We've drawn out 10 tips for school staff who want to integrate climate activities in the classroom and empower the green leaders of the future. Whatever your setting – urban or rural, big garden or no garden (yet!) – the key is starting somewhere and building from there.

1. Start with an eco-audit.

Gather a group of students to form an eco crew and conduct an audit of your school. Assess what you're doing well and what needs improvement. Use free templates from organisations like [Eco Schools](#), [Transform Our World](#) or [Climate Friendly Schools](#) to get started.

2. Let children lead.

Remember: you're there to mentor, coach, and facilitate – not to run the show. When children lead environmental projects, they're more likely to sustain enthusiasm and encourage others in the school and community to get involved.

3. Begin with waste.

Waste is an ideal starting topic because it's broad and offers endless possibilities: litter picks, reducing single-use plastics, composting, examining stationery waste, or exploring refillable options for glue sticks and whiteboard pens.

4. Use enquiry-based questions.

Start lessons with engaging questions like 'How can we keep our rivers looking beautiful?' or 'Is it worth saving the natural wonders of the world?'. Then follow the children's interests and let learning unfold naturally. What 'I wonder...?' questions do they want to address?

5. Make it free and accessible.

Always recommend activities and experiences that are free, ensuring every family can participate regardless of their circumstances. This removes barriers and shows environmental education is for everyone.

6. Get outside and connect with nature.

Take learning outdoors regularly. Start a school garden, go on nature walks, use apps like [Seek](#) to identify plants and insects, or create wildlife journals. Many children will eventually prefer outdoor exploration over screen time.

7. Weave it through the curriculum.

Environmental topics should run like a golden thread through all subjects – literacy, maths, geography, history, and science. This integrated approach makes learning more meaningful and makes environmental learning a fundamental part of the curriculum, rather than an add-on.



8. Focus on the Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Refill, Repair.

Teach children that recycling should be far down the list. Prioritising refusing, reducing, and reusing helps schools find quick wins and cost savings – a compelling argument for budget-conscious leaders!

9. Bring in real-world skills.

Connect environmental projects to practical skills. Have students sell eco-products, practice pitching ideas, use money and weighing skills at stalls, or become community guides for biodiversity projects.

10. Avoid doom and gloom.

Frame environmental education positively by focusing on solutions and empowering action. When children feel they can make a difference through campaigns, gardens, or community projects, they develop agency rather than anxiety.

Edd Moore is an eco-schools champion. As a teacher he led his primary school to a number of environmental awards, including the Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Educational Institution of the Year. He's the author of [100 Ideas for Primary Teachers: Greener School](#). For more suggestions from Edd, listen to the full podcast (21 minutes): [Let the children lead: growing greener schools and communities](#).

Further reading and resources

- [Seeking the co-benefits: people, planet - and financial efficiency](#)
- [Climate change risks to schools](#)
- [Get started with your climate action plan](#)
- [How green is your school?](#)
- [Ready for simpler recycling?](#)
- [What is a circular economy?](#)

**For more resources and ideas from createvalueschools.com
sign up for the newsletter:**

