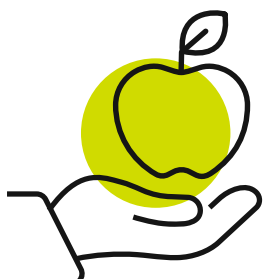




Pearson



# Ask the Expert

## Environmental top Tips for schools



Sell Fruit and Vegetables grown at School at local Farmers Market, local town market with the pupils running the stalls.



**Edward Moore**

Teacher and Eco Coordinator, Damers First School, Wessex Multi Academy Trust

### 1. Sell Fruit and Vegetables grown at School at local Farmers Market, local town market with the pupils running the stalls.

It is a great way for members of the community to see the great work that is being done and an opportunity to talk, network with people too. Also fantastic for the children to use the skills from subjects learned in the classroom in an everyday context that include communication, teamwork, using money, weighing.

You could also make other eco products to sell at markets, County Shows and fairs to raise money for the school but also show the community what you are doing. These could include bees wax wraps, seed bombs and naturally made cleaning products.

### 2. Students can write persuasive letters about a campaign they feel passionate about. These can then be posted to any of the following:

- County Council
- Your local MP
- Town Council
- Chamber for Business
- Other Schools and education providers
- Local and National Environmental Groups

### **3. Ask The Chamber for Businesses if some students can come and speak to their members.**

Also speak to Church congregations, Voluntary Organisations which included youth groups, Scouts, Brownies, members of the Youth Parliament, Rotary and WI. Alternatively, you can invite your local MP to your school.

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### **4. Go door-to-door to businesses after school or at weekends and speak to managers personally.**

Persuade them to support your campaign. Encourage the Town Mayor and other Town Councillors to join you.

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### **5. Put together an environment action group that has influential representatives.**

This could be councillors, businesses, expert environmental groups, schools from the town as well as young people who meet regularly to discuss these issues.

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### **6. Students can use their knowledge and passion for the environment to campaign for change as a school, writing and talking to the community in the media and getting involved in national "Let's go Zero" campaigns.**

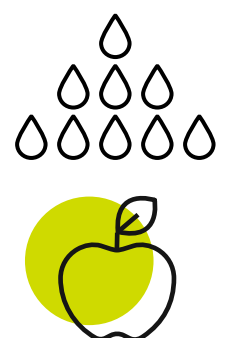
For example, reducing single use plastic within schools and across their town, campaigning for a deposit return scheme, campaigning for swift bricks in all new houses being built, and more safe cycle routes on roads.

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### **7. Give practical help with environment projects and help teach your students key skills.**

For example, practical help with the school garden from local groups such as farmers, those who are retired, allotment groups, Rotary Club. Together, you can:

- design and build the garden with children
- help children to plan the garden's year
- manage the garden from spring to autumn
- teach their children key gardening skills
- involve children throughout the gardening year.



## 8. Boomerang Bags are bags made by the community from donated material.

The bags go into local shops when someone forgets their own. They then take a boomerang bag, do their shopping and bring it back when next in town. Community groups and schools can make the bags. Making events can happen in church halls and schools.

This brings communities together supporting health and wellbeing with young and old people from all walks of life. A Lasting Legacy!

## 9. Try to Reduce, Reuse, Refill, Repair before you Recycle.

Reduce waste by switching to refills like eco cleaning products and classroom stationary. I like Delphis Eco and U-Fill Learn Play Nexus Glue Sticks, but there are hundreds of other eco products out there.

## 10. Support students to write letters to the suppliers about reducing their waste.

For example, Cool Milk switched from cartons and straws to reusable milk bottles and beakers, our school fruit provider moved from produce delivered in plastic bags to cardboard boxes. You can reach out to your canteen providers asking for similar changes. Here are some ways to do this:

- Find a staff leader with the enthusiasm, drive and initiative to take the group forward
- Create a passionate group of eco warriors
- Make an audit of environmental work in the school, celebrate what you do and improve other areas
- Make an action plan of things you are going to work towards
- Sign up for Eco Schools and follow their seven steps
- Inspire staff, parents and the local community to get involved
- Embed environmental work into the school curriculum
- Take part in national campaigns such as Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean

