



eco'tude

changing your schools ecological attitude

Student & staff survey

What you are auditing?

You will be measuring the travel, food, paper and clothing consumption choices of staff and students in your school.

Why are you auditing it?

The travel, food, paper and clothing consumption choices of staff and students in your school all have an impact on the ecological footprint of your school. For each of these items we look at the amount of land needed to make them or what is called the 'upstream' environmental impacts. For many items this can be a complicated calculation that requires you to look at the entire production chain. As an example lets use a biscuit found in the lunch box of a student. Let's begin with the ingredients required to make a biscuit such as flour, sugar, milk, water and flavouring. All of these ingredients require land to be produced – wheat fields and mills to supply the flour, a dairy farm to supply the milk, a poultry farm to supply the eggs and so on. You will also need to consider some land uses that are not so obvious inputs such as wheat farming may require fertilizers which will indirectly need further land for their production. Land is also required in the process of producing the plastic and paper packaging for the biscuits. Transport of the ingredients to the factory and the transport of the biscuits to the shop also require land for the production of the vehicles. Also the vehicles and the production of all the items in the production chains produce carbon dioxide. The Eco'tude calculator works out how much land would be required to be planted in trees to remove this carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. All these land uses are added up to give the footprint size for the production of a biscuit! Lucky for you the hard research has been done for you!

In regards to this survey...

- Walking produces a smaller footprint as you do not require any land for the carbon dioxide and production of a car
- It takes much less land to produce one kilogram of vegetables than it does one kilogram of beef.
- Paper regardless if it is recycled content still requires the initial land for the tree plantation and the machinery to manufacture it
- Clothing – the materials that make up your clothes such as wool, cotton or synthetics and the manufacturing process contribute to the footprint.

At first glance it may seem obvious what has to be done to reduce the size of a schools ecological footprint in regards to these questions, but in reality it is here where the greatest change in our “personal” ecological attitude is required.

How do you do it?

1. On the following page is a survey form that you might like to use. Feel free to design your own and feel free to add any additional questions that you might like to ask.
2. Before you begin do a little bit of planning and consider the following:
 - a. Decide on a day. Be careful of the day you choose to do your survey. Transport strikes, weather, certain events (eg the 40 hour famine) may influence the results. During the survey period note in your journal anything unusual that occurred which may influence your result.
 - b. Decide who and how many people you will ask. Will it be the entire school, people in the playground at lunchtime, an entire year, a single class or group? Consider how your choice will influence the final results and note your thoughts in your Eco'tude journal.
 - c. Decide when the survey should be filled out and how it will be conducted and returned.The survey is known as a “snapshot” as it is reflecting a certain period in time, the conditions and selection of the population.
3. Once you have got a plan, conduct your survey!
4. Collect and collate your survey results. Respect the participants’ privacy. Note the final results in your Eco'tude journal.
5. Enter your results into the online calculator. How has the footprint changed from your best guess trial.

Taking it further

How will you involve interested students in future audits and actions? How do you deal with students who differ in ecological attitude towards yourself? Write your thoughts and ideas in your journal.



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Do you care about the impact the school is having on the environment?

Everything that happens here at school has a direct or indirect impact on the environment. By everything we do mean everything! You make an impact from the very moment you leave home in the clothes you wear, the food eat and how you get to school. While at school you use energy, water, paper and other resources and you create waste. We can measure this impact by estimating our school's ecological footprint.

By answering a few questions you can help us estimate our footprint more accurately.

Travel

How do you travel to school – also indicate the approximate distance you travelled?
(tick one or more box if you use more than one mode of transport)

✓ or ✗	Mode of transport	Distance travelled (km)
	walked more than 100m	
	cycling, skating, roller blading, scooter	
	bus, train or ferry	
	private vehicle (car, truck, van, 4WD, motorbike etc)	

If you used private transport:

a) How many others shared the vehicle with you (including the driver)?

b) What was the size of the vehicle?

i Small ii large iii Van or 4WD iv Other _____

Food

Of all the food items (juices, softdrinks, sandwiches, rolls, pies cakes etc) you eat in a day what proportion is consumed at school? _____%

How much of this food is prepackaged (in the original wrappers, cans, bottles etc)? _____%

How much of this food is made from animal products (meat, fish, milk, eggs etc)? _____%

Paper

How many sheets of paper (in notebooks, tests, tissues, towels, newsletters, etc) do you use? _____ sheets

Clothing

Of all the clothes and footwear that you own what proportion is bought for wearing at school? _____%

Rate your attitude towards achieving sustainability in the school.

- A. Don't Care
- B. Slightly interested
- C. Interested
- D. Very interested
- E. Totally committed

Do you have any good ideas or suggestions?

If you are interested in changing your ecological attitude and helping reduce the size of the schools ecological footprint please fill in your details below:

Name:

Year:

Form: