

# ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GREEN TEAM GUIDE

Tips and Topics to help you get your school's green team started and keep it going.

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

~ Jane Goodall

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# Intro

So, you'd like to make the world a little greener. You've put up posters, made announcements and you're preparing for your first green team meeting, but.... you've never done this before. Or maybe you have but the team wasn't quite as big or as successful as you would have liked. Included in this guide are a number of suggestions based on what some of our district's best green teams have done in the past. Included are some suggestions on how to organize your team and how to conduct your meetings. Also included are 5 sections of potential discussion topics which combine prepared discussion questions with lead in videos which you can use to help getting the conversation going.

Also, please join the Green Team Network Google Classroom at [learn34.com](https://learn34.com) to access more resources as well as online versions of the Sustainability Campaign planning tool and the Campaign reflection form.

Classroom code: qo0bft

***“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead***

# Green Team Structure Recommendations

## Structure

- Hold meetings on a regularly scheduled basis (Eg. Every week or every week Friday at lunch)
- Ideally there should 4-6 core members to help the team maintain momentum
- If you have a larger group, some key leadership roles within the team can be:
  - Chair (Or President)
  - Co-Chair (Or Vice President)
  - Secretary
  - Marketing/Promotions chair / Public events coordinator
- Part-time participants – It is always great to have more volunteers/members that help out during particular campaigns or events. Connecting with another class or other clubs such as key club or a sports team can help boost your numbers for specific events.
- One or more teacher sponsors ( at the secondary school level with a strong student leadership core this person does not necessarily need to take a particularly active role unless they wish to do so.)
- A parent rep or other staff rep (such as an EA or custodian) who is interested in participating would also be helpful when available

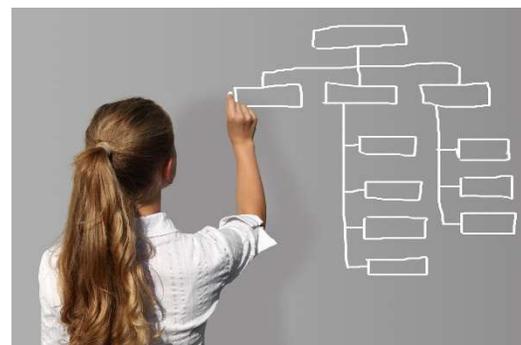


## Roles and Responsibilities

- As more of the school becomes involved different classes could potentially become responsible for different tasks (i.e. recycling, grounds clean-up, lighting patrols etc.) with the Green Team members acting as leaders. This would include things such as following up with the different divisions to ensure they are doing the things they agreed to do, reminding them of upcoming events and helping to guide the individual division's projects so as to compliment the actions of the other divisions and the Green Teams long term goals for the school as a whole.
- As the Green Team starts generating project ideas members of the main green team group can be designated as committee chairs. Each chair would then become responsible for taking the lead on organizing a particular project or event.

### Additional potential Green Team jobs

- Presenters - for assemblies or classroom visits
- Promoters – for PA announcements, posters, TV broadcasts etc.
- Auditors – Responsible for evaluating the situation before and after the campaign enabling the team to share the results of their efforts in a tangible way (e.g.. At the beginning of the campaign 80% of classroom lights were left on when no one was around. After the campaign this was reduced to only 10%). You can't communicate your success if there's no way to measure the results.
- Helpers – Assist the team leaders in the campaigns in other ways (e.g., collecting used clothing for a clothing drive or helping to set-up or clean-up for an event)

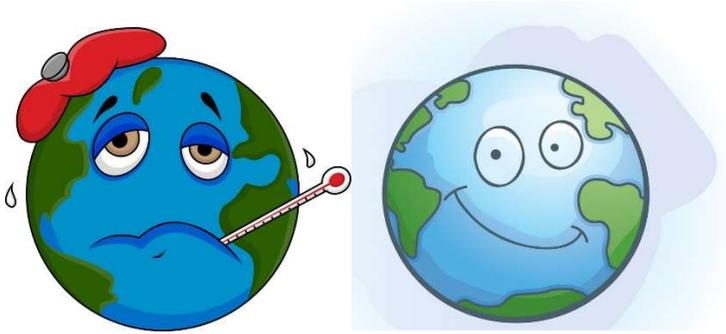


# Green Team Meeting Tips



- Have an outline
  - This will help to keep you on track and to give your meetings some structure
  - This will also help you to avoid forgetting important items
- Have a theme
  - Start off your first few meetings with a theme to get discussions and interest going. (See Potential Discussion Topics page for ideas and some videos to get you started)
  - Once starts running campaigns many meetings will revolve around planning, running and evaluating those campaigns but try to have a themed discussion meeting at least once a month to keep things fresh and interesting.
- Start on time
  - Even if it means starting without a few people starting on time will help you to have more productive meetings over all and that way those who did show up on time won't be sitting around bored and waiting.
- Conclude the meeting with next steps
  - At the very least make sure everyone knows where and when the next meeting is.
  - If you are having a planning meeting, try to conclude with some concrete "next steps" to take and have a person assigned to each of the tasks.
- Have fun!
  - We all want to make a difference in the world but there's no reason that we can't have a bit of fun while doing it 😊

# Discussion Topic 1 – Climate Change



## Climate Change

### *Discussion Questions*

- Why should we care about climate change?
- Who are the people that will be most affected by climate change?
- What signs or impact of climate change have you witnessed?
- What are some of the things that we could do in our school to help reduce our impact on the planet?
- How big is your carbon footprint? And What could you do to reduce it?

### *Videos to help launch the discussion*

- 1) Nature is speaking (2min)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmVLcj-XKnM>
- 2) Dear Future Generations: Sorry (6min)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRLJscAlk1M>
- 3) Climate change impacts us all but there is hope (1min)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwLyscT3NgI>
- 4) Climate Change 101 with Bill Nye the Science Guy (4min)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtW2rrLHs08>
- 5) Clean Energy Effect  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEAREiYYnYg>

### *Climate change explained in comic book form:*

<http://xkcd.com/1732/>

## Discussion Topic 2 – Energy



### *Discussion Questions:*

- How can we get to a renewable energy future?
- What are the global implications of a renewable energy future as it relates to climate justice?
- What role does energy conservation in getting us to a 100% renewable energy future?
- How can we overcome the “Not in my backyard” philosophy that some have towards things like wind turbines?

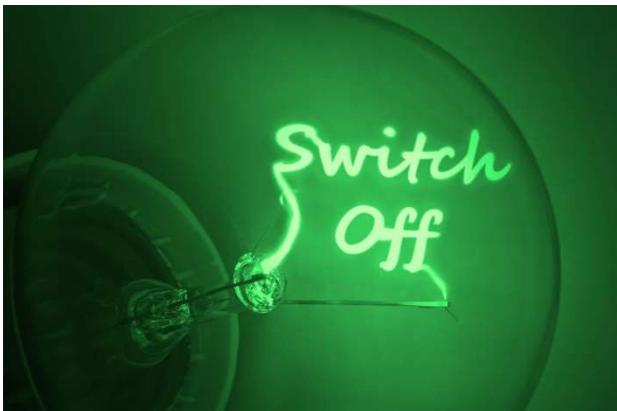
### *Videos to help launch the discussion:*

1) Revolutionary Renewable Energy Technologies – Nano Tech (12.5Min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsuB-6-n-MM>

2) Good news video (3:15Min)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTH3otcW\\_hs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTH3otcW_hs)



# Discussion Topic 3a - Waste

- Zero Waste

*Discussion Questions*

- What does it mean to be “Zero Waste?”
- How much plastic is in your backpack right now?
- How many non reusable items are in your back pack right now? Are in the room?
- What items could be replaced by reusable items instead?
- What could we do to reduce plastic use and plastic garbage at our school?
- How can we move towards zero waste at our school?
- How can we move towards Zero waste in our community?

*Video to launch the discussion*

- 1) Why I live a zero waste lifestyle by Lauren Singer TedxTeen (13.5Min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF72px2R3Hg>

*Her Blog*

Trash is for Tossers

<http://www.trashisfortossers.com/>



***“The #1 thing is... do 1 more thing.  
Take 1 more thing that isn’t  
sustainable and make it sustainable  
and then just don’t stop.” – the clean  
bin project***

# Discussion Topic 3b - Food Waste



## Discussion Questions:

- How much food is wasted at our school? (could do a survey of the compost and garbage cans to get a rough estimate)
- What impact does food waste have on the environment and our communities?
- What could we do at our school to combat food waste?
- What could we as a school do to help combat food waste in our community?

## Videos to help launch the discussion:

- 1) How to end the food waste fiasco (18min)  
<http://tedxteen.com/talks/tedxteen-2016-london/353-rob-greenfield-how-to-end-the-food-waste-fiasco>
- 2) Inglorious Fruits and vegetables
  - Info about Intermarche's Inglorious Fruits and Vegetables campaign(2.5Min):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQQMygivn0g>
  - Ugly Carrot (1Min): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsWyKGgk\\_Dc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsWyKGgk_Dc)
  - Unfortunate Clementine(1Min):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A\\_PA9GyAodM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_PA9GyAodM)
- 3) French Version: Les Fruits et Legumes Moche
  - Information a par de la campaign(2.5Min):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMARwAXmn\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMARwAXmn_0)
  - La clémentine introvertie (1Min) :  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXRzu8OFIn0>
  - Carrot Moche (1Min) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxytgoUhENC>
  - Un Pomme (30Sec) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOOnYr8ust8I>
- Un magazine en Quebec (1Min) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkGtLaRUXik>

# Discussion Topic 4 - Water

## Discussion Questions

- How much water does a person really need to use in a day?
- What would your life be like if you didn't have access to clean water?
- What would your life be like if water was no longer available from the tap in your house? Where would you go to get clean water? How? When?
- How can we conserve water here at school?
- How can we conserve water at home or in our community?

Why water?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=womlxQgO2tE>

Nature is Speaking: Water (1.5min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwV9OYeGN88>

Nature is Speaking: The Ocean (2min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rM6txLtoaoc>

Walking for water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPxMOzN0Uq4>

10 years of charity water (22min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UE9UvT5uijg>

I am Water

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSz9IRbl\\_0I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSz9IRbl_0I)



# Discussion Topic 5 - Green Inventions

## *Discussion questions:*

- What green inventions have you heard of in recent years?
- Do you consider yourself an inventor or innovative?
- What environmental problem would you most like to solve by inventing something to help?
- What would that invention look like?
- What would it do?
- Who could/would use it?

## *Videos to help launch the discussion:*

- 1) Window farms: using social media and collaboration to design a way of growing food even in tiny apartments in the city (8min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhvfOIPYifY>

- 2) BioCouture – How to grow your own clothes (3min)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9u\\_m\\_QzXSI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9u_m_QzXSI)



# Sustainability Campaign Plan

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of campaign: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Define your goal**

What are you hoping to accomplish and how will you measure your success?

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## **Benefits**

What are some of the benefits of making this change?

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## **Potential Barriers**

What are some of the things that might stop people from doing what you are asking them to do?

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**Potential Solutions**

What strategies will you use to overcome the potential barriers identified above?

	Communication out to the school, the community or to parents
	Competition
	Convenience - finding ways to make it easier for people to participate
	Incentives (Prizes)
	Leading by example and encouraging others to do like wise
	Pledges - Getting people to publicly commit to adopting the action you are trying to promote
	Presentations
	Prompts - Reminders, can be either verbal (ie announcements) or physical (ie signs)
	Other:

**Next steps**

What are the first things you're going to do to get started? Who's job is it? When will it be done?

What	Who	When

## Campaign Reflection

Green Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the Campaign: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the Campaign: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the purpose of this campaign? What was your goal?

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Briefly describe what you did:

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What worked well?

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What do you wish you had spent more time on or done differently?

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Did you reach your goal? Yes  No  Not sure  Still working on it

While doing this campaign is there anything you discovered that surprised you?

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What was the best part of this campaign?

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