

Frequently asked questions

Applying for an Eco Schools grant

The Eco Schools Program aims to provide learning opportunities for students, teachers and the school community, through hands-on curriculum-based environmental education projects that focus on strong student participation.

Q. How do I improve my school's chances of successfully applying for [Eco Schools](#) or grant?

A1 Align your project's objectives to the program's assessment criteria.

What are the program's assessment criteria, and how will your project address them? Make sure that the outcomes you identify align with the program objectives. Detailed assessment criteria are found in the [guidelines](#).

A2 Present a clear project proposal.

Articulate clearly what the results of your project will be, how they will be delivered, and what success will look like for your project. The [Sustainable Schools](#) website has some [tips](#) that will help you effectively scope your project.

Q. How are applications assessed? What are the assessors looking for?

A: All applications are assessed against set criteria (that are found in the program guidelines).

Keep the assessment criteria in mind when you answer the questions. It's like a job application. You need to demonstrate why your project is worthy of a grant, and why the assessors should choose yours ahead of other applications.

Q. How much time do I need?

A: Allow enough time to ensure that you have everyone on board.

A grant application is usually a group effort. Your project needs to make connections across a range of Key Learning Areas, and you'll need input from teachers covering all the subject areas. You'll also need to ensure that you have parents, grounds staff, and the Principal on board. Most importantly you need to ensure that you have the support of any community groups you will be working with, and that all parties have the same understanding of what they will be contributing to your project. Projects sometimes fail when assumptions are made that community groups will provide support that fails to eventuate.

Q. What else should I think about?

A: Demonstrate that you will be a good project manager.

In a competitive grants process, it's essential to demonstrate what makes you a good project manager. What external experts will you be working with? How will you measure the success of your project? You might also include information about previous environmental projects you've delivered, and grants you've received.

Remember that improving school facilities is a good result that the program looks to deliver, but the ultimate goal is to deliver environmental education and environmental benefits.

How will you use your grant to facilitate student and community learning about the environment?