

Example Action Plan: Eco-friendly Pest Control

This example is based on the suggestion that the class should be responsible for eco-friendly pest control in the school gardens.

Eco-friendly pest control in the school gardens

What skills do we need?

We need the following skills:

- research and investigation (science, technology, and social studies);
- information analysis;
- communication;
- problem-solving.

Who makes the decisions?

We need to:

- find out who decides about the gardens and how they do so;
- talk to the gardener or caretaker about establishing eco-friendly pest control in the school;
- raise the awareness of the decision makers and the school as a whole;
- discuss the issues with the principal, teachers, and board of trustees.

ACTIONS

- Communicate our vision for eco-friendly pest control in the school.
- Find out what the stakeholders (principal, gardener, teachers, and students) think about our ideas.
- Gather other ideas from the stakeholders.
- Develop and carry out an eco-friendly pest control programme that includes an education component designed to encourage others to adopt non-toxic strategies.

We can develop awareness by:

- walking around the school and studying all the gardens;
- reading “Hukanui: EnviroSchool”, *Connected 3 2002*;
- reading Suzuki and Vanderlingen’s *Eco-Fun: Great Projects, Experiments, and Games for a Greener Earth* (Greystone Books, 2001);
- talking to parents and grandparents who have gardens;
- visiting Michael’s grandad’s garden;
- inviting Mr Brown from the local nursery to talk to us;
- inviting Mrs Green from the Permaculture Society to talk to us.

We can explore different attitudes and values by:

- investigating the existing methods of pest control in the gardens;
- investigating eco-friendly alternatives;
- carrying out a survey to find out what the stakeholders think;
- using large charts to report the results of the survey to all the stakeholders;
- discussing all the possibilities and deciding on an “eco-friendly pest control plan” for our garden.

Identify and enhance knowledge and understanding by:

- reading “Hukanui: EnviroSchool”;
- listening to guest speakers;
- carrying out science investigations;
- writing a report about the visit to Michael’s grandad’s garden;
- writing a school newsletter article about eco-friendly pest control;
- drawing pictures of different eco-friendly pest-control methods and displaying these in the school hall.