



# ECO SCHOOLS PROGRAMME IN ESTONIA

*Engaging the youth of today to protect the planet of  
tomorrow*

Eeva Kirsipuu-Vadi  
*Tartu Nature House*  
*Tartu Nov 26, 2019*



**Foundation for  
Environmental  
Education**



**A non-profit, non governmental organisation  
located in Copenhagen**

**Promoting Sustainable Development through  
Environmental Education worldwide**

- 4 countries in 1981
- 67 countries in 2019
- 5 environmental education programmes



## Engaging the youth of today to protect the planet of tomorrow

- **Includes everyone:** involves students, teachers and the local community at large.
- **Improves School Environments:** meaningful path towards improving the environmental footprint of a school
- **Motivates:** students can see tangible results – they really can make a difference!
- **Improves Attitudes:** sense of responsibility, cultivates a sustainable mindset which they can apply on a daily basis.
- **Involves Communities**
- **Connects Globally**





**FEE**



Eco-Schools

# Eco-Schools

## STATS AND FIGURES

Registered  
Schools

**51,502**



Green Flags  
Awarded

**17,916**



Local partners  
globally

**1,877**



Students  
involved

**19,800,465**



Teachers  
involved

**1,386,829**



of Eco-Schools  
countries receive  
support  
from their national  
government



Teacher training  
sessions

**723**

# Programme Participants



Map created by [Foundation for Environmental Education](#)

# A Seven-Step Change Framework for Continuous Improvement (implemented in Estonia as well)



## 12 themes (in Estonia as well)

- School grounds
- Marine and Coast
- Water
- Litter
- Health and Wellbeing
- Global Citizenship
- Biodiversity and nature
- Transport
- Energy
- Food
- Waste
- Climate Change



## Assessment for the Green Flag

To be successful the programme requires support from school leaders and the Board. Active involvement of staff is imperative as well as long-term commitment and the willingness to involve students in decision-making.

Programme started in Tallinn in 2016, from the school year 2018/2019 all schools and kindergartens all over Estonia can join. Official member of FEE is Estonian Society for Nature Conservation.

Tartu Nature House as hobby school joined the programme in Sept 2018 and in June 2019 we gained Green Flag. From Sept 2019 Tartu Nature House is National Operator of Eco-Schools in Estonia; we continue to participate in the programme as well.



131 members in the Estonian network, incl 1 vocational school and 3 hobby schools and 77 kindergartens.

Regional division: more than 60 % are located in or near Tallinn;

*(Statistics: 518 schools and 618 kindergartens in Estonia in 2019)*

## Teacher seminars and webinars for network of Eco-Schools in Estonia

Teacher training seminars for the network in Estonia are organised ca 4-5 times during school year in 4 different regions.



Topics of local seminars include the most common themes of programme chosen by schools and kindergartens. In Estonia the most popular is **biodiversity and nature**.

Eco-Schools Global is organising webinars for all participating countries.

## Quotes from teachers

- *Participation in the program has led to much greater understanding of sustainable consumption by adults and children. We have created a suitable environment for children where the child becomes a self-directed learner, where he / she is free in his / her creative activities - the teacher is helping the child and him/herself to be the researcher, the discoverer, the learner.*
- *We are very pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the Eco-School program – it is learning and developing together with children and parents*
- *Joining the Green School made our people think more systematically, fix their expenses and draw conclusions from them. We created a Facebook account to share Eci-School information, where we also post health promotion and bullying-free kindergarten activities.*
- *There is too much reporting in the program, the focus is shifting away from core activities. Reporting does not directly add value or input to addressing or integrating environmental issues into the curriculum.*

## **BLOGS of Eco-Schools**

[http://rohelineog.blogspot.com./](http://rohelineog.blogspot.com/)

<https://monistekool.wixsite.com/monistekool/sisukord>

<https://loodusmaja.wixsite.com/rohelinekool/protokollid>

Tartu Nature House (Tartu Environmental Education Centre)

Eeva Kirsipuu-Vadi

[eeva.vadi@gmail.com](mailto:eeva.vadi@gmail.com)

+352 13881