

## School site visit information for Ontario EcoSchools Certification 2009-10

Congratulations on your accomplishments this year! Ontario EcoSchools is looking forward to visiting schools across the province to see how the EcoSchools program has helped enrich student learning and improve environmental practices. In order to provide rich evaluation and feedback there are three parts to the 45 minute certification site visit:

- a **portfolio evaluation** (please have the portfolio ready at the office on the site visit date)
- a **discussion** with the EcoTeam (students, staff advisor(s), custodian, principal, other team members) and
- a walkabout the school to check the **Look Fors**.

### Discussion

The discussion section of the site visit will give schools the opportunity to highlight their successes, reflect on their experience, plan for next year and provide feedback to the Ontario EcoSchools program. The assessor will begin the site visit by evaluating the portfolio. Once the EcoTeam has been assembled, the assessor will ask the EcoTeam for their answers to the questions below.

1. Describe one way that people in your building have changed this year because of EcoSchools. This could be a change in how they do things, how they think about things, etc.
  - why do you think this change took place?
  - how can you tell that the change has happened?
2. What EcoSchools-related activity are you most excited about?
3. If you could have anything you wished for to support, deepen or expand EcoSchools, what would it be?
4. What are your plans for next year?

### Look Fors

After the discussion, the assessor and EcoTeam (some/all of the members) will go on a short walkabout of the school. Each site visit will uniquely reflect the school's application while also looking for standard practices outlined in the Look Fors on the next page.

The auditor may request to take photos during the site visit. A media release should be completed if students' images are included in the photo.

Cont'd...



**Look Fors** cont'd

Assessors will compare their observations with the certification application and may change the points allocated if appropriate. If a school does not claim points in a Part of certification, then that Part will not be assessed during the Look Fors section of the site visit. Points may be deducted or awarded based on the following Look Fors:

LOOK FORs	On-line answer	Emerging	Approaching Implementation	Implemented	Comprehensive
		Lev.1	Lev.2	Lev.3	Lev.4
<b>Part II. Energy Conservation</b> Q2.1 Lights are turned off when not required.					
Q2.2 Monitors are turned off when not required.					
<b>Part III Waste Minimization</b> Q3.7 Has a school-wide paper recycling system been effectively implemented (e.g., an adequate number of bins strategically placed throughout the school containing minimal contamination from non-recyclable items)?					
Q3.8 Has a school-wide container recycling system been effectively implemented in an adequate number of strategic locations (e.g., an adequate number of bins strategically placed throughout the school containing minimal contamination from non-recyclables)?					

**After the site visit**

Final standings are determined back at the Ontario EcoSchools office based on any items clarified on the site visit and observations during the Look For walkabout. Board representatives are notified of final standings once all of the site visits to the board have been completed (before the end of June). Board representatives will then notify the schools of their final standing. Schools without a board representative will be contacted directly regarding their certification standing.

We look forward to seeing and celebrating your EcoSchool's accomplishments this year!

