

The Overseas School of Colombo  
Attn: David Poulus  
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Sri Lanka



30 November 2022

## Re: Green Flag assessment of The Overseas School of Colombo

Dear David Poulus, Eco Committee A & B at The Overseas School of Colombo,

Following your recent Green Flag assessment, we are pleased to inform you and the rest of the school community that The Overseas School of Colombo has been awarded the Green Flag (Pass with Requirements)!

We would like to congratulate you, your colleagues, and especially the students at OSC for all the time and effort that has been invested in Education for Sustainable Development during the last challenging two years. Your award reflects both the hard work, as well as the OSC commitment to sustainability and the Eco-Schools programme.

It is evident that Eco-Schools as a concept and a programme has motivated students to engage in school projects to address local environmental issues related to the themes of pollution, biodiversity, and climate change. Teachers have been able to establish curriculum linkages and students have proven to be reflective on some of the encountered challenges and improvement opportunities. We encourage you to keep exploring ways to involve the whole school into the Eco-Committee sustainability action plan and to foster further collaboration opportunities with the local neighbours and community. We look forward to hearing more about the recently built garden beds as a way to promote self-sufficiency and create biodiversity friendly habitats within the school grounds.

However, we also felt that there are some areas for improvement, thus we would like to highlight below some reflections of our team, as well as requirements and suggestions to be addressed before your next Green Flag application. Eco-Schools International will be keeping the following on record, and the Assessor will be asked to see proof thereof at the next assessment.

### Requirements from the assessment team for your next Green Flag application

1. The presented environmental projects were excellent but, it was not always clear how the step of audit helped in prioritising an action or project. Please make sure to provide evidence of the audit result analysis and how these have helped to establish some of the Eco-Committee goals and targets in your next Green Flag application.



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2. When establishing long- and short-term targets for the different themes make sure to have measurable performance indicators i.e., weight (kg) of discarded waste or recycled materials, electricity (Kw/h) or water (m<sup>3</sup>) consumption values, insects or birds counts (number of individuals or species) in the school grounds. Regular monitoring of the performance indicators helps to evaluate the impact of the positive actions taken by the Eco-Committee and offers a great opportunity to celebrate and reflect upon your whole school achievements. Please remember to present tables, graphs and graphics that showcase your monitoring and evaluation efforts in your next Green Flag Assessment.
3. Along with environmental indicators and related baselines, it is important to establish learning indicators and baselines. Assessment of learning is also a key component of the curricular linkages step.
4. As part of your work with the biodiversity theme, we encourage students to investigate and reflect upon the origin (i.e., native, invasive) of the different species identified through the campus inventory.
5. It was made clear to the assessor team that efforts have been made in terms of school's food waste management with the biogas plant, the worm farm, and the composting projects. We look forward to hearing how food waste reduction initiatives complement the existing projects.
6. It was exciting to hear about your plans to install solar panels. We hope this is not the culmination of your work with the energy theme and that student's involvement with the consultation, planning and monitoring phases will continue to bring exciting learning and curricular linkages opportunities.
7. Disseminating the Eco-Committee work and efforts is a key to raise awareness among the whole school community and get others involved. We noticed how your OSC Eco-Schools Instagram profile has only a couple of posts. We encourage you to share your fantastic Geckos Eco-Code & Green Code, and if Instagram is a tool you would like to use, discuss the strategy to maximise your impact and outreach.

## Recommendations

1. We strongly believe the Eco-Schools Seven Steps – A Project Based Learning Best Practice course, could offer a good opportunity to strengthen the understanding and implementation of the 7-Steps methodology. The next cycle of the course will be running in March 2023. Please email [arnau@fee.global](mailto:arnau@fee.global) to get the enrolment key and register on FEE Academy using the following link: [www.feeacademy.global](http://www.feeacademy.global).
2. We invite you to explore some of the opportunities and activities taking place through [Learning about Forests](#) and [Young Reporters for the Environment](#) programmes. We believe that the two programmes complement Eco-Schools and when implemented together can bring a sharper focus on collaboration to give holistic EE/ESD experience.
3. Please consider submitting some of your projects as best practices to inspire other Eco-Schools with great ideas. You can always share your projects and school developments with [arnau@fee.global](mailto:arnau@fee.global).

Please note that to retain the school's Green Flag status you will need to apply for your next Green Flag in two years' time. We expect to touch base on the exposed recommendations before the end of the next academic year.

In the meantime, keep up the good work with your next cycle. We are always at your disposal for feedback and assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Arnau Macià Pou**  
International Coordinator of Education

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