

think native

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Find out which plants are native to your local area (your local council should be able to help) and start planting to increase biodiversity in your school grounds. Native plants attract butterflies, lizards and birdlife and will help make your playground a more interesting and attractive place. Planting larger trees helps offset the carbon dioxide your school produces. Not only that, but they provide shade for the playground and can help to keep buildings cooler in summer – and that means less energy is used on airconditioning or fans.



Create a frog pond in your school garden.
Frogs are a good indicator of the health
of a natural environment.



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energy use



Here's a practical way you can help your school and the planet. Suggest a class project to do an energy audit of your school. Think about all the different ways energy and resources are used. Count all the light bulbs, power points and appliances and anything else that uses electricity. Then there's water use – toilets, gardens, staffrooms. Once you have made a list you can use it to calculate the Carbon Footprint of your school and come up with a checklist of how things can be improved. Repeat the audit in six months' time and see if there have been any changes.



Write a report illustrating how you have changed or can change the school's energy use.