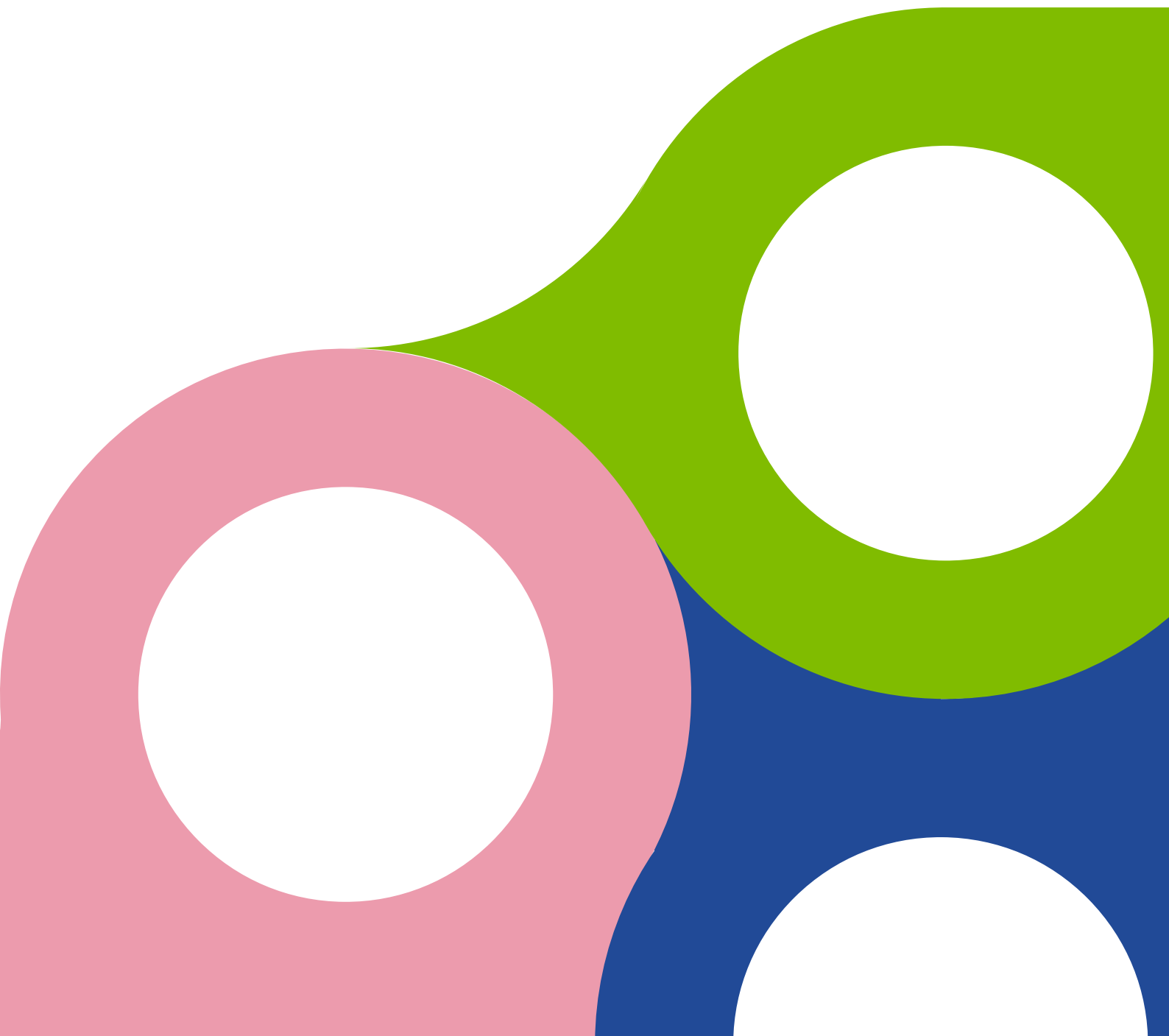


# Green school in Finland



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As one of the pioneers in environmental protection and sustainable development, Finland plays an important role in promoting environmental education in schools. As part of its extensive environmental activities, the **Eco-Schools** programme, plays a key role in fostering environmentally friendly attitudes among students and school communities. The transparency of the programme, the focus on practical activities and the principle of learning by doing and gaining experience make 'Eco-Schools' an important element in environmental education and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles among Finland's younger generation.

The 'Green School' project (Green Flag-<https://vihrealippu.fi/en/>) in Finland is part of the international 'Eco-Schools' programme, which is the world's largest sustainable education programme in the education sector. In Finland, the programme has been running for more than 20 years and more than 350 schools currently participate. "Green School" inspires children to make a difference and raise environmental awareness. The programme is inclusive, combines learning with practical experiences and enriches the school environment, motivating students to get involved in solving environmental problems. "Green School" is an environmental education and sustainability project that aims to involve students, teachers and local communities in environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles. This project can be implemented in schools at different levels of education, from primary schools to secondary schools. The Green School project also aims to inspire young people to take concrete action to protect the environment. Pupils learn responsibility for their environment, develop critical thinking and teamwork skills, and learn about the practical aspects of sustainable living. The **Eco-Schools** programme includes a seven-step system that focuses on engaging students in environmental action. These

steps include, but are not limited to, forming an environmental team, conducting an environmental audit, planning and implementing environmental activities, monitoring and evaluating progress, and informing and involving the school and local community. The process ends with the development of a green flag, symbolising the school's commitment to sustainability.

Schools undertake a wide variety of activities as part of the **Eco-Schools** program-



me to promote environmental awareness and practical environmental action.

These activities include, among other things, the regular organisation of educational workshops and lessons that focus on topics related to the environment, recycling, sustainable consumption, renewable energy and climate change. The cyclical organisation of a 'Green Week', during which schools engage in a variety of activities such as green space clean-ups, upcycling workshops or presentations on sustainable transport. In addition, the establishment and maintenance of school gardens, which serve not only as a place for recreation, but also as an educational space where students can gain knowled-



ge about organic farming, biodiversity and the importance of local food production. Introduce a recycling programme at the school, which includes a waste separation and composting system, as well as education about recycling and waste minimisation. An additional aim is to establish partnerships with local environmental organisations, town halls and companies to jointly implement environmental projects and educational campaigns. These activities are an integral part of the schools' involvement in the **Eco-Schools** programme, shaping pro-environmental attitudes among students and school communities and contributing to the creation of a more sustainable environment.

One of the programmes implemented as part of the **Eco-Schools** is the

“Green Flag”. This is an important initiative that supports schools and educational establishments in promoting sustainability and green practices. Through their participation in the programme, participants receive a certificate that confirms their commitment to a greener future. In addition, the Green Flag programme provides participants with comprehensive educational materials covering a variety of environmental issues. This provides them with knowledge and practical tips to help them act towards sustainability. Participants in the programme receive expert support and inspirational tools at their disposal to help them achieve their environmental education goals. The programme's activities foster community building and positive change in both the school and the local environment. Joining the Green Flag programme gives participants the opportunity to participate in an international network of **Eco-Schools**, enabling them to exchange experiences and collaborate with other schools around the world. Receiving a Green Flag is not only a recognition of the actions taken by participants, but also an acknowledgement of their contribution to building a more



sustainable future and developing green social attitudes.

The **Eco-Schools** initiative plays a key role in promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices in schools across the country. It is managed by the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC). “**Eco-Schools**” dovetails with the country's strong commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development.

**Source:** [https://vihrealippu.fi/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Gron\\_flagg-esite2018-netti.pdf](https://vihrealippu.fi/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Gron_flagg-esite2018-netti.pdf) (09.02.2024)

## Bibliography:

<https://vihrealippu.fi>

