

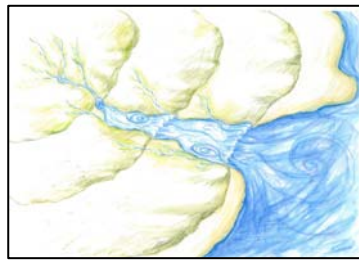


The Enviroschools Programme

The Enviroschools Foundation, working in collaboration with a number of national and regional agencies, is committed to empowering young people to contribute to a sustainable world. We have a vision of a generation of innovative and motivated young people who instinctively think and act sustainably. Schools, early childhood centres and their associated communities provide a powerful vehicle to enable this to happen.

What is an Enviroschool?

An Enviroschool is a school or centre that has made a long term commitment to sustainability as part of the school culture. Enviroschools embark on a journey where their sustainable practice broadens and deepens over time (imagine the river below with its many eddies, pools and runs). All schools and centres are starting from different places and the journey looks different for every school.



What kinds of things do Enviroschools do?

Action projects based around the **physical surroundings** (landscapes and buildings) of the school or community. Examples include planting/restoration projects, murals, and ecological building projects.

Action projects based around the everyday **practices and processes** of school life. Examples include waste audits, energy reduction programmes, water-use monitoring, systems changes and installations, travel planning.

Integrated learning based on an **action learning cycle** of inquiry, investigation, decision-making, action, reflection and evaluation in sustainability contexts.

Establish **decision-making processes and systems**, based on student learning, that enable students to feel a sense of ownership.

Over time enviroschools develop a **vision map** showing their vision for sustainability in their school and community and steps they might take to achieve their vision. Schools **annually evaluate progress** towards the vision with their facilitator and agree priorities for the next year.

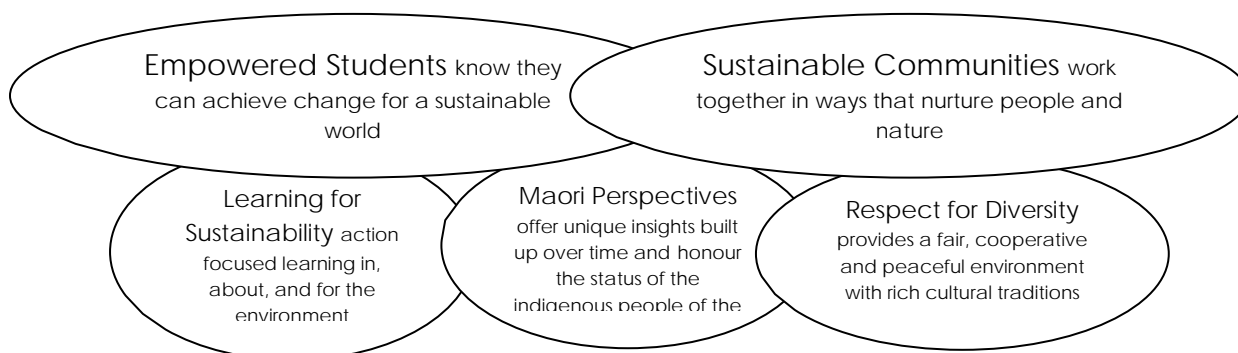
How do schools do this?

Each enviroschool has a **facilitator**, funded by the local council, or another local partner, who helps them to use resources and networks as they develop their own pathway and action to work towards a more sustainable future. Resources include:

- The **Enviroschools Handbook** outlining the underpinning philosophies of the programme and some tips for getting started.
- The **Enviroschools Kit** full of activities and approaches a school can use to help guide their journey.
- **DVDs** showing examples of enviroschools action and approaches.
- **Enviroschools Scrapbooks** showing examples of what schools have achieved in the past.

The kit, handbook and an annual scrapbook are available to schools/centres who have signed an Enviroschools agreement. Anyone who wants to can purchase separately: a handbook for \$20, a scrapbook for \$15, or a DVD for \$20.

Enviroschools is a whole school approach (rather than a series of one-off events that some classes engage in). The approach is guided by the principles of the Enviroschools Programme:



Empowered students become decision makers as they work through the action learning cycle with their teachers and other adults in the community. The programme incorporates a series of **awards** that schools can apply for to celebrate their achievements at points along their journey. The awards structure can also be used as a framework to help guide schools in their journey. Schools **network** with other schools on a similar journey throughout the region and the country, **share** ideas and **celebrate** their progress. Around 600 schools across the country are part of the network. This includes kura kaupapa, early childhood, primary, intermediate and secondary.

Benefits for Enviroschools and their communities

<p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced biodiversity Reduced waste Reduced Energy Consumption Protected, healthy waterways 	<p>Educational</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased student motivation for learning Increased student action competencies Peer mentoring and professional development Engaging a diversity of learners
<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial savings in the school Students running entrepreneurial enterprises Links between schools and businesses Increased interest in sustainable products 	<p>Social and Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership amongst peers and community Reduced bullying and vandalism Sense of place and heritage Increased community participation in local issues