

Make Green Actions Visible in Daily Life

To many, the concept of “Sustainability” often feels abstract — an issue discussed only by experts or policy makers. To students, it may seem even more distant and unattainable. Yet, with well-designed curricular and learning activities, the principles of “Sustainability” can be transformed into tangible experiences that are embedded in students’ daily lives, making them accessible and relatable.

Let’s take a look at how two schools awarded the Outstanding Award in the “2024 Best Green Education Initiative Award” demonstrated the power of education — transforming the topic of sustainable development into real, experiential and actionable practices in students’ everyday lives, and making complex concepts simple and comprehensible.

Education Initiative 1: GreenStarter

[Initiated school: Q.E.S. Old Students' Association Branch Primary School]



Theme

- A sustainability-focused interdisciplinary Green Student Ambassador training programme



Learning Objectives

- Cultivate sustainable living values through practising green lifestyles
- Provide diverse learning opportunities and empower students to take the lead in planning and organising environmental activities, helping them develop leadership, environmental action competence, creativity, and problem-solving skills
- Encourage the public to participate in environmental initiatives in various ways, fostering a greener and more sustainable community



Targets

- P.2 to P.6 students



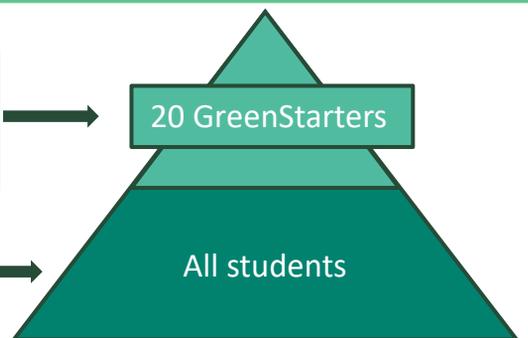
Content

Through school-wide recruitment, selected students participated in a series of environmental training sessions and completed an **individual learning portfolio**

Using a **rewards booklet**, students completed small green-living tasks to earn rewards

20 GreenStarters

All students





Content (con'd)

Selected students became GreenStarters. In addition to learning environmental knowledge, they also served as Student Ambassadors, promoting green living to various stakeholders

**Featured activities are as follows*

On Campus



Zero Waste Shopping Experience

- GreenStarters took on the role of staff in a packaging-free store, selling products grown or made by themselves (e.g. hydroponic vegetables, upcycled toys, herbal packs). Customers who brought their own shopping bags received a discount
- Promoted the message of reducing single-use packaging and encouraging waste reduction at source

- GreenStarters applied the environmental knowledge gained during training by designing display boards and game booths to share their learning outcomes
- Acting as “Advocators”, GreenStarters actively promoted environmental concepts and sustainable practices to various stakeholders, including fellow schoolmates and parents

Environmental Carnival



Beyond Campus



Community Care Initiative

- GreenStarters used hydroponic techniques to grow lettuce and donated their harvest to the elderly in the community
- Benefits of hydroponic farming and green living tips were also shared with the elderly, thereby raising environmental awareness within the community

Coastal Clean-up Activity



- Large plastic bags from community laundromats were reused for coastal clean-up activity
- GreenStarters conducted waste sorting and recording during the clean-up process, reflecting on the importance of protecting the natural environment and marine ecosystems



Highlights

- The programme aligned closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and integrated interdisciplinary elements from STEAM, Humanities, Science, and Arts. Through lessons, outdoor field trips, and creative activities, students developed environmental knowledge, practical skills, and core values such as responsibility, teamwork, and social care
- Through activities such as the “Zero Waste Shopping Experience” and the “Environmental Carnival,” students took the lead from planning to implementation, actively promoted environmental concepts both inside and outside the school. These experiences fostered self-directed learning and teamwork, successfully engaging students, parents, and members of the community, and ultimately cultivating a green school culture
- By combining student self-assessment, peer assessment, teacher evaluations, and parent questionnaires—together with the use of the “4F Model of Reflective Learning (i.e. Fact, Finding, Feeling, Future)” and individual learning portfolios—the school gained a comprehensive understanding of learning and teaching effectiveness, thereby supporting continuous improvement



Theme

- Low-carbon living
- Sustainable development



Learning Objective

- Understand low-carbon living
- Practise low-carbon lifestyle through the four aspects of “clothing, food, housing, and transportation”
- Promote low-carbon living both on campus and at home



Targets

- All P.3 students and their family members



Subjects involved

Chinese Language

English Language

Mathematics

General Studies

Visual Arts

Music

Reading



Content

- A three-day Life-wide Learning programme requiring students to complete a school-based thematic learning booklet

Day 1



- **Game-based Learning:** Introduced climate change and global warming issues to students through mini-games



- Visited the Hong Kong Science Museum to explore environment-related topics, followed by interviewing family and friends about their low-carbon living habits

Day 2

- **Inquiry-based Learning:** Campus Exploration

- Observed how the school implemented a “low-carbon campus”
- Wrote a letter to the principal to share reflections after the campus tour and provide suggestions

Content (con'd)

Day 3

Day 2 (con'd)

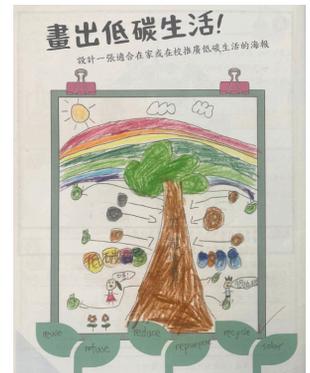
▪ Interdisciplinary Exploration:

Incorporated the theme of low-carbon living across different subjects, examining low-carbon lifestyle practices from the perspectives of “clothing, food, housing, and transportation”

- Wrote an English diary entries to record the visit activities and ways to practise green living
- Recorded air-conditioning usage at home and at school, analysed related data, and presented the findings with charts
- Designed a low-carbon meal plan
- Created stories about low-carbon living and conducted personal reflections

▪ Creative Expression:

Drew the vision of an ideal low-carbon lifestyle, designed related poster, and collaborated in groups to create a carbon-reduction board game



- Students shared their learning experiences with fellow schoolmates after the three-day activities

Highlights

- The initiative integrated multiple subjects and aligned with relevant curriculum content, including Languages, Mathematics, General Studies, and Visual Arts, etc
- The theme of the initiative was closely related to students' daily lives, enabling them to strengthen their connection with the topic while enhancing their environmental awareness, knowledge, and ability to take action
- The initiative incorporated various creative elements, such as designing carbon-reduction board games, which greatly enhanced students' interest and engagement. Compared with traditional learning approaches, these activities helped students consolidate and apply their knowledge more effectively
- In addition to focusing on students as the primary participants, the school extended the activities and core concepts to families as well, allowing environmental practices to be brought into homes and creating positive influences from students to families

Summary

Although the concept of “Sustainable Development” is often perceived as profound and difficult to grasp, the power of education lies precisely in bringing such ideas closer, breaking the public's perceptions, and transforming seemingly abstract theories into concrete actions that students can understand, participate in, and practise both at school and at home.

An outstanding environmental education initiative not only conveys knowledge or simplifies complex ideas, but also instils hope and encouragement. It helps students understand that their contributions are not insignificant — they have both the ability and the responsibility to care for the environment through the choices they make and the actions they take in their daily lives. The changes may appear small, but every genuine step forward marks the beginning of a better future.