

Community Partnerships

Students Transform their Community through EcoSchools ...

About the program ...

The student EcoTeam at Fern Avenue Public School takes complete responsibility for the green bin program and monitors a vigilant recycling program in all classrooms. The team organizes and hosts school-wide assemblies complete with games to teach other students about recycling, reusing and reducing materials and waste. Students have also written plays to convey their environmental message in a more compelling and fun way. They enthusiastically take responsibility for educating both their peers and parents and have introduced concepts such as carbon footprints and landfills to students of all ages. Team members encourage environmental awareness by handing out handmade mailbox signs at school events with “No flyers please” messages to decrease paper waste.



Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students research and make presentations in classrooms and at school assemblies, which gives them the opportunity to practise and strengthen their language and dramatic arts skills.
- Students learn about nature’s cycles through their composting and recycling programs, all of which connect to the Ontario science curriculum expectations.
- The EcoTeam contributes to making their school a place where cooperation and teamwork are highly valued. The model they demonstrate helps reinforce the approach that everyone can make a difference by working together with the same goals in mind.
- The school has achieved Gold [EcoSchool](#) status and is also meeting many of the expectations laid out in the ministry’s [Environmental Education policy framework](#).

EcoTeam students designed and created a mascot named “Chuckie the Compost Hero” who is featured above.

Chuckie inspires the younger students at assemblies. The EcoTeam also hands out Chuckie badges when they are supervising lunchtime composting.

To find out more, contact ...

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