

School Environmental Audit Scheme for Eco Club Schools in H.P.

National Green Corps (NGC-Eco club) Programme has been started by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India. The H.P. State Council for Science Technology & Environment has been identified as a Nodal Agency to run this programme in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The State council has established 250 Eco clubs in each district. A total of 3000 eco clubs have been established in the schools and 93 eco Clubs in the Colleges of the State. In an effort to build-up environment consciousness in the young minds- Eco club members of Himachal Pradesh, the State Council has started School Environmental Audit Scheme with the active participation of Eco club members in technical collaboration with Centre for Science & Environment, New Delhi under the Green School Programme

1. Environmental Audit Scheme

The scheme on environmental auditing introduces an innovative methodology for assessing the performance of school community as a manager of resources. It also highlights the significance and relevance of eco-friendly practices. It helps the students to develop a holistic perspective and suggests practical, do-able mitigation measures. The main objectives of the scheme are:

- To encourage schools to improve their environmental performance.
- To monitor the existing environmental performance of Educational institutions in a participatory and transparent manner.
- To collect and analyse the bio-resources and systematically collect information about their environmental performance.
- To train and build capacity of students and teachers in natural resource management.

Under the scheme, the students and teachers would be trained on five thematic areas i.e water, energy, air, land and waste. The Students and teachers audit the resources of each thematic area and the findings of the exercise help the school management to manage the resources. This exercise is being carried out by eco clubs on half yearly basis and results are useful for trend analysis of the resources by the schools. The end product of environmental

auditing is a report card prepared by the school Eco club, quantifying its own achievements, as well as identifying shortfalls that require awareness and attention.

The State Council for Science, Technology & Environment is organising this type of training to the Eco Clubs of the State. So far more than 250 schools have been trained under the scheme. The State Eco clubs achieved best rank under the Green School Programme in the year 2011, 2013,2014, 2015. The State Council provided Rs.3500/- to each trained schools to setup environmental resource centre which includes Preparation of vermicomposting pit and training to the students, subscription of Environmental books/magazine. The following Eco clubs schools achieved top ten National rank under the **National Green Schools Award** conferred by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi from time to time at National level.

- 1 Government Senior Secondary School, Rewalsar
2. Government Senior Secondary School, Makreri, Joginder –1st Rank
3. Govt Sen. Sec. School(Girls) , Palampur, Kangra-1st Rak
4. Govt Sen. Sec. School, Baloh, Bilaspur
5. DAV School, New Shimla
6. Govt Sen. Sec. School, Majeoti, Rampur, Distt. Shimla
7. Govt. Sen. Sec. School, ThalliChakti, Shimla