

# **Schools Training Program for Implementing Sustainability Management Systems**

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# Background

- UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014
- Sixth EU Environment Action Programme 2001-2010
- Sustainable Development in National Core Curricula in Finland (1999)

# Environmental Evaluation System of Schools in Finland

- 1) Environmental Criteria of Schools
- 2) Training for teachers for building and implementing the Sustainable Management System
- 3) Environmental Certification System

# The Environmental Criteria

Standard for environmental performance  
of an exemplary level

The criteria contain

1. Planning, organising and development of environmental issues
2. Teaching and learning
3. Maintenance activities

# Example of the criteria

Criteria No 2.2.2 (compulsory): Environmental skills of the teachers

*Teachers have adequate and up-to-date environmental knowledge and skills, and they master the essential environmental issues related to their own teaching subject. Needs for additional environmental training have been surveyed among teachers, and implementation of regular training has been planned based on they surveys.*

# Environmental Certification System

- Two phases: self-assessment and external audit
- Certificate is valid for three years period of time
- Training courses for external auditors
- More than 70 qualified auditors

# Teacher Training: Sustainable Development in Schools

- Based on the Environmental Criteria for Schools
- Applies to all levels of schools
- Course lasts about eight months, with six days of contact training
- Aims at building a sustainable development programme for the school

## *I Contact training*

### **CONTENTS:**

***Sustainable Development in Schools***

***How to start building an environmental programme?  
Environmental issues in teaching***

*I Distance learning period*

***Establishing environmental team  
Communication  
Environmental review: teaching***

## *II Contact training*

### **CONTENTS:**

***Developing environmental teaching***

***Environmental issues in maintenance activities***

*II Distance learning period*

***Environmental review: maintenance activities***

## *III Contact training*

### **CONTENTS:**

***Planning environmentally friendly maintenance activities***

***Environmental programme and management***

*III Distance learning period*

***Planning the environmental programme and management  
Sharing of responsibilities***

## *IV Contact training*

### **CONTENTS:**

***Environmental programme as part of school's management and activities***

***Self evaluation and further development of the environmental programme***

# The Volume of Trainings

- Trainings organised since 2000
- Approximately 450 participants in 10 cities
- Training is funded by the Finnish National Board of Education (FNBE)

# Requirements for success

- Sufficient resources
- Positive attitude of the management and the whole school community
- Knowledge on sustainable development
- Practical and applicable tools
- Peer support

# Future development

- The Environmental Criteria will be developed into Sustainable Development Criteria of Schools in 2006-2007
- Also training is renewed to contain all aspects of SD – also social and cultural sustainability

# Further information

[www.koulujaymparisto.fi/index-en.htm](http://www.koulujaymparisto.fi/index-en.htm)

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