



Republic of Mauritius

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER **for** Secondary Schools



Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change

In collaboration with

Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

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Our Commitment towards the Environment

Our planet is facing an inextricably linked triple planetary crisis - climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution - driven by our unsustainable production and consumption that is endangering the well-being of current and future generations. To save our planet, a shift in mindset must be fostered, from childhood to adulthood, by inculcating environmental values. This Student Environmental Charter can help in guiding environmentally sound development and behaviour of students.

The present document is a master charter where a wide array of actions has been proposed. Schools may customise this document to produce their own charter. The list of proposed actions is not exhaustive and schools are encouraged to come up with their own contextualised initiatives/ actions. Once customised, schools are requested to adhere to the pledges.



OUR VISION

Students have adopted an eco-friendly culture and are acting collectively to build a sustainable future.



OUR MISSION

To build a safe, healthy & inclusive community through students' adoption of pro-environmental behaviours.



Our Pledges to the Environment

Personal values: -

- We will strive to become ambassadors of the environment.
- We will respect the right of others to live in a clean, safe, healthy and peaceful environment.

AT SCHOOL



1. ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB



- We will set up an environmental club and actively participate in environmental projects in our school.
- Through the environment club, we will share information on environmental issues with other students to encourage adoption of green practices.
- We vow to spread knowledge and ignite interest in the protection of the environment.
- We will actively participate in competitions on environment themes.

2. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- We will adopt a specific site within the school premises for setting up of different types of garden such as endemic, medicinal, bamboo, vegetable, fruits, salads, and herbs or orchid garden.
- We will dedicate a patch of the school grounds to grow vegetables using compost and biological control instead of pesticides. A laudable start would be growing seeds in pots.
- We will grow plants in used tyres, plastic bottles, or empty containers.
- We will grow decorative plants along the road reserves bordering our school.
- We will embellish our yard with decorative and flowering plants.
- We will decorate the boundary walls of the school with hanging plants.



3. ENERGY CONSERVATION

- We will use natural light instead of using electricity.
- We will switch off lights, fans and electronic equipment when not in use.
- We will encourage our school to buy ozone friendly and energy efficient appliances, especially in the Home Economics and IT specialist rooms and labs.
- We will walk short distances, use bike for short distances, and use public transport whenever possible so as to help in reducing carbon emissions.



4. WATER

CONSERVATION

- We will ensure that taps are well closed and we will report leakages in the piping system.
- We will collect and use rainwater for several purposes such as watering plants and cleaning outdoors.
- We will raise awareness on the importance of water by creating colourful posters on water use and water saving.
- For art classes, we will wash paint brushes in a bucket rather than under a running tap.



5. WASTE

MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING

- We will practice sorting of wastes at school:
 - Biodegradable and green waste
 - Paper waste
 - Plastic waste
 - Other wastes
- We will request school management to liaise with the recycling companies for collection of segregated waste.
- We will compost our green biodegradable waste.
- Through the environment club, we will exchange our used books among the school community.
- We will donate our uniform to students in need (if any).
- We will adopt paperless practices and where same is unavoidable, print on both sides of the paper.
- As far as practicable, we will avoid using plastic products such as bottles and food containers. Instead, we will use alternatives such as biodegradable, stainless steel or glass containers.
- We will use old copybooks with remaining clear pages for rough work and revision exercises so as not to waste them.



AT HOME

1.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

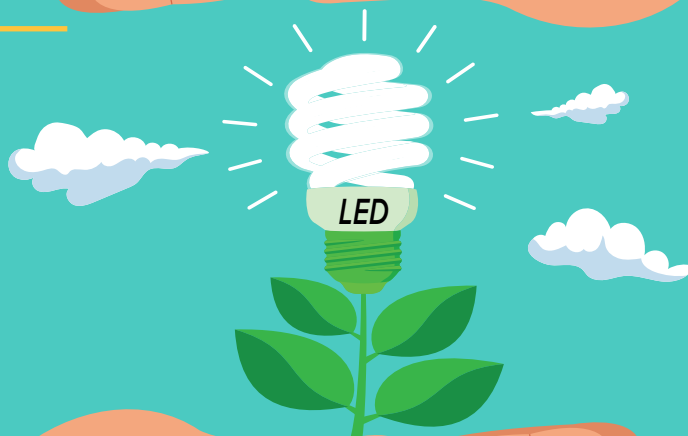
- We will embellish our yard with decorative and flowering plants.
- We will grow our own food by starting a backyard or balcony garden or roof gardening and enhance food security.
- While growing our own food, we will use compost as fertiliser and bio-control strategies for pest management.
- We will preserve the ecosystem and avoid cutting down trees.
- We will use mulch around plants and trees to reduce evaporation and weeds.



2. SAVE

ENERGY

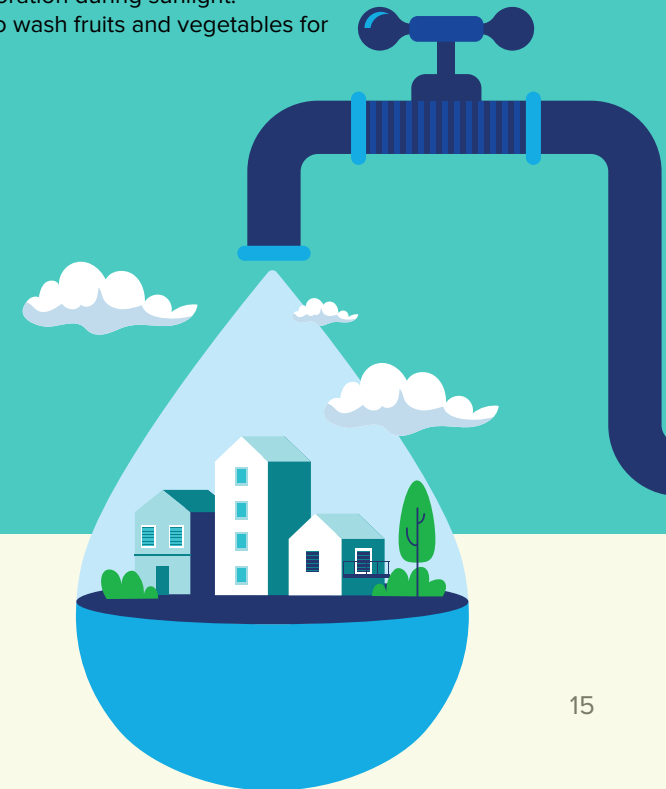
- We will turn off lights and all electronic equipment such as TV, radio, computer, tablet when not in use.
- We will encourage our parents to install energy efficient lighting and buy energy efficient appliances.
- We will encourage our parents to switch to solar water heater.
- We will advise our parents to opt for low carbon emission vehicles such as electric or hybrid vehicles instead of conventional ones, and consider carpooling when possible.
- We will walk or cycle for short distances instead of using cars, or use common/public transport whenever possible.
- We will optimise the use of natural lighting and ventilation at home instead of using lights, fans and air conditioning.
- We will encourage bulk ironing instead of daily ironing.



3. SAVE

WATER

- We will close taps when not in use during daily actions such as brushing teeth and washing dishes.
- We will ensure that leakages in the piping system are repaired.
- We will use shower instead of bath tub.
- We will collect and use rainwater for watering plants, cleaning outdoors and washing cars.
- We will encourage our parents to fix water efficient devices in taps.
- We will water plants early in the morning or at the end of the day to minimise water evaporation during sunlight.
- We will collect water used to wash fruits and vegetables for watering plants.



4. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

- We will bring our own bag or basket to shop and when buying vegetables at the market.
- We will encourage our parents to purchase local and environment friendly products as far as possible.
- We will buy recycled or biodegradable goods, reusable shopping bags and bottles.
- We will buy articles/products with less packaging.
- We will help the needy by donating our used/unused items such as books & uniforms.



5. ADOPTING THE 9 R's PRINCIPLES

- We will refuse, reduce, reuse, rethink, repair, repurpose, refurbish, recover and recycle our wastes.
- We will promote good waste management practices by sorting wastes and composting kitchen and garden wastes.
- We will refrain from burning household wastes.
- We will avoid food wastage and give our leftovers and food scraps to animals.



Refuse



Recycle



Rethink



Repurpose



Reduce



Recover



Reuse



Repair



Refurbish



AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

1. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

We will raise awareness on environmental issues and encourage our community as follows:

- Participate in the conservation of native flora and fauna.
- Embellish our locality with decorative and flowering plants and create green spaces.
- Preserve the ecosystem and avoid cutting down trees. If cutting down trees is unavoidable, we will plant twice the number of fallen trees in the vicinity.
- Organise clean-ups activities in the locality for a cleaner, healthier, greener and safer environment.
- Avoid food wastage.

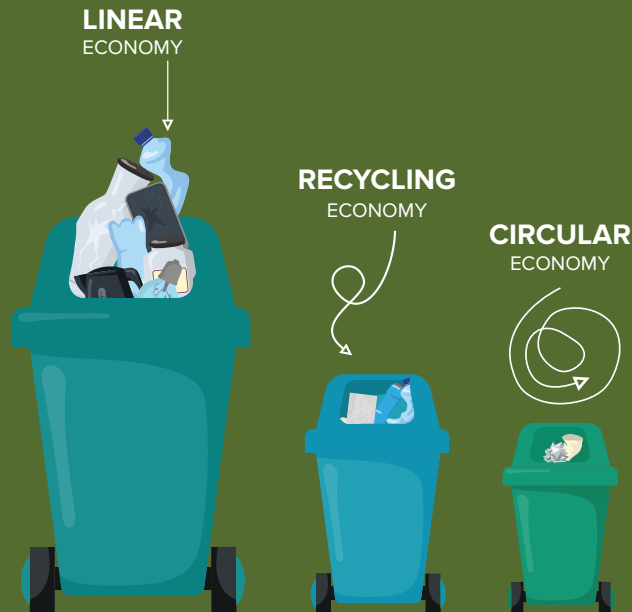


2. WASTE

MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING

We will encourage our community to:

- Practice the 9R's (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Rethink, Repair, Renew, Refurbish, Recover and Recycle).
- Use green wastes and biodegradable kitchen wastes to produce compost.
- Actively participate in clean up campaigns and exchange forums (for second-hand items that are still in good condition) within the locality.



3. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

As responsible citizens, we will raise awareness to encourage people in our locality to be mindful about what we consume, how we consume and how much we consume so that Earth's resources are used judiciously and preserved for future generations:

- Encouraging purchase of local and environment friendly products as far possible.
- Avoiding plastic products, as far as practicable.
- Opting for products that can be reused instead of single use items.
- Buying commodities with less packaging.
- Bringing our own bag or basket to shop and market.
- Backyard farming to produce our own vegetables/fruits.



4. TRANSPORTATION



We will walk or bike short distances or encourage use of sustainable transport such as public transport or carpooling wherever possible so as to help in reducing carbon emissions and enjoying the fresh air.

5. OTHER COMMUNITY PRACTICES



- We will assist in the conservation of our cultural heritage and historical site.
- We will encourage planters/farmers to reduce the use of harmful chemicals such as pesticides & herbicides and encourage them to shift to organic control methods such as organic gardening using natural compost.
- We will endeavour to share all the activities being conducted in our community to raise awareness and encourage others to participate.
- We will preserve rare landscape elements, critical habitats and features, and associated species.



**Scan this QR code to view the
ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER**



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