

Date: 10th April 2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – GREEN SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Dear Educator,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to extend an invitation to your educational institution to participate in Project Green's Green School Initiative. This initiative is designed to encourage educational institutions to actively engage in green outdoor learning and gardening activities on their grounds, fostering a greener environment that benefits both students and the wider community, in line with the National Educational Strategy 2024–2030.

OVERVIEW

The Green School Initiative is driven by the vision of creating vibrant, green spaces within educational institutions, enhancing the quality of life for students and the community. By promoting green outdoor learning and gardening activities, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

OBJECTIVES

1. To promote green outdoor learning and gardening activities in educational institutions to create a greener environment.
2. To raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable living among students and the community.
3. To improve the quality of life of students by providing them with access to green spaces that promote physical and mental well-being.
4. To enhance the aesthetic appeal of educational institutions and their surroundings through the creation of green spaces.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Eligibility:** State and church educational institutions are eligible to participate in the Green School Initiative.
2. **Funding:** Project Green will provide funding to participating educational institutions to cover the costs for the infrastructure required for green outdoor learning and gardening activities proposals put forward. The funding will be provided in instalments, and educational institutions will need to submit regular progress reports to receive the next instalment.
3. **Technical Support:** Project Green will provide technical support to educational institutions to develop and maintain green spaces. This support will include training workshops, advice on choosing suitable plant species, and assistance with garden design.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Project Green will monitor the progress of participating educational institutions and evaluate the impact of the initiative. This will involve regular site visits, data collection, and analysis of the results.
5. **Awards:** At the end of each academic year, awards will be given to the educational institutions that have made the most significant progress in promoting green outdoor learning and gardening activities. The awards will be based on criteria such as the number of trees planted, the size of the garden, the diversity of plant species, and the impact of the green spaces on student well-being.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Increased green outdoor learning and gardening activities in educational institutions, leading to the creation of greener environments.
2. Improved awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable living among students and the community.
3. Improved physical and mental well-being of students through access to green spaces.

4. Improved aesthetic appeal of educational institutions and their surroundings, creating more pleasant environments for learning and living.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Educational Institutions interested in participating in the Green School Initiative should fill out the electronic application form, (<https://projectgreen.mt/gsi/>), providing details about the proposed green outdoor learning and gardening activities, including the approximate number of trees and shrubs to be planted and the size and type of garden to be developed.
2. The educational institution will also need to provide a list of proposed activities, outlining the outcomes from each activity.
3. If the application is approved, the educational institution will receive funding and technical support to design and implement the proposed green outdoor project.
4. The application will open on 25th March 2025 and remain available for eight weeks, closing on 13th May 2025.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Educational Institutions must be willing and able to dedicate a portion of their grounds to green outdoor learning and gardening activities.
2. Educational Institutions must be willing to open this space to the public after school hours for a minimum of 4 hours every day, for all proposals estimated above €50,000 (exc VAT). The logistics of the operation of the space after school hours can be discussed at a later stage.
3. Educational Institutions must have a designated staff member or group of staff members responsible for overseeing the development and maintenance of the green spaces. This can also be through active clubs such as the Gardening Club, Eko-Skola etc.
4. Educational Institutions must provide simple but regular progress reports to Project Green to receive further funding and support.

5. Educational Institutions must actively promote the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable living among their students and the wider community, results of which are to be included within the progress reports.

In addition, educational institutions should ensure that any proposed planting and gardening activities are appropriate for the local climate and ecosystem, sustainable materials & systems to be used and that they do not have any adverse impact on the environment or community. Educational Institutions should also involve students in the development and maintenance of the green spaces, to promote a sense of ownership and responsibility for the environment. A document with several case studies is annexed to this letter which can serve as a guideline to your proposal.

We believe that your educational institution has the potential to make a significant impact through the Green School Initiative. Your commitment to sustainability and education aligns perfectly with our goals.

We look forward to receiving your application and working together to create a greener and more sustainable future.

Best Regards,

Project Green

