



PLASTEAM: STEAM education for plastic-free primary schools
Project n° 2020-1-NL01-KA201-064581

IO2.A2 - Recommendations for school managers and teachers to become 'plastic-free' school

	Challenge	School manager	Teacher
1	Lack of a plastic recycling system in educational institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve plastic recycling system in educational institutions; - Raise the resources (e.g. from the municipality) to supply your school with the needed equipment/material (bins, labels, instructions/leaflets); - Organize teachers' trainings on how to proper recycle and how to engage their pupils (e.g. in cooperation with local waste management companies, NGOs, municipal representatives, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teach students how the recycling system works, encourage them to follow it and make a habit out of it; - Each week form a new small group of pupils within your class who is responsible for the recycling system for the whole week. Thereby, the pupils will audit and monitor on their own the shorting/recycling actions in their class; - Organize workshops where older students talk to younger ones about the recycling system, its tools and benefits.
2	Use of SUP items within school premises and in canteens (when present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design and implement a <i>reduction policy for single use in the canteen</i> to be respected by everyone: school staff, teachers and students; - Have a notice sent to families about the new rules imposed at school regarding the use of single-use plastics, and the resulting ban on bringing SUP items to school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss with the students about alternative options for SUP, explain them what the issues around SUPs are and why it is important to avoid the usage of such kind of plastic; - Carry out creative activities with students, during which by creating and having fun they learn about the dangers and harm of SUPs (e.g. writing a song on the topic).
3	Lack of training courses for teachers regarding the impact of plastic pollution within educational institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize a training opportunity for teachers to learn about environmental issues; - Invite an expert to talk and discuss about these issues with the students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get trained/informed on environmental issues, e.g. through online courses or searching for available open resources about plastic pollution and SUPs.

4	Low level of awareness regarding the impact of plastic pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement an hour per week where students are taught about the impact of plastics and how to prevent it; - Implement some recreational activities that raise awareness during students' breaks; - Organize awareness-raising events aimed at families, inviting experts, workers of local waste management companies, NGOs, municipal representatives, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize a field trip to a polluted place around the school, a recycling factory, a landfill etc.; - Show children educational movies and videos about this issue; - Suggest documentaries on the topic to watch at home with the parents; - Talk about the impact that plastic pollution has on animals, their family, their environment or any other areas they are directly involved in; - Explain the clear consequences of their actions and how every little action can have a positive or negative impact; - Create some short interactive activities regarding plastic awareness to integrate into the class; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate environmental issues into the subject they are teaching; - Teach a weekly course about plastic impact and other environmental issues; - Have pupils experience composting/breakdown of rubbish, by creating activities like: 1. A quiz for the pupils to estimate the time for breakdown of different kinds of rubbish (bananas, plastic bottles, food packagings, etc.); 2. Collect trash in a jar for a few weeks and afterwards examine what did breakdown and what did not.
5	Usage of Single Use Plastic (SUP) items during teaching, especially in primary school	- Replace SUP items usually distributed in educational institutes with sustainable alternatives.	- Reduce the usage of SUPs items during teaching, especially in primary school by searching for sustainable alternatives.
6	Lack of knowledge about 4R+1 hierarchy (triangle -> start with refuse, reuse, recycle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch a competition among classes to create the best visuals of 4R+1 hierarchy and hang them up in the corridors of the school; - Launch a school periodical or - if already present - a section, which contains all kinds of information about 4R+1 and fun games related to the topic of plastic. Ask teachers to involve their students who will contribute to the creation of the periodical with drawings, articles, advertisement for SUP alternatives, crosswords with words for different kinds of plastic or alternatives, riddles, interviews, poems, search pictures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create nice visual diagram of the 4R+1 hierarchy and hang it up in classrooms; - Teach about 4R+1 during class or weekly courses, integrate some activities, e.g. taking a plastic bottle and trying to find ways to reduce, reuse, recycle and repurpose it.

7	Lack of time in class to discuss about the impact of plastic pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize meetings with teachers to discuss and propose ideas on how to embed topics related to plastic pollution in their lessons; - Organize recreational activities that raise awareness during students' breaks, such as recycling/cleaning up, involving the whole school; - Assign one teacher per class - every week or so - to monitor students' behaviour during breaks and try to correct them or encourage them according to the case. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dedicate a time slot within the week where students are discussing about the impact of plastics and how to prevent; - Give small tasks for students to do at home with their families (for example ask them to talk about what they have learned at school about plastics, or challenge them to bring reusable bottles or food containers for a week to school, or challenge their parents to use the app for a week).
8	Difficulty in changing the bad habit of using SUP items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement durable options instead of SUP wherever possible; - Encourage teachers to set a good example for students; - Encourage teachers to take advantage of parent-teacher meetings to make families aware of the efforts being undertaken by the school to reduce plastic waste/consumption, and inviting them to set an example at home and support their children in their change of habit; - Organize events or social activities, e.g. cleaning up in the school neighborhood, on weekends or every now and then, involving the school staff/teachers, students and their families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate PLASTEAM app into classes to create awareness around how much waste students generate; - Use the scoring system of PLASTEAM app to reward good consumption behaviour; - Let students observe and investigate their consumption habits. For example, by creating or searching for a questionnaire on plastic consumption habits and administering it to the students. Afterwards, analyze the responses together with students and encourage them in thinking about what is right and what is not, and devising ways to correct wrong consumption behaviours.

Responsible Author: Associazione Effebi

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