



# Eco-School

**Certification Program**



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**Certification Program**



# Eco-school Certification Program

**Eco-school certification** is a tool made available through the **AVEC** program (Avenir-Viable-École-Communauté). It is part of a process that allows schools to follow their own progression on the road to sustainable development.

**AVEC** is a social innovation and community mobilization program introduced in elementary and secondary schools to help young people develop a sense of eco-citizenship.

**AVEC** is a program created and coordinated by the Conférence régionale des élus de Laval (CRÉ de Laval), an organization which has been aiming towards sustainable development since 1995. Three committees fall under the **AVEC** umbrella: a Steering Committee (management of the program), a Sustainable Development Focus Committee (harmonization and cohesion of the activities related to sustainable development), and an Advisory Committee (training).

**Eco-school certification** is a way of acknowledging the efforts and vision of school principals, staff and parents who have gradually integrated the concepts of sustainable development and eco-citizenship in their schools.

There are three easy and progressive levels of certification: bronze, silver and gold. Each one attests to the level of development attained by a school. The certification must be reconfirmed every two years to ensure the continuity of the project.

**Eco-school certification** is an official recognition of a school's social and environmental development. It can be used to publicly promote the school's achievements and commitment to raising social awareness of sustainable development.





## Eligibility Requirements

1. Be an elementary or secondary school open to the development of eco-citizenship;
2. Must not be in breach of municipal, provincial or federal environmental laws and regulations;
3. Meet the evaluation criteria of a specific level (bronze, silver or gold) and pay a \$50.00 file assessment fee; this amount will be reinvested in the program;
4. Certification is valid for a period of two years; however the school must produce an annual activity report. Should a school wish to move on to the next level of certification, it can do so on a yearly basis.

# Bronze Criteria

## ***Residual Materials Management***

- Implement a recovery/recycling program;
- Reclaim at least 35% of recoverable residual materials.

## ***Environmental Management***

- Produce a school environmental report, and update it on an annual basis;
- Establish a green committee or a green brigade composed of students, staff members and parents.

## ***Quality of Life***

- The schoolyard has a shaded play or rest area.

## ***Sustainable Development Education***

- Some school employees have received training on sustainable development;
- One or several environmental issues are integrated into the regular curriculum;
- At least two educational awareness activities related to the environment, environmental health or eco-citizenship are carried out each year.



# Silver Criteria



## ***Residual Materials Management***

- Implement a recovery/recycling program;
- Implement an “ecological lunch box” program;
- Reclaim at least 50% of recoverable residual materials;
- Reach at least one of the following five target recovery rates:
  1. 60% of paper and cardboard;
  2. 65% of metal;
  3. 60% of plastic;
  4. 60% of putrescible materials;
  5. 75% of glass.

## ***Environmental Management***

- Update the school’s environmental report on an annual basis;
- Establish a green committee or a green brigade composed of students, staff members and parents;
- Adopt an environmental policy for the school.

## ***Quality of Life***

- The schoolyard has a shaded play or rest area.

## ***Sustainable Development Education***

- All school personnel has received training on sustainable development;
- Parents were offered training on sustainable development;
- Environmental issues have been integrated into the regular curriculum;
- At least three educational awareness activities related to the environment, environmental health or eco-citizenship are carried out each year.

# Gold Criteria

## ***Residual Materials Management***

- Implement a recovery/recycling program;
- Implement an “ecological lunch box” program;
- Reclaim at least 65% of recoverable residual materials;
- Reach at least three of the following seven target recovery rates:
  1. 70% of paper and cardboard;
  2. 95% of metal;
  3. 70% of plastic;
  4. 60% of putrescible materials;
  5. 95% of glass;
  6. 70% of wood;
  7. 70% of textile materials.

**Note** : When a school meets the Gold level residual materials criteria, it becomes eligible for the “*ICI on recycle*” certification awarded by Recyc-Québec ([www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca)).

## ***Environmental Management***

- Update the school’s environmental report on an annual basis;
- Establish a green committee or a green brigade composed of students, staff members and parents;
- Adopt an environmental policy for the school.

## ***Quality of Life***

- The schoolyard has a shaded play or rest area;
- The school is participating in the “Healthy School” program.

## ***Sustainable Development Education***

- All school personnel has received training on sustainable development;
- Parents were offered training on sustainable development;
- Environmental issues have been integrated into the regular curriculum;
- At least three educational awareness activities related to the environment, environmental health or eco-citizenship are carried out each year.

# Platinum Certification

Exceptionally, the jury may award a “Platinum Certification” to a school that has distinguished itself or succeeded in creating an outstanding partnership within the community. This certification is valid for a period of two years and cannot be renewed on demand; it can only be awarded following a unanimous decision by the jury. The Platinum Certification is an exceptional recognition which is not necessarily renewed each year.

## How to Apply

- Complete the official registration form;
- Provide all supporting documents as well as any other relevant document;
- Pay the file assessment fee;
- Respect the November 30<sup>th</sup> or May 31<sup>st</sup> deadlines.



## Evaluation of Applications

All applications will be evaluated by the **AVEC** Steering Committee, with the support of the Evaluation Sub-committee.



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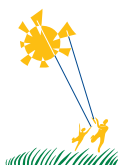
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