



Agrupamento de Escolas de Moure e Ribeira do Neiva

"Eco-Friendly Practices At Schools"

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Educating for the environment and development is undoubtedly a decisive factor in building CHANGE. It is the most effective and lasting way of laying the groundwork for the emergence of new policies leading to sustainable forms of development.

Our future depends on the health of our planet. We need to empower new generations of citizens to solve environmental and social problems. Sustainability involves being good citizens and maintaining a healthy environment for all.

Students have developed environmental, social and health values that will retain them for the rest of their lives as we prepare them for the great challenges of society. In addition, integrating these values into curricula and a better school environment certainly has a positive impact on student achievement and behavior.

Thinking and acting locally, to understand globally, was the guiding principle that could only be built through real participatory citizenship. This project has contributed to a participatory and enlightened education at school, where educating is creating environmentally aware and active citizens.

In this sense, students became the promoters of change, developing innovative projects, campaigns, activities, among other initiatives, at school, in the local and regional community. They become more active students/citizens who seek to practice healthy lifestyles, change their daily habits, respect and take care of the environment. Rethink their values and practices from a young age, reducing overconsumption and waste. Broaden ecological skills by promoting knowledge, environmental practices and developing new projects on renewable resources and green technology.

Thus, the ecological practices in school were changed and started to be assumed by all:

- We compost with organic waste resulting from the maintenance of gardens and green spaces;
- We replaced old bulbs with efficient bulbs (50% of bulbs were replaced) and energy consumption and billing decreased at school;
- We turn off lights, printers, computers and other equipment whenever we don't need to;
- We reduced water waste (we put in new efficient taps and flow reducers) - consumption and billing reduced;
- We reduced gas consumption at school (at canteen meals);
- We have parking spaces for bicycles;
- We use recycled paper and print on both sides;
- We reuse the back side of photocopying paper for writing;
- We reuse materials for the construction of new objects (utilitarian or decorative);
- We put more ecopoints and composters in the school;

- We have a selective disposal point outside the school space to the local community, where appropriate routing of clothing, footwear, toys and even school material is made for reuse and recycling. This project is a partnership with H. SARAH - Trading, Lda. And the Eco-Schools Program;
- We created a "Green Point", where we put ecopoints for the proper routing of differentiated residues: cooking oil, caps, cork stoppers, coffee capsules and batteries / accumulators;
- We donate materials and clothing we do not use to other students / families;
- We have a bio vegetable garden and we maintain the support structures for the garden: artificial nests and insect hotels;
- We carry out bio vegetables fairs produced at school;
- We do volunteer activities in the community: garbage collection campaigns, cleaning actions and monitoring of the section adopted by the school, of the Febros river - Rivers Project;
- We hold workshops, campaigns, informative and awareness lectures on Environmental Preservation and Sustainable Development, for the educational community;
- We do activities abroad: cleaning and afforestation of public green spaces;
- We are part of the "Geração Depositário" project - collection point of the local community of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE);
- We plant native species (resistant and proper species of the Region) in the green spaces of the school and identify all trees or shrubs;
- We participated in the project "Escola + Verde" of the municipality that covers all the schools of the 1st cycle and kindergartens of the county;
- We created an Eco-code poster, which expresses a statement of objectives, translated by concrete actions, which all community members must follow, thus constituting the school's environmental code of conduct;
- We have the "Monitoring Brigade" - made up of students from the Eco-Schools Club, which collects and analyzes consumption data (meter reading and invoice analysis) to analyze the impact of our actions;
- We talk about community problems;
- The values of understanding, respect and empathy for others are promoted;
- We involve all educational agents (students, teachers, parents, school staff, community, entities, etc.) in school projects;
- We recognize the work done by the educational community for the Environment and Sustainability, with the awarding of Green Stars and Eco Citizen certificates.

We all have an important role in transforming old habits, values and standards into new and good practices for sustainability and thereby diminishing our ecological footprint.

We need to urgently rethink how we use and value nature - culturally, economically and in our political agendas. We need to think of nature as beautiful and inspiring, but also as indispensable. We - and the planet - need a new global deal!