



United Nations Association in Canada  
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

# ECO CLUBS PROGRAMME INFORMATION PACKAGE

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UNAC.ORG/GREEN-SCHOOLS-VOLUNTEERS-ECO-CLUBS

# Eco Clubs Participant Information Package 2026

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## 1. Introduction

The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada), in partnership with the Canadian Service Corps, delivers the EcoClubs Programme to support youth in taking meaningful environmental action.

This programme engages youth aged 12–30 across Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia in building leadership skills and creating impact through school-based Eco Clubs and sustainability projects.

## 2. About the Programme

EcoClubs is a youth leadership programme that supports students in creating or expanding Eco Clubs within their schools or communities.

Participants work in teams to design and implement projects that address local environmental challenges and align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Example projects include:

- Community clean-ups and tree planting
- Recycling and waste reduction campaigns
- Sustainable food and gardening initiatives
- Awareness campaigns and school events
- Digital tools such as websites or apps focused on sustainability

## 3. Participant Experience

Through Eco Clubs, participants will:

- Earn up to 120 volunteer hours
- Receive a certificate from UNA-Canada
- Build leadership and project management skills
- Receive mentorship and structured support
- Attend virtual and in-person training sessions
- Join an existing Eco club or build a new Eco club.
  - Joining existing Eco Club
    - An existing club in your school with approved supervision from a teacher
    - Eco Club created by past participants in our programme
    - Existing club that has formal registration through student union/student clubs office.

- The clubs must have at least 5 members participating in the Eco Clubs programme, with a maximum of 10 participants. They must also sign up for our programme.
- Starting new Eco Club
  - Recruit 5-10 members for your new Eco Club
  - Ensure all members sign up through our registration form
  - Must work with staff to find a sponsoring teacher or/ register with student union or/ partnership with a local organization/ community centre

## 4. Programme Structure & Timeline

- **Application Deadline:** May 1st to July 31st. Acceptance sent on rolling basis.
- **Onboarding Call:** Mandatory onboarding call on August 10th, 2026 (specific date sent to those accepted).
- **Programme Duration:** August 1st 2026 to March 30th 2027.
- **Online Workshops:** Bi-weekly, virtual. Must attend 6 out of 8. Specific dates to be shared.
- **In-Person Event:** 2-day provincial workshop in October/November 2026 and Award Ceremony will be 1 day in March 2027. Specific date to be shared (usually Fri, Sat & Sun).
- **Roundtables:** We encourage you to attend, those who attend the roundtable are given priority to the programme as they come in with knowledge of what the programme is about.

Please sign up for roundtables through the RSVP form: [RSVP: Eco Clubs Roundtable Series – United Nations Association in Canada \(Copy\) – Fill out form](#)

- Alberta (Calgary) In-Person Roundtable: Sat, May 23rd 2026 at 2pm.  
**Location:** Mount Royal University (Roderick Mah Centre for Continuous Learning, room EC1135)
- Alberta (Edmonton) In-Person Roundtable: Sun, June 21st 2026 at 2pm.  
**Location:** Stanley A. Milner (Downtown) >> Sixth Floor Learning Loft 2 (wheelchair accessible)
- Ontario(Ottawa) In-Person Roundtable: June 12th, 2026 at 6:00 -7:30 PM  
**Location:** 280 Albert St, Ottawa, ON K1P 5G8 - Board Room, First Floor
- Ontario (Toronto) In-Person Roundtable: June 14th, 2026 at 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
**Location:** TBD
- BC (North Vancouver) In-Person Roundtable: June 24th, 2026 at (time TBD)  
**Location:** TBD
- BC (Victoria) In-Person Roundtable: June 27th, 2026 at (time TBD)  
**Location:** TBD
- Online Roundtable: Sat, July 11th, 2026 2PM PST/ 3PM MST/ 5PM EST

**Meeting Link:** must sign up through RSVP form to get a meeting link.

## 5. Training & Workshops

Participants receive a mix of virtual and in-person training designed to support every stage of their project.

### Virtual Workshops

- Led by EcoClubs staff and guest speakers
- Topics include sustainability, leadership, project planning, and advocacy
- Opportunities to connect with youth across Canada
- Dates to be selected based on participants' consensus availability.

### Two-Day In-Person Workshop

- Fully funded (travel, accommodation, meals covered)
- Hands-on activities and leadership development
- Networking with peers, mentors, and experts
- Sessions led by professionals, including global and community leaders
- Eco Club project presentations and awards.

## 6. Eco Club Projects

Participants work in teams within their Eco Clubs to design and implement a group-based sustainability project.

Projects focus on:

- Local impact
- Community engagement
- Practical environmental solutions

Participants are encouraged to:

- Identify a problem in their school or community
- Develop a solution
- Engage others through outreach and education
- Teams will present their projects at the in-person learning conference.

Example projects include:

- Community clean-ups and tree planting

- Recycling and waste reduction campaigns
- Sustainable food and gardening initiatives
- Awareness campaigns and school events
- Digital tools such as websites or apps focused on sustainability

Please see projects completed by Eco Clubs participants from last year:

[Eco Clubs Climate Story Map 2025/26](#)

## 7. Project Funding

Each Eco Club project may receive funding to support implementation.

- Typical funding range: \$200–\$500 per project
- Additional funding may be considered based on project needs

### **Funding Process:**

- Project proposal submitted and approved
- Materials purchased by teacher or staff
- Reimbursement or direct purchase options available
- Receipts and a short report required

## 8. Mentorship

Each Eco Club is supported by a mentor who provides guidance throughout the programme.

### **Mentors:**

- Come from diverse backgrounds (professionals, academics, youth leaders)
- Support project planning, leadership development, and problem-solving

### **Structure:**

- Biweekly check-ins with students
- Monthly coordination with programme staff

All mentors complete screening and Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) to ensure student safety.

VSC cost will be covered by the programme.

## 9. Roles & Responsibilities

### Students / Volunteers:

- Must complete 6 out of 8 virtual workshops
- Contribute to their Eco Club project
- Complete 120 volunteer hours
- Engage in team collaboration

### Mentors:

- Guide and support students
- Provide feedback and accountability
- Attend regular check-ins

### Teacher Advisors:

- Support students at the school level
- Assist with logistics and funding
- Serve as main contact for the programme

### Eco Clubs Staff:

- Deliver training and workshops
- Manage funding and logistics
- Provide ongoing support

## 10. How to Get Involved

Schools and organizations can:

- Share the Eco Clubs opportunity with students
- Encourage participation as volunteers or mentors
- Attend roundtables and information sessions
- Help facilitate and supervise Eco Clubs

## 11. Resources

- [Youth Volunteer Application](#)
- [Mentor Application](#)
- [Website and additional information](#)

- [Recruitment poster](#)

## 12. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### **What is the time commitment?**

Participants complete up to 120 volunteer hours over the programme duration.

### **Do I need to have a project idea before applying?**

No. Participants will develop project ideas during the programme with support. A toolkit will also be provided to help create and plan projects.

### **Do I need a team?**

You must apply to join an existing eco club, or start your own.

If starting your own, you must have at least 5 members and a maximum of 10 members. All members need to submit an application.

### **Is the programme free?**

Yes. Participation is free, and the in-person workshop is fully funded.

### **What kind of support will I receive?**

You will receive mentorship, training, and project funding support.

### **Can I continue my project after the programme ends?**

Yes. Participants are encouraged to continue and expand their projects beyond the programme.