

Summary: The Zero-Waste approach in schools is best supported if educational strategies are in place allowing students to experiment Zero-Waste practices inside and outside the classrooms. Reviewing the school curricula helps analysing possibilities of integrating and/or adding Zero-Waste related topics in curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Description

The Zero-Waste approach in schools targets learning, application and practice so that strategies to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover waste can be experienced by students inside and outside the classrooms. Ideally, Zero-Waste education should be incorporated into different subjects of the curricula, going beyond science subjects only. Following the recommendation from UNESCO on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (UNESCO, 2018), practical teaching should be preferred over theoretical teaching targeting knowledge and comprehension only.

Reviewing the school curricula will help analysing the status-quo in terms of Zero-Waste teaching, as well as identifying rooms for improvements so that Zero-Waste-related topics can be successfully integrated into curricula and extracurricular activities.

To do so, we recommend to:

1. Check national strategies and policies from ministries of Education and of Environment to see if any education strategy is in place which could support the implementation of the Zero-Waste approach;
2. Check the current school curricula to see if environmental and/or SWM topics are covered or not and how;
3. Discuss with teachers and headmaster during workshop to see if there would be any ideas on how to integrate Zero-Waste concept in classroom teaching and extracurricular activities, and what would be the main challenges to be overcome to do so.

Typical objectives of a curricula assessment workshop are:

1. Review existing environmental and waste-related curricula at all age levels
2. Analyze possibilities of integrating/adding relevant topics in the curricula
3. Consolidate ideas to integrate Zero-Waste-related topics in relevant school subject in classroom teaching
4. Develop plans to include Zero-Waste-related activities in extracurricular activities

Steps

Step 1. Review national educational strategies and policies (3 days)

Step 2. Check the current school curricula to see if environmental and/or SWM topics are covered or not and how (2 day)

Step 3. Conduct a workshop on curricula assessment with teachers & headmaster* (1/2 day)

Step 4. Consolidate ideas to integrate environmental and/or SWM topics in classroom (2 days)

- You can use the Tool 2.A4.1 to help you defining Zero-Waste topics

Resources

Tool 2.A4.1 List of Zero-Waste-related education themes

Tool 2.A4.2 Curricula assessment matrix

Additional resources:



UNESCO, 2014. *Shaping the Future We Want*



UNESCO, 2018. *Issues and trends in Education for Sustainable Development*