

A photograph of two teenagers, a young man and a young woman, working in a garden. They are both wearing hoodies and jeans, and are using long-handled tools to dig in the soil. The young man is in the foreground, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The young woman is behind him, focused on her work. The background shows a house and lush green trees, suggesting a suburban setting. The overall tone is positive and eco-friendly.

**A Teen Guide to**

# Being Eco in Your Community





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Cath Senker



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Some words are shown in bold, **like this**. You can find out what they mean by looking in the glossary.

## Important!

Please check with an adult before doing the projects in this book.



# How can I be eco?

We all know that human activities have a huge impact on our environment, from using up the world's resources to affecting **climate change**. We realize it makes sense to reduce that impact as much as we can. Although the problems may seem vast, every one of us can make a difference. It's easy to get started – there are many quick, simple, and cheap things we can all do.

This book considers how you can be eco in your community. So, who *are* your community? They are the people around you – your neighbours and people in local shops, places of worship, and schools. Sports and outdoor activity clubs, Scouts, and music or dance organizations are also communities.

We benefit from being part of one or many communities just as we thrive from having friends and family around us. If any of the communities you belong to are not already involved in eco actions, they might be interested in adopting some eco ideas. As well as helping the environment, it may save them money!



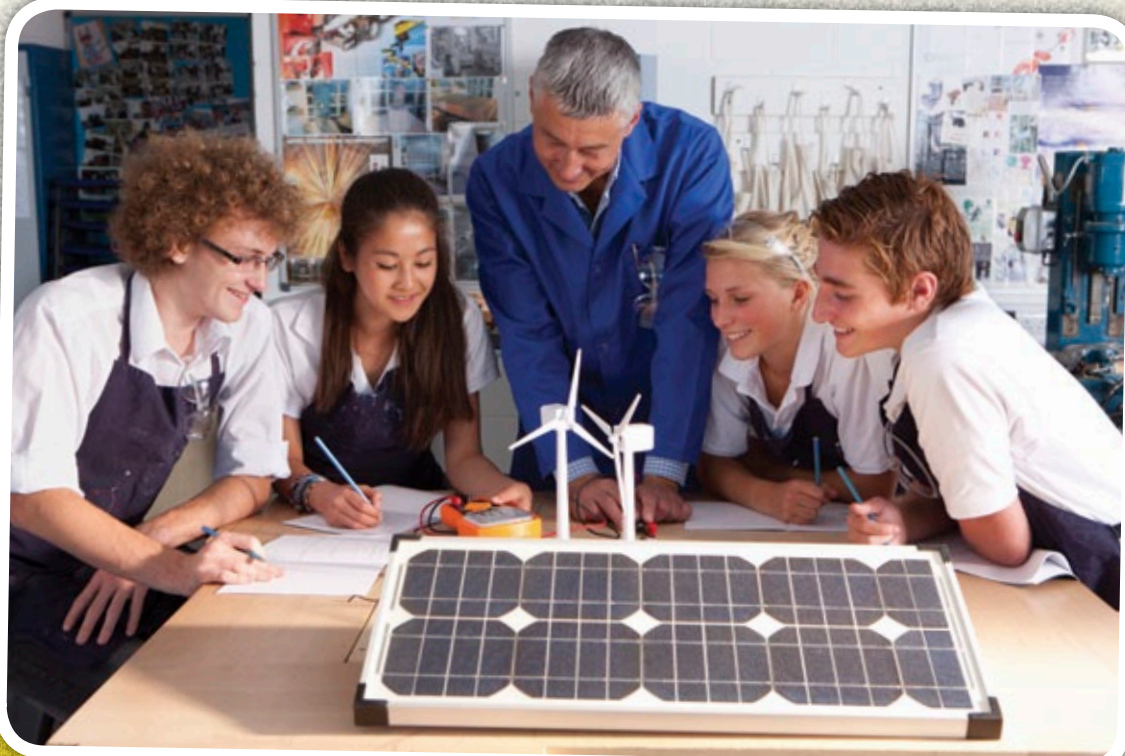
## Meeting neighbours

Zocalo is a small community scheme in Brighton. Once a year, people are encouraged to get to know their neighbours by putting a couple of chairs on the pavement outside their house. People wander up and down the street, sharing food and drink. At simple events like these, the seeds of community projects can be planted. At one Zocalo event, a group of neighbours decided to set up a communal compost heap.

The girls at this dance club could consider making the lighting more eco friendly.



The range of issues to tackle may seem bewildering – from saving energy and water, reducing waste, and environmentally friendly food, to encouraging nature and **biodiversity**. So, why not consider where you could most easily make changes, and start from there? This book has realistic projects you can do right now, with a little help from others in your community. Millions of people all over the world are doing these things. So, what are you waiting for?



### The sky's the limit: wind turbines

Local eco groups may be able to build up to ambitious projects. Wausau East High School in Wisconsin, USA, has installed its own **wind turbine** to produce energy. The wind turbine provides about 5 per cent of the school's power needs, saving about £9,100 a year on electricity bills.

This teacher and pupils are discussing how wind power works.