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Green Loop

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Day 3



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Circular Economy Applications in Schools

Why is Circular Economy Important in Schools?

- Closed-loop systems
- Shaping future generations
- Reducing school waste.
- Hands-on learning



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Circular Economy Applications in Schools

- What can we do?



1. Waste Reduction & Recycling Systems

Waste segregation bins: Place clearly labeled bins for paper, plastics, organic waste, and electronic waste.



Recycling competitions:
Organize student-led initiatives, such as recycling challenges where students collect and categorize waste.



- **Paperless classrooms:** Encourage digital assignments, e-books, and reusable whiteboards to reduce paper waste.
- **Upcycling workshops:** Teach students how to turn waste materials into useful items (e.g., old clothes into bags, plastic bottles into plant pots).



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- **Example project: Recycling Station Initiative**
- Students design a **school-wide waste collection station**.
- They **monitor and analyse** waste generation.
- The school sets a **goal** to reduce paper or plastic waste by a certain percentage.



2. Green School Initiatives: How to implement?

School gardens & composting: Create a composting system using organic waste from the cafeteria. Students can grow vegetables using composted soil.

Rainwater harvesting: Install a simple system to collect rainwater for gardening and school cleaning.

Solar panels & renewable energy: If possible, integrate solar panels to power parts of the school, reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Sustainable school supplies: Encourage refillable pens, reusable lunch containers, and eco-friendly materials.



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Example project: "Zero-Waste Cafeteria"

- Students conduct a **food waste audit** and suggest ways to reduce leftovers.
- Schools switch to **reusable trays and cutlery** instead of disposable ones.
- Organize "**Meatless Mondays**" to reduce the carbon footprint of food.



3. Repair & Reuse Culture

Repair workshops: Teach students to fix broken electronics, torn clothes, and old furniture instead of discarding them. Second-hand book & uniform exchange: Set up a system where students donate and take used books and uniforms.

Makerspaces & DIY labs: Provide tools for students to redesign, repurpose, and experiment with waste materials.



Example project: "Repair & Reuse Corner"

- Students bring **broken or old items** (clothes, electronics, school supplies).
- Teachers or volunteers **show them how to fix and reuse** instead of discarding.
- Students **document the repair process** and create a "How-To" guide.



4. Circular Economy Curriculum Integration

Science & STEM: Hands-on experiments about biodegradable materials, carbon footprints, and energy-efficient designs.

Mathematics: Data analysis on waste production and reduction trends.

Art: Creating sculptures and designs using recycled materials.

Business & Economics: Understanding sustainable business models and circular supply chains.



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Example project: "Circular Economy in Every Subject"

Each subject incorporates one project or activity related to Circular Economy. Students participate in a school-wide exhibition to showcase their findings and solutions.

A circular economy shifts from a 'throwaway culture' to a 'reuse culture'



Developing Circular Economy-Based Lesson Plans & Projects

- **Reduces environmental impact** (less waste, less pollution).
- **Encourages innovation** (new business models like repair, leasing, and recycling).
- **Decreases costs** (longer product life cycles mean fewer replacements).
- **Prepares students for the future** (teaching sustainability skills for green jobs).