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Module 2
SAVING RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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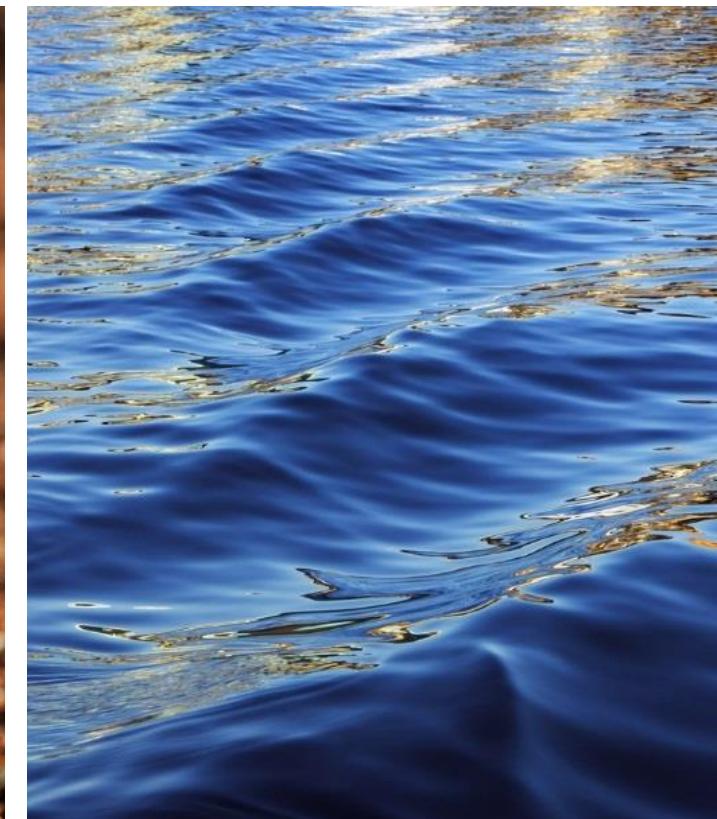
Partners

1. BLUE ROOM INNOVATION – SPAIN

2. IDEC – GREECE

3. FEDERATION DES ASSOCIATION DE PARENTS D'ELEVES DU LUXEMBOURG

4. UNIVERSITE DE LIEGE – BELGIUM

5. PRIMARY SCHOOL OF VAREIA – GREECE

6. Instituto Agrario Bell-lloc del Pla SA – SPAIN

7. Scuola Europea di Varese – ITALY

Module 2 Saving Resources & Environmental Conservation

2. 1 Climate Change and our Carbon Footprint

2.2 Energy Efficiency

2.3 Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle

2. 4 Environmental Conservation in Schools

2.5 Adapting How we Travel

2. 6 Saving Water

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2.1 Climat Change & Our Carbon Footprint

What is Climate Change & Our Carbon Footprint?

- Climate change is the long-term shift in average weather patterns across the world. The cause of current climate change is largely human activity, like burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, oil, and coal. This has caused global temperatures to rise, resulting in long-term changes to the climate.

- Our carbon footprint describes the amount of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide and methane) that are generated by our daily actions.

How to reduce your carbon footprint

- Improving energy efficiency

- Wasting less, reusing and recycling

- Help environmental conservations by preserving our land and ecosystems

- Using natural forms of energy

- Adapting how you travel

- Adapting how you shop

2.2 Energy Efficiency
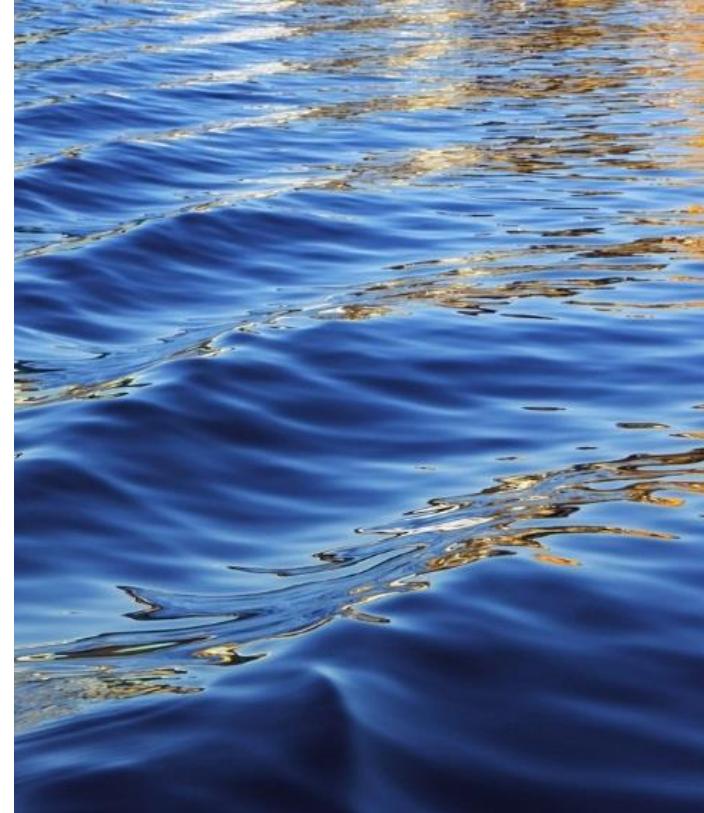
Ways to use renewable energy in school:

Install solar energy

Install solar heating

Install an air source heat pump

Buy 'Green' energy from suppliers

School Buildings & Management

- Evaluate buildings for draughts and poor insulation

- Insulate buildings and block draughts

- Fit thermostats effectively and upgrade to a Smart Meter

- Reduce temperature by 1 degree

School Community Energy Usage

- Develop a school Green Policy together with teachers, children, staff and parents

- Share energy information with pupils and school staff

- Educate the community about the importance of saving energy by:
  - Switching off lights
 - Manage ICT resources
  - Closing doors and windows

2.3 Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose & Recycle
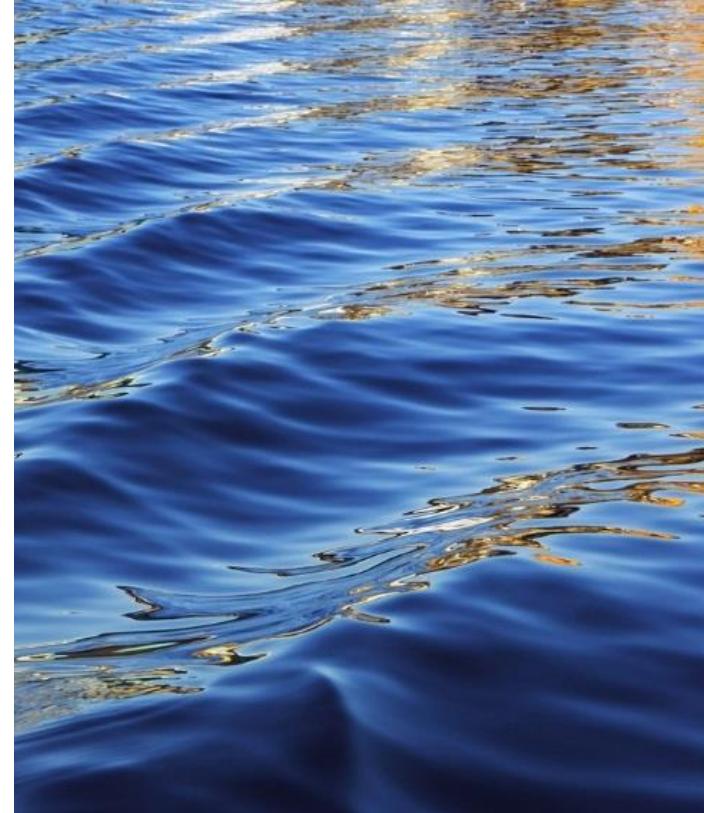
We need to change our waste habits

- According to OECD statistics in 2020 an incredible 500.4 kilograms per capita of waste was generated by each EU inhabitant. Therefore, we need to change our waste habits.

- The four most common types of waste found in schools:

- Paper

- Plastic

- Food

- Electronics

Refuse

Reduce

Reuse

Repurpose

Recycle

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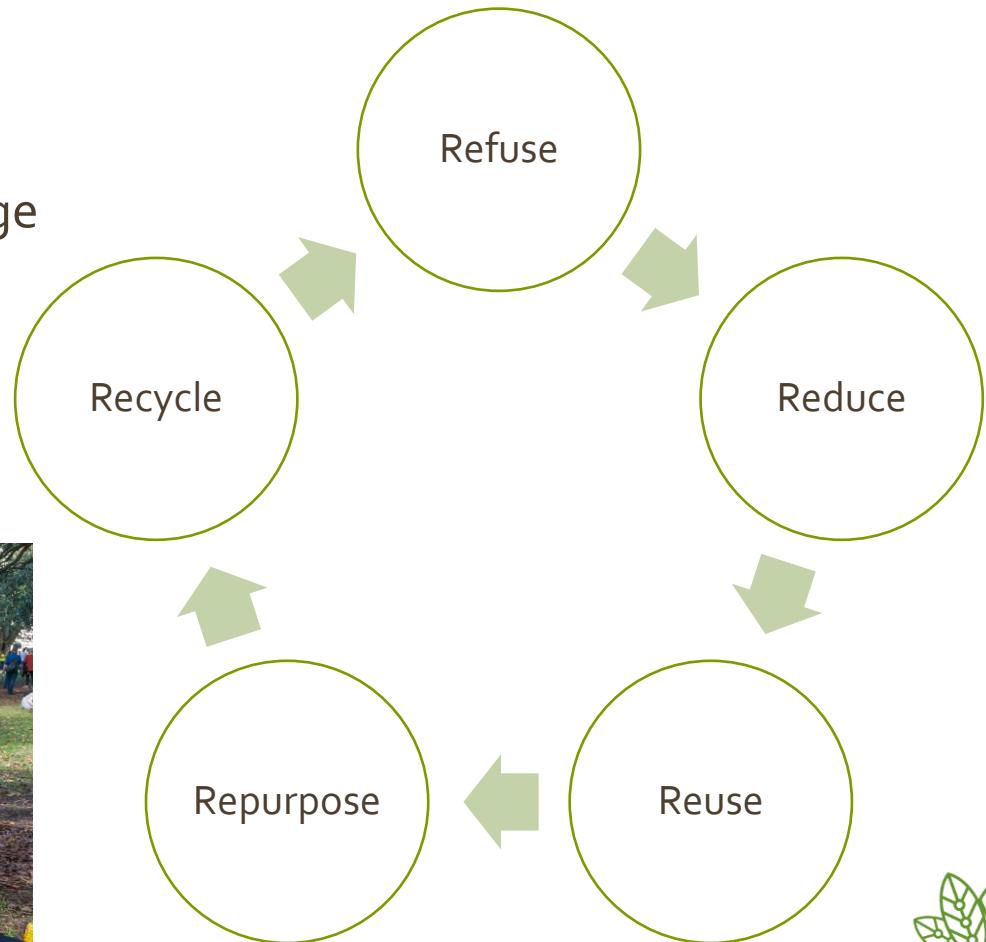
Refuse what we don't need

- Refuse, simply means say NO. Refusing materials is the primary way to lower our impact on the landfill and reduce waste.

- Overconsumption and excessive production has resulted in a flood of convenient, disposable, throw-away products made out of plastic that release greenhouse gases and toxins, both during production and when disposed-off.

Reduce, Reuse and Repurpose Paper

- Reduce printing

- Printing black and white only

- Use recycled paper when possible

- Reuse textbooks

- Save 'scrap paper' to reuse the reverse side

- Save scraps of art or coloured paper for projects

Reduce, Reuse and Repurpose Plastic

- Eliminate plastic in school completely

- Reuse plastic for art projects

- Repurpose plastic bags and pots for other uses such as paint pots

Reduce, Reuse and Repurpose Food Waste

- Re-evaluate the school canteen to avoid wasting food

- Re-evaluate lunch timings and healthy eating education to encourage children to finish their meal

- Organise food donation/food banks for leftover foods

- Set up a school composting scheme

Reduce, Reuse and Repurpose Electronics

- Buy buying good quality devices that can be supported for many years to come,

- Use less

- Protect and maintain devices

- Repair devices instead of replacing

- Refill ink cartridges and recycle old ones

Recycling

- Recycling bins are clearly labelled and accessible around the whole school – inside and outside.

- Hold a Swap Shop event where old toys, books, clothes etc can be recycled

- Donate old supplies to local charities and organisations

2.4 Environmental Conservation
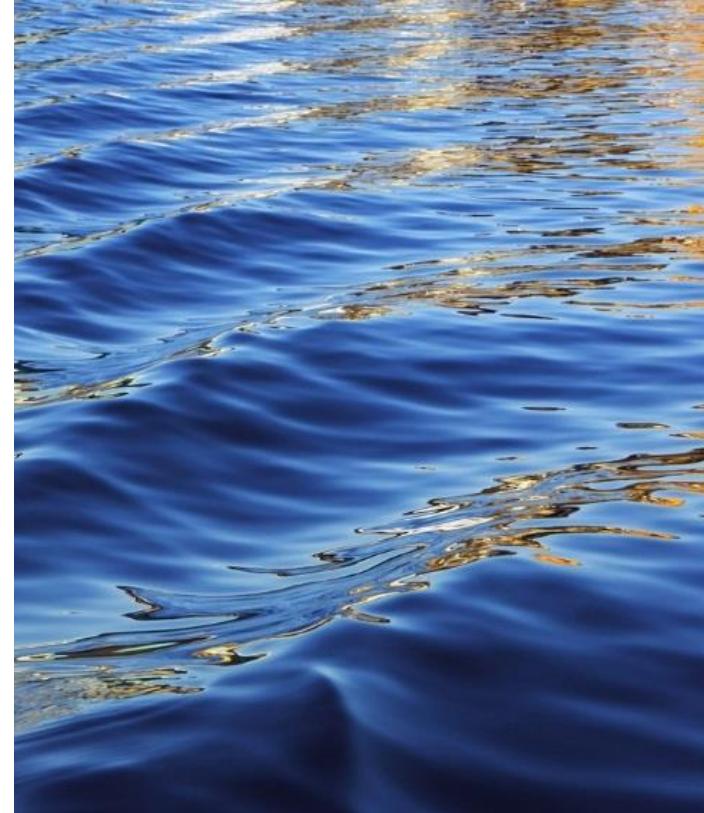
How can we help environmental conservation?

- Land restoration – restore wildlife habitats and natural areas around your school

- Work together with the local community

- Deforestation and reforestation – work together with your local community to plant trees or get involved with global initiatives such as the 3 Billion Trees project or Treedom

- Conserve the oceans by eliminating plastic and creating community events to clear plastic from beaches and parks

2.5 Adapting the way we travel
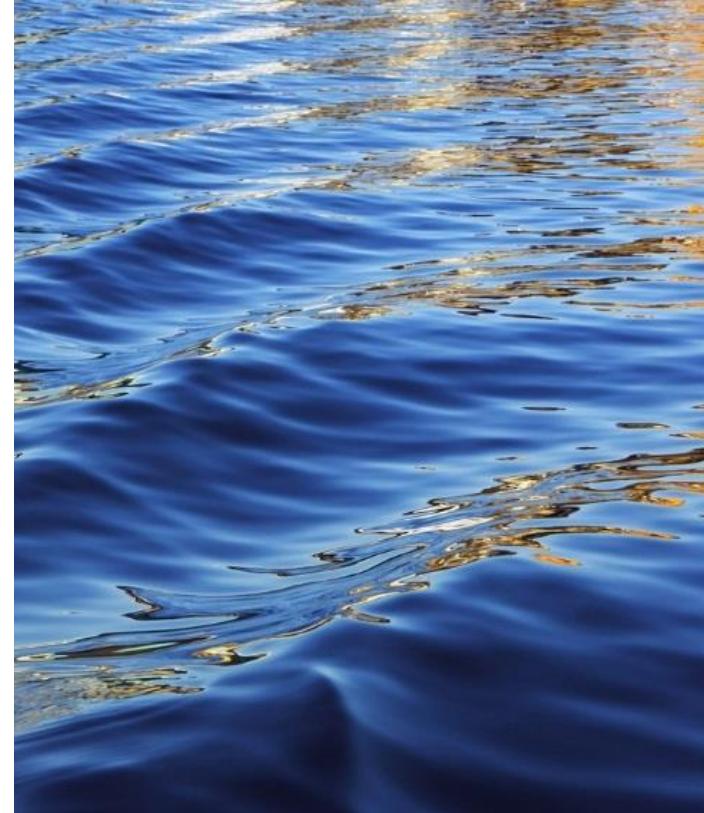
How can we adapt how we travel?

- Make school bus systems more efficient by checking shortest routes and using modern efficient buses

- Promote walking and cycling with organised 'Walking buses' and 'Cycle buses' to school.

- Rearrange the school entrances to make it safer for pedestrians and bikes.

- Encourage parents to car share, use EV cars and switch engines off when waiting

2.6 Saving Water
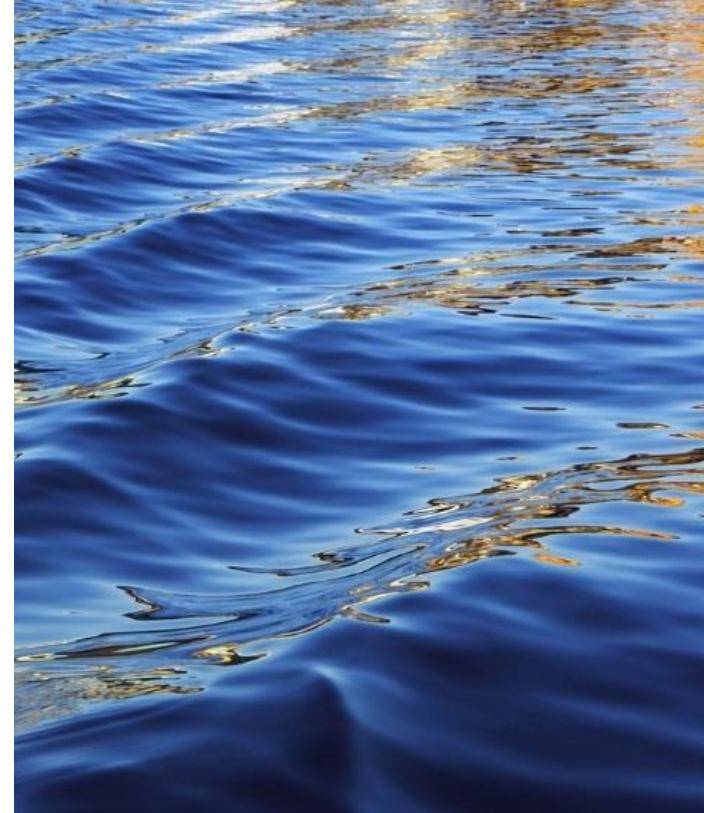
How can we save water?

- Create an education and action group to monitor water usage

- Switch to reusable drinking bottles and provide fountains for drinking

- Change to eco taps or use aerators with sensors or push start operation

- Change to low-flush toilets

- Reduce water usage in the canteen and cleaning

- Save water with water butts to use for garden watering and even toilet flushing

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