

STRATEGIC ECO-SCHOOLS ACTION PLAN

Academic Year: 2025 – 2026

Institution: Rusumo High School (RHS)

Location: Kirehe District, Eastern Province, Republic of Rwanda

Framework: ARCOS Network Eco-Schools

I. Background & Strategic Positioning

This Action Plan translates the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Rwanda's Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC) into student-led, community-integrated interventions. Grounded in the IVAC (Investigation, Vision/Goals, Actions and Changes) and ARCOS BEST frameworks, this plan targets institutional excellence, financial sustainability, and environmental resilience.

Core Sustainability Pillars:

- **Environmental:** Organic waste optimisation, biodiversity preservation, and micro-climate moderation.
- **Economic:** Value-generation via elite swine husbandry and high-yield vegetable production to subsidise school resources.
- **Social:** Student-led democratic governance, community sanitation improvements, and localised nutritional support.
- **Cultural:** Fostering a school culture of collaborative conservation, accountability, and environmental stewardship.

II. Objectives & Targets

Long-Term Objective: Position Rusumo High School as a certified regional model by achieving 100% implementation across all core Eco-Schools themes by July 2026.

Short-Term Targets:

- Secure a minimum of 9 formal Eco-Committee meetings per academic year (3 per term).
- Transition 100% of school organic waste into crop fertiliser through structured waste segregation.
- Establish a fully functioning agribusiness unit encompassing swine husbandry and intensive vegetable cultivation.
- Plant and maintain 150 fruit-bearing trees across the school campus by end of Term 1, 2025.
- Deploy and operationalise the Eco-Schools Information Web Portal by April 2026.

III. Action Plan Matrix

N o.	Purpose	Works / Activities	How It Will Be Done	Time	Responsibility	Amount (RWF)	Source of Property / Funds
1	Institutional Governance	Democratic re-election of the 15-member Eco-Committee	Open nominations and voting among students; results recorded in signed minutes; structure published on noticeboard	September 2025	Eco-Committee & School Administration	–	School administration budget
2	Environmental Assessment	Sustainability Audit & Action Plan Refinement	Multi-metric audit covering water, waste, energy, and curriculum gaps; baseline data captured in metric sheets and visual maps	Sep – Oct 2025	Eco-Committee	–	School resources ARCOS audit templates
3	Waste Reduction & Sanitation	Deployment of 15 colour-coded segregation dustbins and construction of 2 masonry waste pits	Procurement of bins; masonry pit construction by contracted labour; disposal maps and sorting instructions distributed to all classes	Oct – Nov 2025	Eco-Committee & School Administration	150,000	School fund; Parent contributions
4	Biodiversity & Food Security	Planting and maintenance of 150 fruit-bearing trees (avocado, mango, papaya)	Seedlings procured from local nurseries; students plant in designated zones; monthly maintenance rota maintained in tree inventory log	Oct 2025; Ongoing	Eco-Committee, Teachers & Community	75,000	School fund; Community donations
5	School Environment & Erosion Control	Restoration and maintenance of 0.5 ha of ornamental and soil-stabilising flora	Weekly student rotation teams assigned to landscaping; updated plan reviewed each term by the Eco-Committee	Ongoing (All terms)	Eco-Committee & Teachers	30,000	School fund
6	Agribusiness & Organic Manure	Launch of swine husbandry unit to generate organic manure and build student business acumen	Construction of pig shelter; procurement of piglets; students maintain animal health registry; waste converted to manure for gardens	Jan – Mar 2026; Ongoing	Eco-Committee & Teachers	200,000	School agribusiness fund; ARCOS grant application
7	School Nutrition & Income	Intensive cultivation of leafy greens (spinach, amaranth) on micro-plots using organic manure	Rotational planting cycles; harvest logbook maintained; produce supplied directly to school kitchen; surplus sold	From Nov 2025; Rotational	Eco-Committee, Parents & School Administration	40,000	School fund; Kitchen budget
8	Digital Visibility & Audit Compliance	Development and maintenance of the Eco-Schools Information Web Portal	Technical team builds sub-page on school domain; students upload verified green metrics and blog entries; portal reviewed monthly	Jan 2026 (Alpha) Apr 2026 (Launch)	Eco-Committee	50,000	School ICT budget
9	Governance & Accountability	9 statutory Eco-Committee meetings (3 per term) and 3 general school assemblies	Fixed calendar of meetings; agenda circulated in advance; signed minutes filed by Secretary and published on noticeboard	Sep, Oct, Nov Jan, Feb, Mar Apr, May, Jun	Eco-Committee & School Administration	–	School administration budget

IV. Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Framework

Every baseline unit established during the September 2025 Sustainability Audit shall be tracked using identical units in weekly logs. Progress data will be displayed on the main Eco-Schools Noticeboard and the school web portal.

Monitoring Indicator	Verification Method	Frequency
Organic waste sorted (%)	Weekly weight logs; spot checks at segregation stations	Weekly
Crop yield per cycle (kg)	Harvest logbook; cross-referenced kitchen records	Per cycle
Tree survival rate (%)	Monthly tree inventory; photographic records	Monthly
Meeting attendance	Signed attendance register; published minutes	Per meeting
Student environmental literacy	Termly surveys across all class streams	Termly
Community households reached	Digital campaign analytics; parent feedback forms	Monthly

V. Curriculum Integration Strategy

This action plan explicitly bridges practical fieldwork with classroom academic theory under the Rwanda Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC) framework:

Biology & Ecology: Data from the Agroforestry and Fruit Tree Cultivation activity will be used during class lessons to analyze ecosystem dynamics, photosynthesis efficiency, and carbon sequestration.

Mathematics & Economics: Swine Husbandry and Micro-Plot Vegetable Production registries will serve as data sets for statistics, profit-and-loss modeling, and compounding growth calculations.

Languages & ICT: Building and copywriting for the Eco-Schools Web Portal will serve as project-based assessments for composition, public relations, and technical informatics coursework.

VI. Institutional Eco-Code

"Green Steps for a Sustainable Tomorrow: We Protect, We Produce, We Prosper."

This Eco-Code represents the unified culture of Rusumo High School, formulated with input from students, teachers, and parent representatives.

VII. Authorization

This strategic eco-school action plan has been prepared and submitted for implementation during the academic year 2025–2026.

Prepared by:

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Date: _____