



Eco Leaders 2026-27

Advanced Leadership Team - Bishop O'Dowd High School Course Information Sheet



I. Intention Statement:

Eco Leaders are the senior environmental leadership team of Bishop O'Dowd High School. They learn the skills needed to take action towards an environmentally sustainable and just community at O'Dowd and beyond. Eco Leaders act as stewards of the Living Lab, lead Eco Club and Sprouts, organize environmentally themed campus events, and work to implement initiatives that build sustainability on campus as well as in the greater community.

II. Course Description

Effective Eco Leadership involves cultivating the knowledge and skills of collaboration, communication, responsibility, curiosity, and connection with Earth's living systems. Eco Leaders develop outdoor work skills as well as their spiritual connection with the natural world. Eco Leaders will learn how to make meaningful social action changes while exploring some of the most pressing environmental issues of our times. Students will be empowered to take action and educate others at O'Dowd and in the wider community.

The Eco Leadership Course consists of:

- Environmental Knowledge
- Personal Connection to self, others, and nature
- Growing Skills
 - Land Stewardship through Living Lab Service
 - Leadership development through activities, goal-setting, reflection, evaluation
- Taking Action
 - Environmental Stewardship and Advocacy
 - Includes developing and implementing a Social Environmental Action Campaign around established campus goals
 - Campus Activities
 - Activities sponsored by Eco Leaders: Eco Club, DIY Holiday Festival, Angel Sale, Earth Week, etc.
 - Activities sponsored by O'Dowd and/or with other Student leadership groups: Liturgies, Club Fair, Open House, Admission mornings, etc.
 - Community Activities

Required Reading:

1. Myers-Lipton, Scott. *CHANGE! A Student Guide to Social Action*. 2nd edition. Routledge. 2023. (New, used, or e-book okay as long as it is the second edition.)
2. Wilkinson, Katherine. *Climate Wayfinding: Healing Ourselves and the Planet We Call Home*. Amber Lotus. 2026. (New, used, or e-book okay.)
3. Other articles, chapters, podcasts, videos, etc. will be provided.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Leadership Team:

- **Planning and executing** all major Eco Leader sponsored events.
- **Completing all assignments**, especially those related to our social environmental action campaigns, to a high level, on time and with integrity.
- Working as a team on a **specific social environmental action campaign** that makes an impact on O'Dowd and/or the greater community. The outcomes of this change-agent work include a policy change / cultural shift, tangible project and/or community engagement effort.
- **Partnering with other advanced leadership teams** on annual community events and activities.
- **Participating in BTC stewardship and advocacy activities**

III. Grading and Participation

This course can only be taken for a letter grade. Your grade will be determined by your participation and engagement in events on and off campus, class assignments, and other related work. This will include both in class and outside of class time. Eco Leadership extends beyond our time together and you will need to complete work outside of our meetings. Plan accordingly when you have other commitments happening concurrently!

Grading Categories include:

- ***In class participation, readings, campaign work, assessments - 30%***
- ***Events -25%***
 - *Includes attendance at ALL Saturday work days*
 - See [this chart](#) for specific event dates
 - *Eco events (in green) = mandatory*
 - *Other/School events = ~two first semester; ~one second semester*
- ***Eco Support - 25%***
 - *You will help plan and lead one Eco Club meeting per semester*
 - *Committee work*
 - *Participation with Green Gloves*
- ***Beyond the Classroom (BTC) - 10%***
 - *Completion of four events outside of school each semester - details [here](#)*
- ***Nature Connection - 10%***
 - *Guided time spent connecting with and learning from nature*

The following grade scale will be used:

A 100-90% **B** 89-80% **C** 79-70% **D** 69-60% **F** 59-00%

Late Work: Most work will be accepted late up to ONE WEEK late, unless otherwise mentioned, for a maximum of 80% credit. Late work beyond one week will ONLY be accepted on a case by case basis.

Participation:

There are many events and activities that are organized by Eco Leaders, or where Eco Leaders are expected to participate in a leadership capacity. Attending events is a crucial part of this Leadership Team. General participation during our meetings will also be considered for your participation grade - this includes your overall presence in class and at events and being actively engaged in discussions / on task during work blocks.

If you miss ONE work day...

- Hours must be fulfilled by attending week day service blocks in the Living Lab

If you miss a SECOND work day (event(s) must equal at least four hours of service)...

- Attend another garden's work day (e.g. Urban Tilth, Planting Justice, Gill Tract, etc) OR
- Attend service blocks in the Living Lab

If you miss an Eco Leader event (that is not a work day)...

- Create a social media post about a related topic to the event missed (image + caption; must be cleared by Ms. Chan before posting)
- OR complete an additional advocacy item from the BTC list, related to event missed

Tips for Being a Successful Eco Leader:

Success in this course requires your active participation and preparation by arriving to class on time, completing the readings in advance and having access to the reading assignments and your responses IN CLASS (paper copies or electronic versions), and participating in class discussions, activities, and planning.

Being an Eco Leader extends beyond our time together - plan at least one 2-hour working block per week dedicated to our work (for campaigns, assignments, reading, event prep, etc.).

Extra Credit Opportunities*:

- Attend an Eco Club Meeting that you are not leading or presenting (5 points per meeting)
- Volunteer in the Living Lab beyond requirements (5 points per hour)
- Skillshare - teach us something! (Must discuss and plan with Ms. Chan in advance)
- Other school leadership opportunities (i.e. masses, public speaking, non eco events, etc. - occasionally announced by Ms. Chan - Points on case by case basis)
- Additional BTC (See BTC options; points on case by case basis; coordinate with Ms. Chan)

***Extra credit notes:**

No extra credit will be given if you have more than two zeros; maximum amount of extra credit to be added is 25 points (or five hours) to the inclass portion of the grade. Extra credit is NOT for making up event hours.

In order to receive extra credit, email Ms. Chan **in advance** of the opportunity you are hoping to earn extra credit for, confirming what you would like to do. (For Eco Club and Living Lab service, make sure to sign your name in-person and email Ms. Chan afterwards.)

IV. Class Policies

Technology Acceptable Use Policy: All technology in our classroom is to be used only for educational purposes approved by the teacher. Computers should not be taken out for use, unless directed otherwise.

Note on AI: your writing and artwork should always be your own; add “-ai” at the end of web searches or edit your browser’s search functions to turn off automatic responses. We will discuss ethical and useful AI functions as a team.

Leaving Class Policy: Part of being an Eco Leader sometimes involves leaving the whole group to work on a specific project. This is a privilege. Use this time wisely and responsibly. You must also always notify Ms. Chan before leaving the classroom / group, for any reason. For bathroom breaks, only one student is allowed at a time (unless there is an emergency).

Contacting Ms. Chan or Mama Prutz: Email is the best way to contact us and you should receive a response within 48 business hours - we expect the same response time from you as well. If you need a more immediate response (e.g. social media post approval, reaching out about an event the same day, etc.) you can send a Google chat to Ms. Chan. Any questions about grades, making up assignments, etc. should ALWAYS be sent in an email. Google chat will be used for group contact purposes for quick reminders and day of messages which you are responsible for checking regularly. Please make sure to allow notifications and/or make sure to check this regularly.

<u>Ms. Chan’s office hours (in Living Lab office):</u> Tuesdays 3-3:30pm, Thursdays 8:10-8:40am, or by appointment	<u>Eco Leader meeting location:</u> Dominican Lounge (or Living Lab)
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By signing below, we acknowledge all elements of the Eco Leaders Advanced Leadership Team presented above, including a commitment to fulfilling roles and responsibilities to the fullest extent possible, in conversation and collaboration with my teacher and teammates. I understand failure to fulfill these may result in a reevaluation of my participation on this team.

Student name (print):_____

Student signature:_____ Date:_____

Parent name (print):_____

Parent signature:_____ Date:_____