

# Silver Leadership Awards



## Innovator EXPLORER CHALLENGE

Use your problem-solving skills to come up with an innovative idea reduce the environmental impact of your yard or riding centre.

Think about how all activities linked to the yard could be more environmentally friendly.

Identify an aspect of the yard or an activity that isn't environmentally friendly and come up with a solution to the problem.

Implement your ideas and assess the impact they have. Your solution could involve designing and making something or raising awareness of what can be done at the centre to help improve the environment.

### Examples

#### Possible Environmental problems

- Use of water on the yard – ways to conserve water
- Electric use on the yard – conserve energy, alternative sources
- Emissions from horses – CO<sub>2</sub>, gases
- Flies bothering horses in the summer
- Waste – feed bags, haylage wrapping, bailer twine, general rubbish
- Diversity of grasses, wildflowers lost because of grazing
- Rubbish in the fields
- People/activities that create waste or waste energy and other resources (general measures everyone on the yard can take to help the environment)

#### Possible solutions

- Make recycling bins, compost bins, rubbish bins clearly marked
- Speak to local allotments, gardeners to supply manure
- Making a water butt or other collection system – or source one
- Planting – creating a wildflower garden, planting hedges or trees, planting herbs
- Recycling bags – shavings, feed,
- Repurpose supplement tubs, broken buckets, patching rugs,
- Clothing/equipment swap
- Book swap
- Litter picking
- Make signs to remind people to turn off lights, taps and use reusable drinks bottles
- Reuse water – left over water in buckets to soak hay/water plants
- Collecting rainwater – sprinkler system, water buckets
- Upcycle/Re-use items around the yard/freecycle/marketplace – make jump fillers, art work, mascot for yard, furniture (viewing gallery), xc jumps.
- Research the type of shampoo used on horses are they eco friendly – are there alternatives?
- Reusable cups, cutlery, plates if restaurant on site
- Lift sharing
- Cycling to yard
- Reusing horse shoes
- Collect hay seeds and sprinkle on paddocks to re grow grass
- Field maintenance
- Solar panels for electric fencing
- Plant Herb borders/ wild flower borders around fields
- Plant a tree
- Mending haynets – bailer twine
- Making lead ropes, fillet strings out bailer twine
- Hand wash and repair rugs/saddle cloths

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## Checklist for achievement:

- Know how you can approach problem solving through a process (e.g. 5 steps)
- Know about creative thinking and how it can help with problem solving
- Be able to identify a problem at the centre.
- Come up with a solution
- Put your solution into action
- Reflect on the outcome of your solution

*Participant should know that following a logical process to solve problems can help you to come to solution and feel less stressed about dealing with problems. The five 5 step process in the book can be referred to or any other step by step process. Participants should be able to list each step.*

*Creative thinking can help you to see problems in a different way which opens up more possible solutions. You can do this using group idea storming/brainstorming, reframing problems and being open minded*

*Identify something at the centre that isn't environmentally friendly.*

*Use problem solving skills and creative thinking skills to come up with a solution  
Practically put the solution into action to help the environment*

*Discuss how well the solution worked. What went well?  
What could have been improved on?*

## Things to consider

- Always watch online clips fully before showing to participants to ensure it is suitable for the group.
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