



Parents: Help your child's school go green with Eco-Schools USA!

Eco-Schools USA helps U.S. K-12 public, private and charter schools green their **school grounds, buildings, educational programming and student experience.**

Eco-Schools USA strives to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and culture of a school. Through school-based teams of students, administrators, educators and community volunteers, Eco-Schools combines effective "green" management of the school grounds, facilities and curriculum. Eco-Schools is an international program hosted in the United States by the National Wildlife Federation. Eco-Schools USA is committed to building a sustainable, comprehensive green school movement in the U.S. and abroad.



BENEFITS OF ECO-SCHOOLS USA

The Eco-Schools USA program is designed to promote the following:

- Improved academic performance
- Conservation of natural resources
- Reduction of waste
- Decreased carbon footprint
- Financial savings
- Environmental awareness and stewardship among students
- Increased parental involvement
- Stronger relationships between teachers, students and communities
- National and international links

GET STARTED!

Want to launch Eco-Schools USA at your child's school? Here's how to begin:

- Browse eco-schoolsusa.org to familiarize yourself with the Eco-Schools USA program. Note the case studies for practical implementation ideas.
- The Eco-Schools program succeeds as a team effort. Share information with a variety of individuals, including students, teachers, administrators, staff and other members of the community, to gauge and generate interest.
- Recruit a teacher or administrator to "champion" the program and register the school on the Eco-Schools USA website.
- Continue to gather a core group of committed team members. Then hold a meeting to spread the word and involve the rest of the school community.
- Now you're off and running! Parents and other volunteers can continue to boost the program by serving on the Eco-Action team or providing assistance and expertise on particular projects.



THE ECO-SCHOOLS USA PROGRAM

To become certified as an Eco-School, a school registers online at eco-schoolsusa.org and progresses through a series of seven steps. The school can then apply for one of the three Eco-Schools awards: the Bronze, Silver, or Green Flag award.

THE SEVEN STEPS

1. Establish an Eco-Action Team
2. Perform an Environmental Audit
3. Develop an Eco-Action Plan
4. Monitor and evaluate progress
5. Link to the educational curriculum
6. Involve the entire school and larger community
7. Create an Eco-Code



THE EIGHT PATHWAYS

There are eight "pathways" schools can choose to explore as part of their Eco-Schools journey:



TEN GREAT WAYS TO GO GREEN – AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME

1. Turn off unnecessary lights and unplug electronics when not in use.
2. Use programmable thermostats to adjust day and nighttime temperatures.
3. Fix water and air leaks.
4. Analyze water usage and install "low-flow" conservation devices.
5. Calculate your carbon footprint and focus on reducing the largest contributions.
6. Take a close look at where products come from and the environmental and social impacts of their production; use the findings to reconsider buying habits.
7. Explore transportation alternatives such as walking, bicycling, and carpooling.
8. Green the grounds with edible and wildlife-friendly plantings.
9. Make recycling, reusing, and composting routine.
10. Head outside for fresh air, exercise, and hands-on, authentic learning.