

Eco-Schools USA Year 2 Survey Results

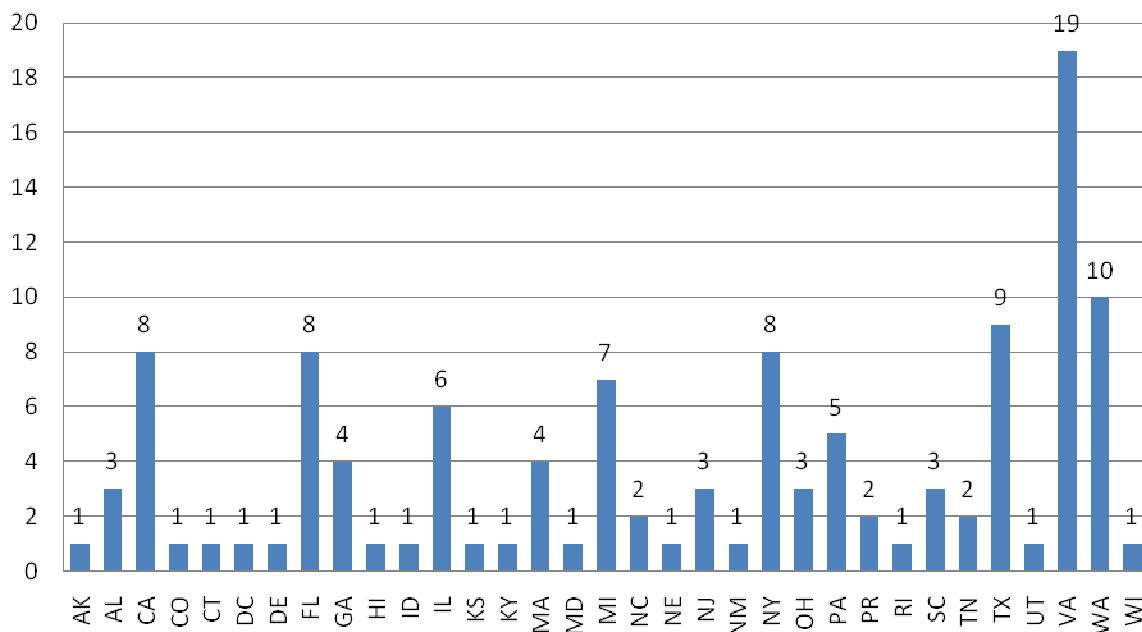
The Eco-Schools USA Year 2 Survey

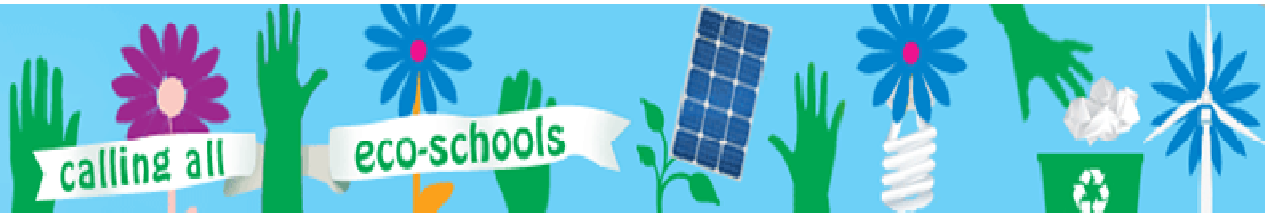
The Eco-Schools USA program launched two years ago in 2009. By the end of the 2010-2011 school year, there were 514 registered Eco-Schools located in 42 states, plus the District of Columbia. An online survey was created on May 20, 2011 and sent via email to all registered Eco-Schools. As of July 5, 2011, we have received 118 responses to our survey. The following results are based on these 118 responses.

The intent of the survey was to a) determine the scope and level of activity by the registered Eco-School; b) determine the effectiveness of the program in three critical areas: academic change, behavioral change, and school footprint change; c) discover what challenges teachers face in implementing the program; and d) to receive necessary feedback from our Eco-Schools on how we can improve the program.

The survey data shows that the program is effective in improving the overall school's environmental footprint; that it does improve student behavior, morale, attitude and academic scores/interest; and that there are still real challenges for teachers in implementing the program and integrating it into curricula. This feedback will allow us to make ongoing strategic adjustments to the program that will improve it and make it more accessible to the schools we work with.

Survey Respondent Demographics

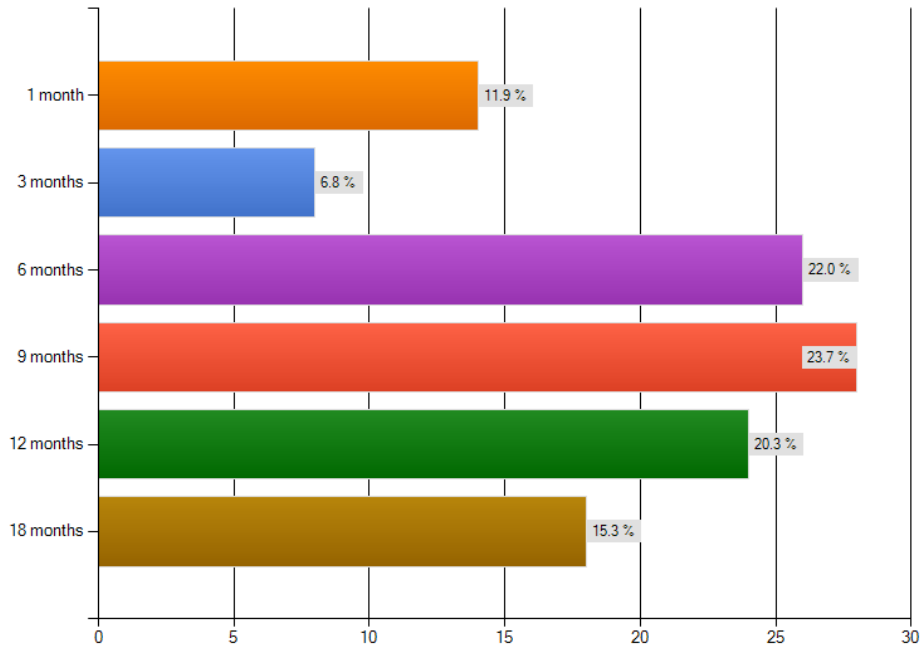




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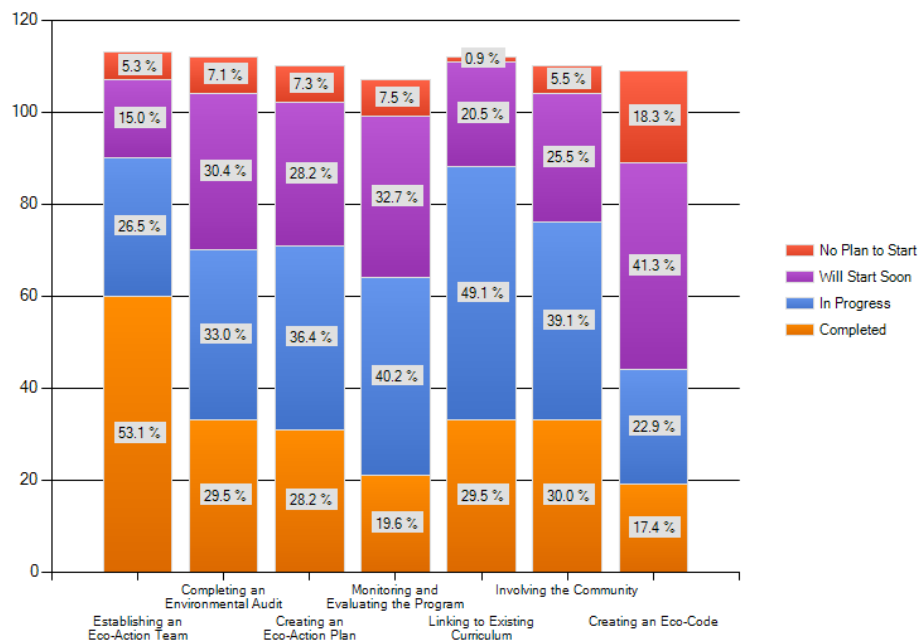
Registered Eco-Schools

Roughly, how long have you been a registered Eco-School?



7 Step Process

How much progress have you made towards completing each of the seven steps?

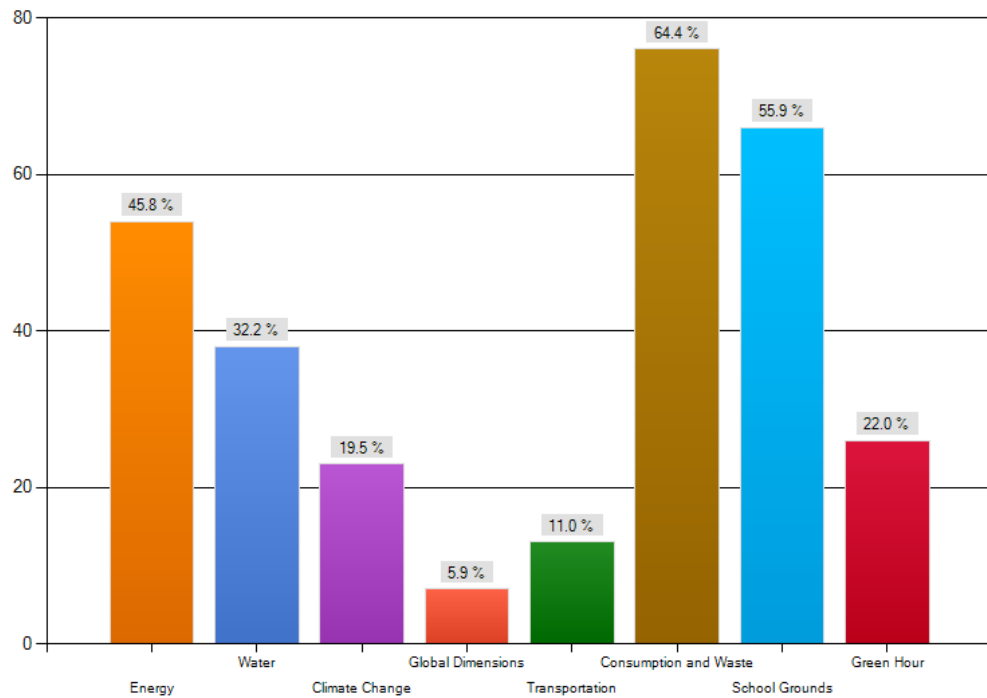




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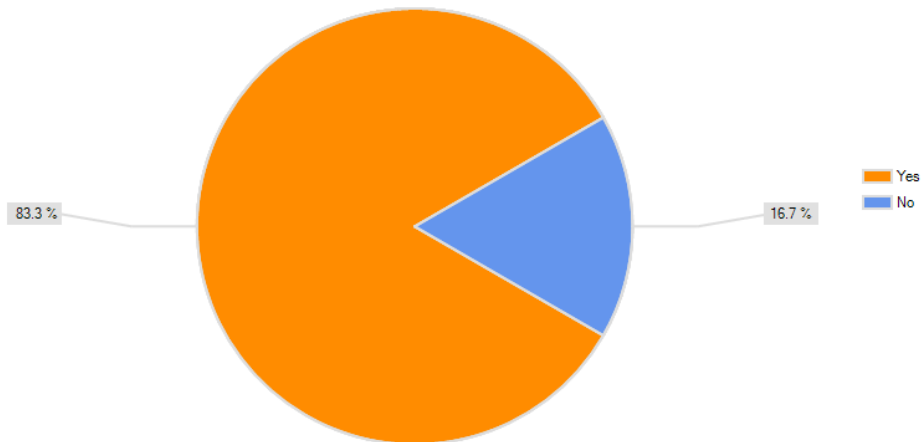
Pathway Focus Area

Which of the eight pathways has your school focused on? Please check all that apply.



Created an Outdoor Classroom

Have you created an outdoor classroom (an area where lessons can be taught outdoors) or schoolyard garden as part of the School Grounds pathway?

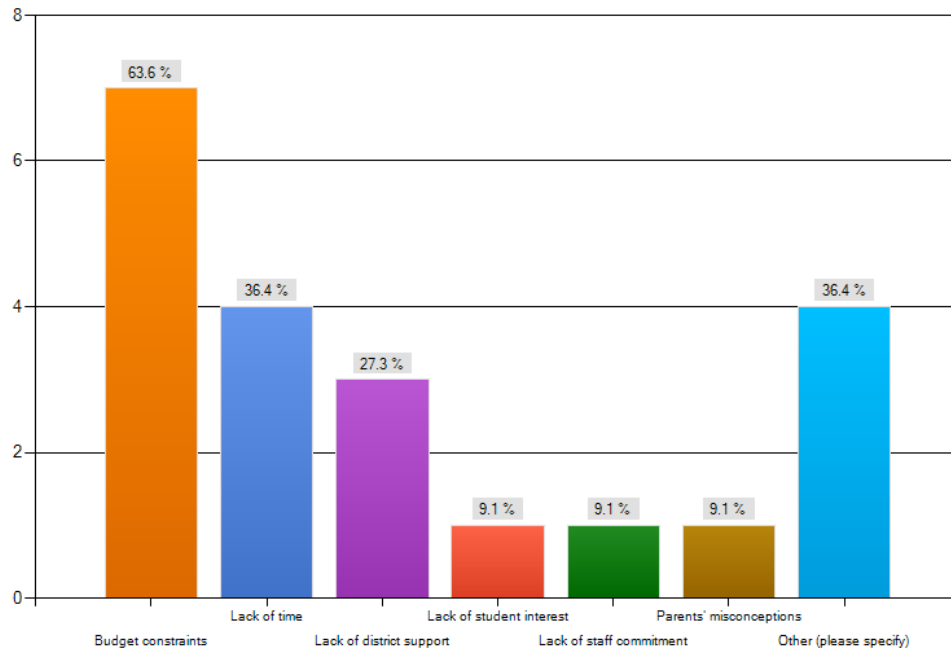




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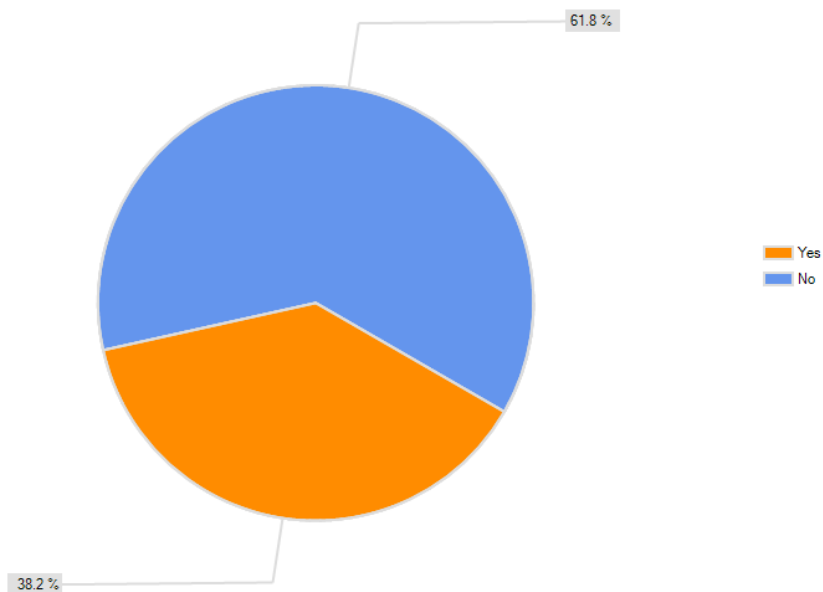
Barriers to an Outdoor Classroom

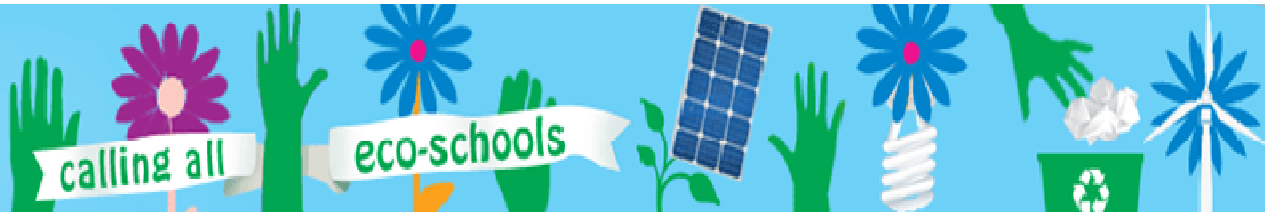
What barriers prevent you from having an outdoor classroom or schoolyard garden at your facility? Please select your top three barriers.



Certified Schoolyard Habitat

Have you certified your outdoor classroom or schoolyard habitat as a National Wildlife Federation Certified Schoolyard Habitat?

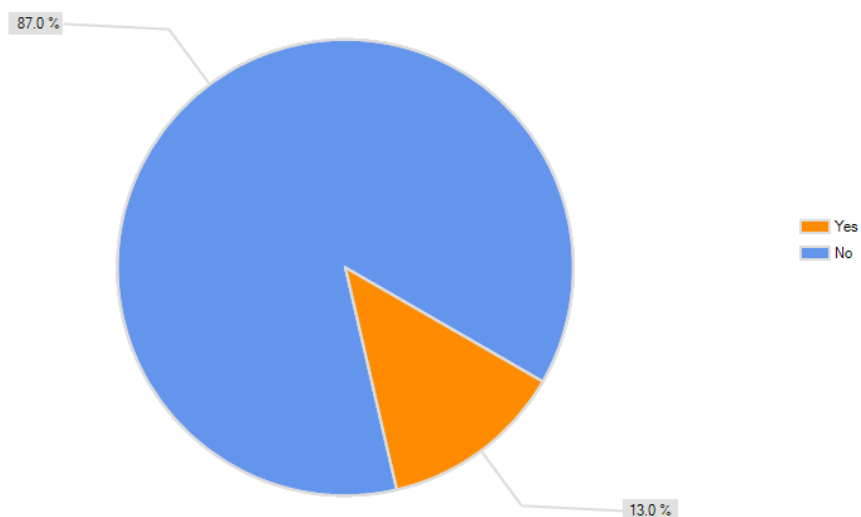




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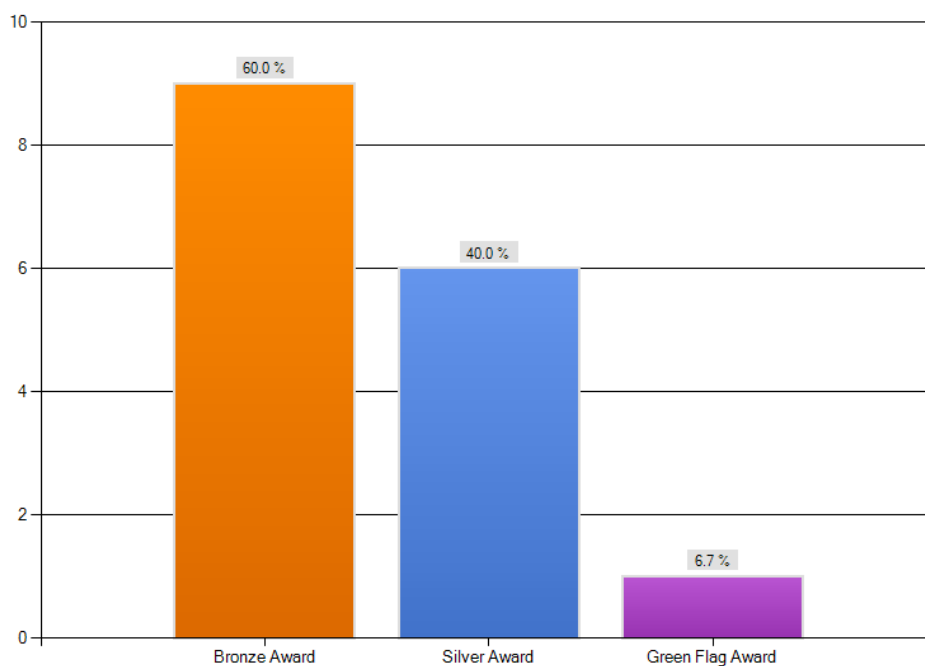
Award Level

Have you applied for an Eco-Schools USA award?



Applying for an Award

Which level of award did you achieve?

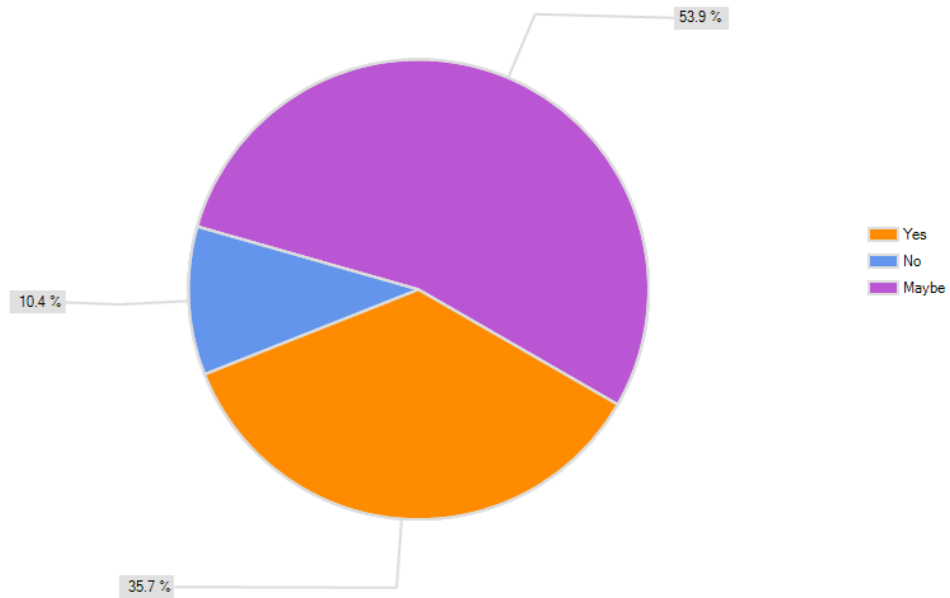




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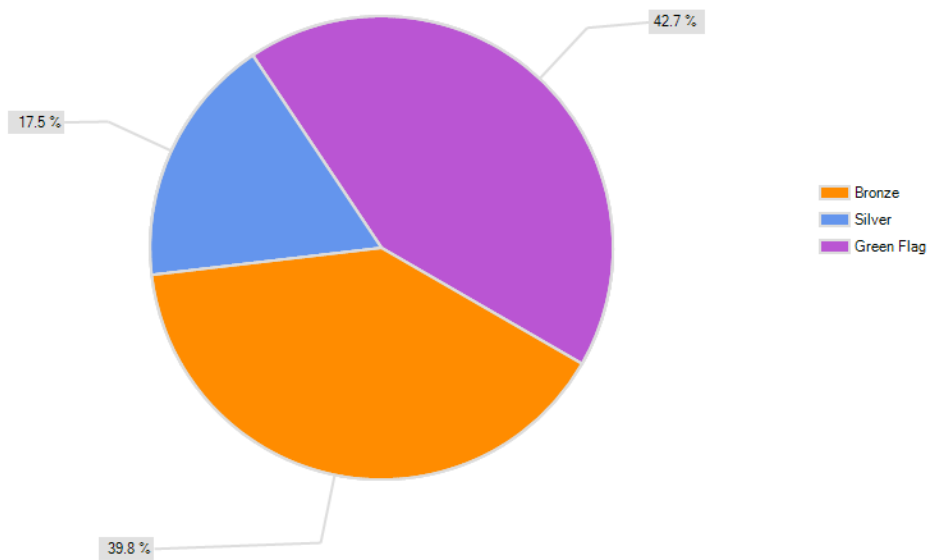
Plans for Applying Next Year

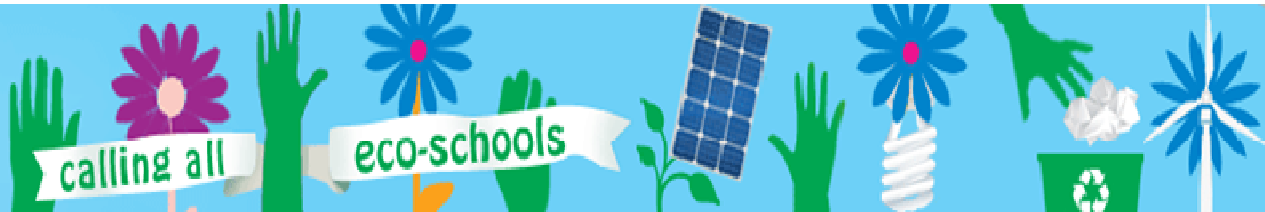
Do you plan on applying for an award in the next year?



Which Award Level

Which level of award?

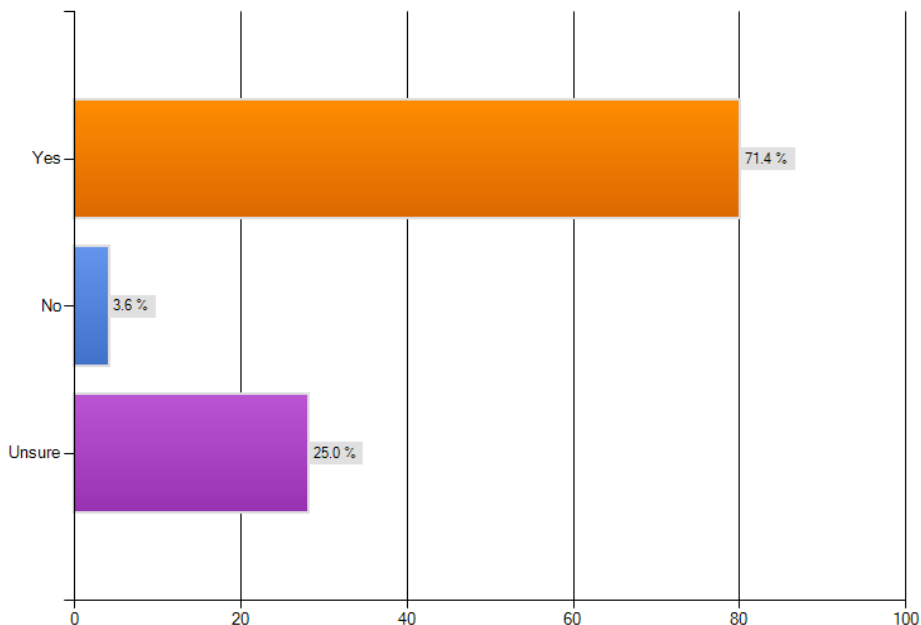




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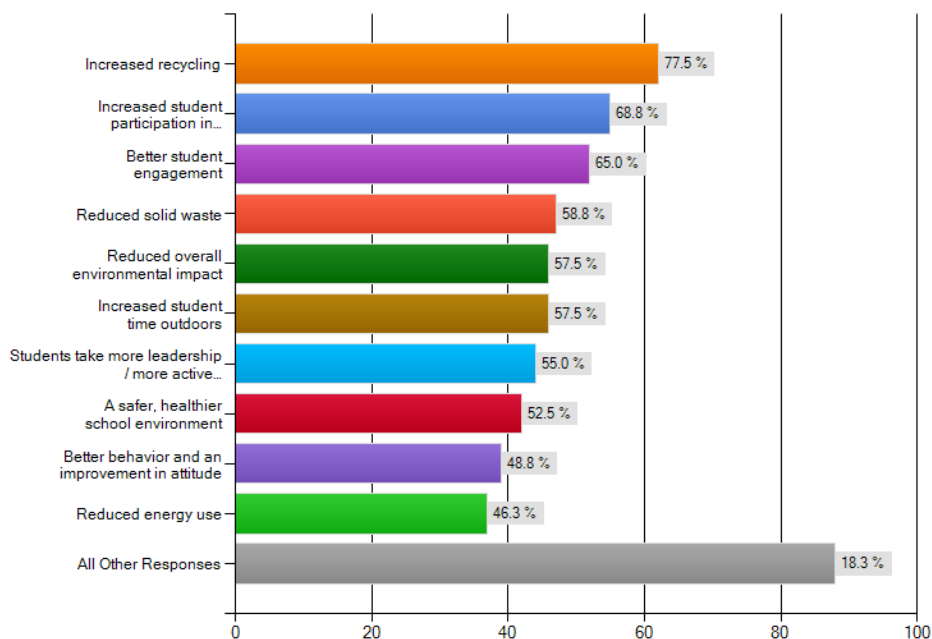
Observed Improvement in School's Overall Environmental Impact

Have you observed an improvement in your school's overall environmental impact as a result of these activities?



Type of Improvements Noticed

Which of the following outcomes have you noticed since you began implementing the Eco-Schools USA program? Please check all that apply.

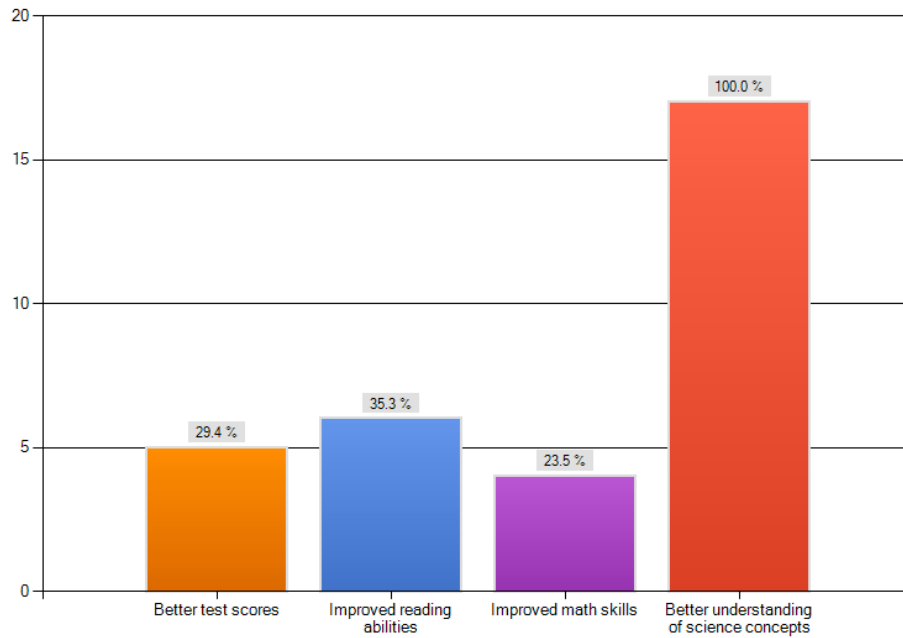




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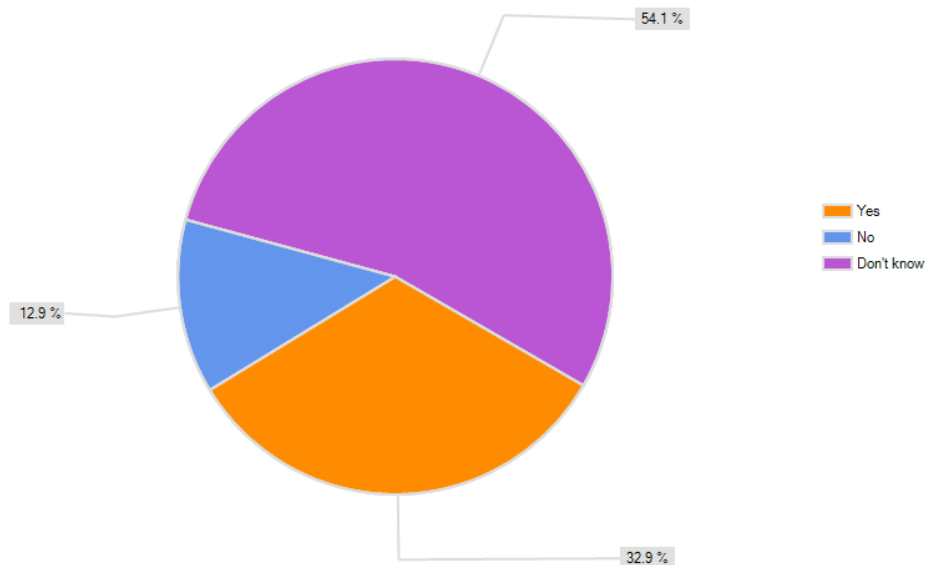
Areas of Academic Improvement

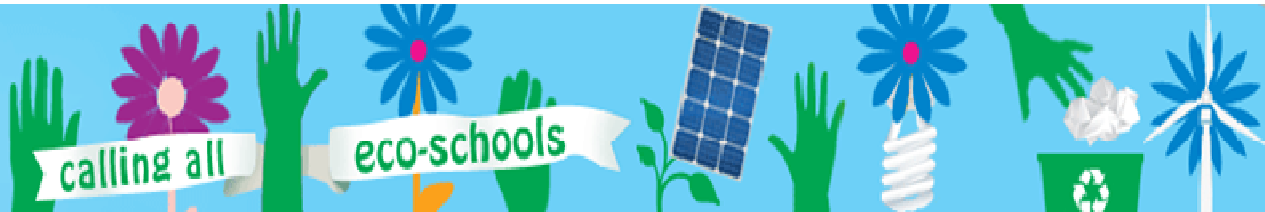
In what areas have you noticed academic improvements? Please check all that apply.



Facility Expenses Decreased as Part of Program

Have you noticed a decrease in facilities expenses (for energy, water, waste disposal)?

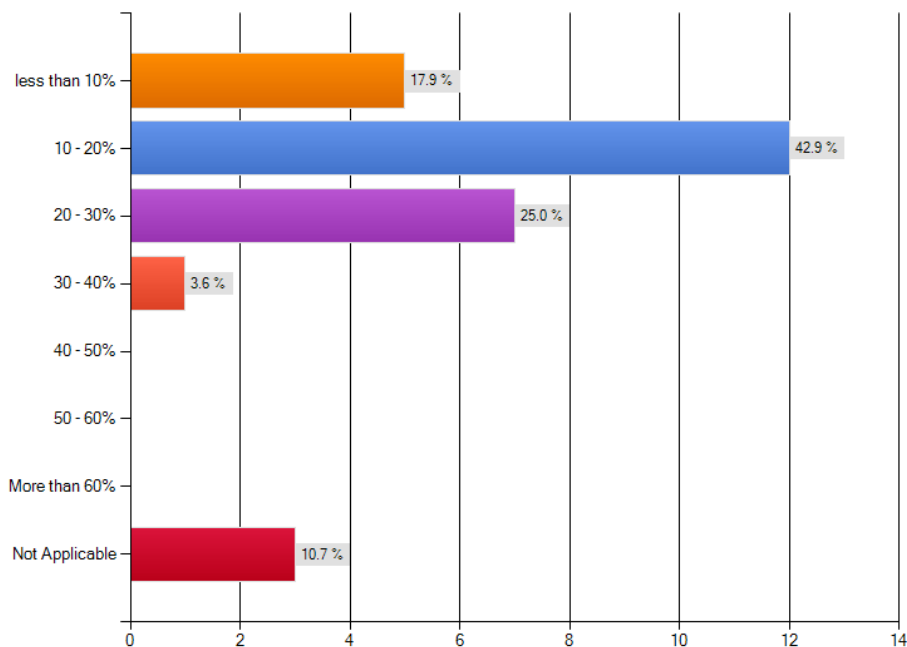




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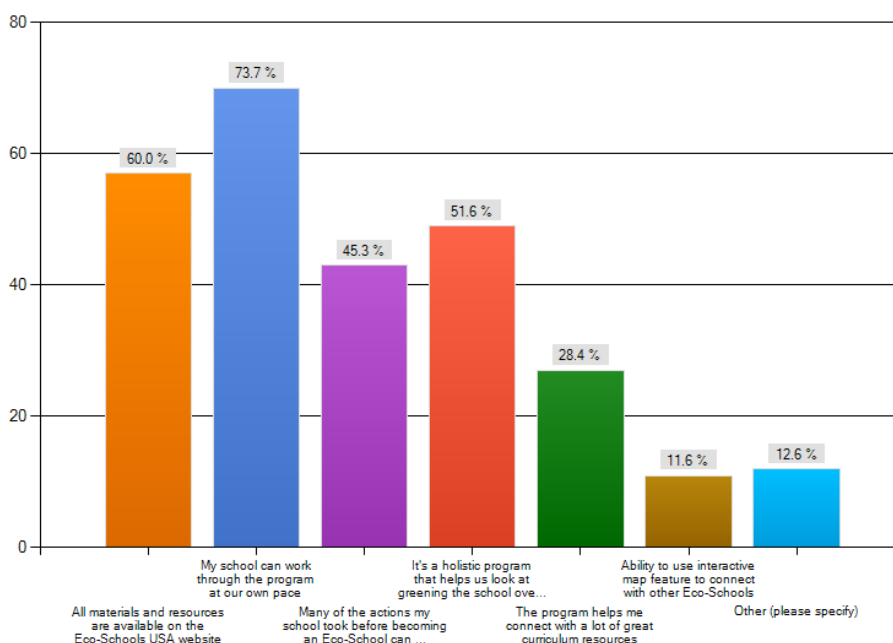
Amount Facilities Expenses Decreased

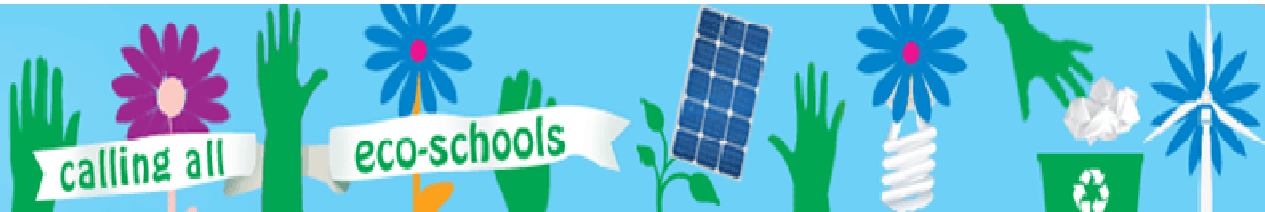
Your facilities expenses have decreased by approximately what amount?



Features of the Program Like Best

What features of the Eco-Schools USA program do you like best?

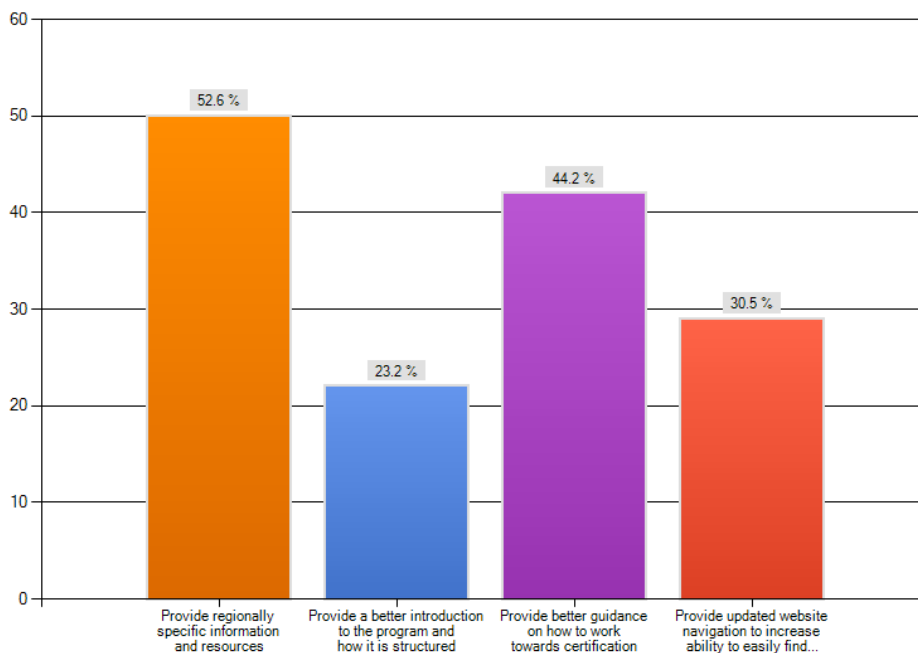




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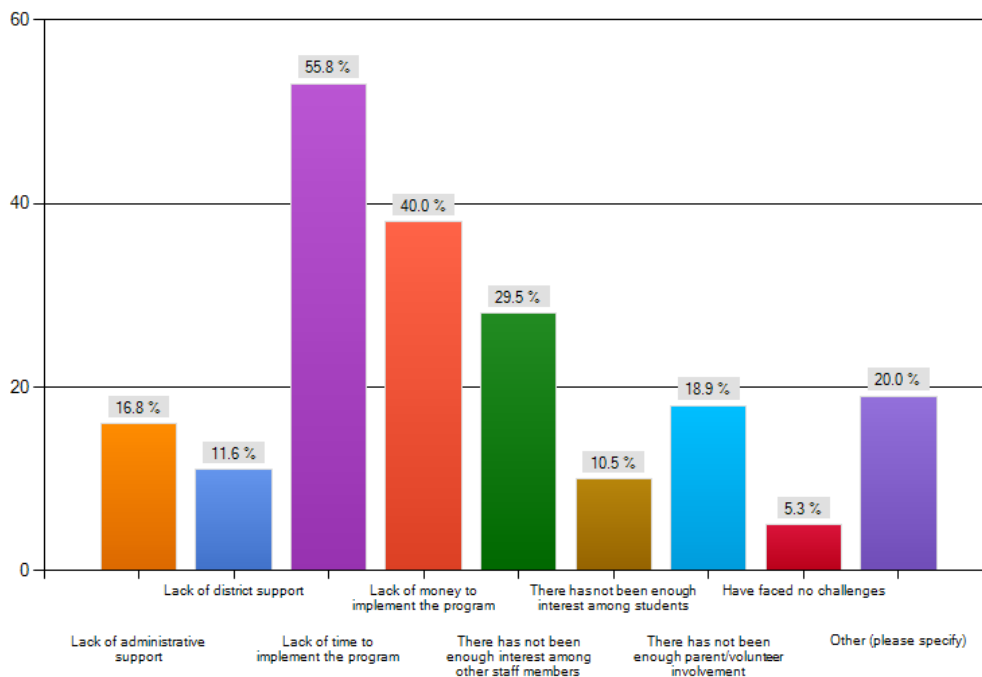
Aspects of Program that Need Improvement

What aspects of the Eco-Schools USA program need improvement?



Challenges of Implementing the Program

What challenges has your school faced in implementing the Eco-Schools USA program?
Please check all that apply.

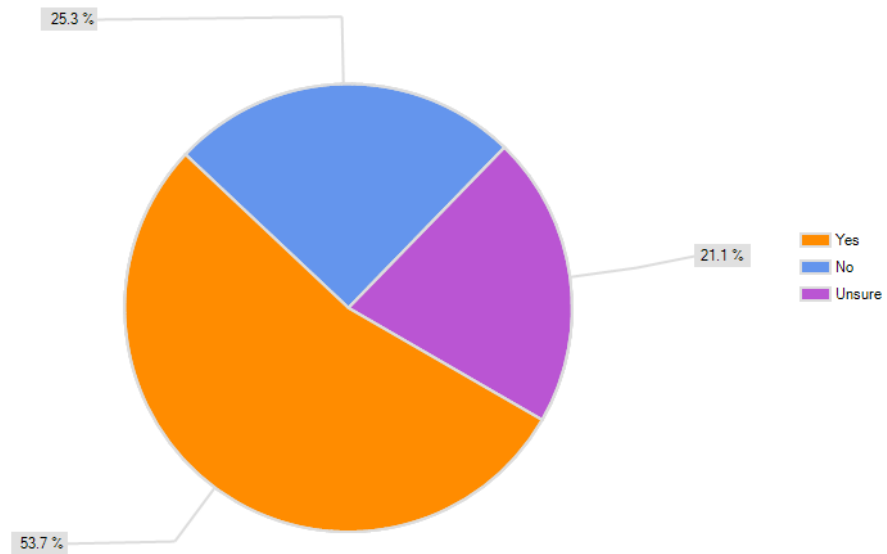




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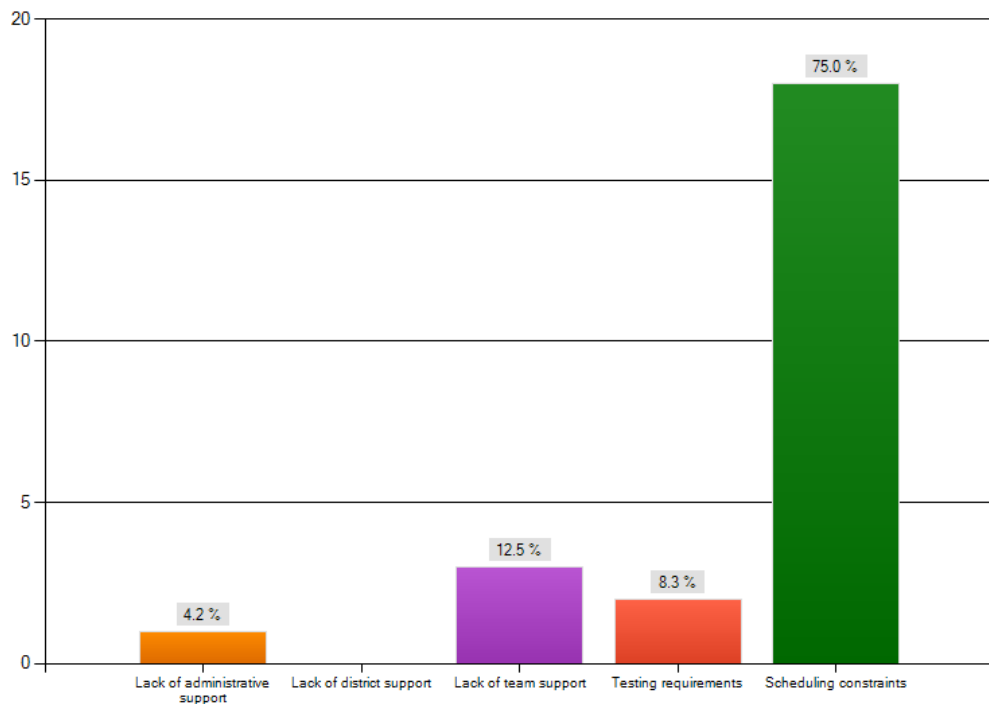
Able to Introduce Program into Class Curriculum

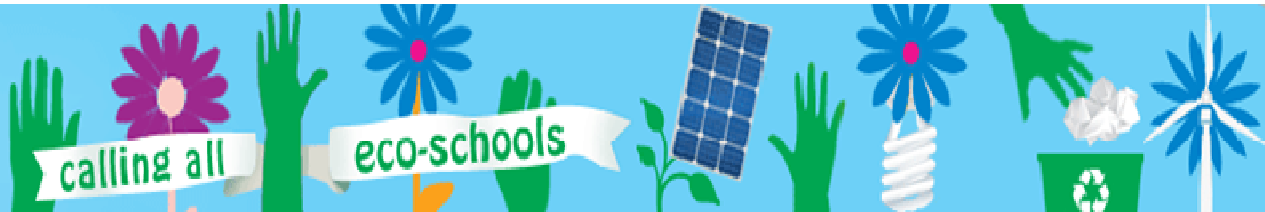
Have you been able to integrate the Eco-Schools USA program into your class curriculum?



Challenges of Introducing Program into Class Curriculum

If you answered "no," why not or what challenges have you faced in doing so?

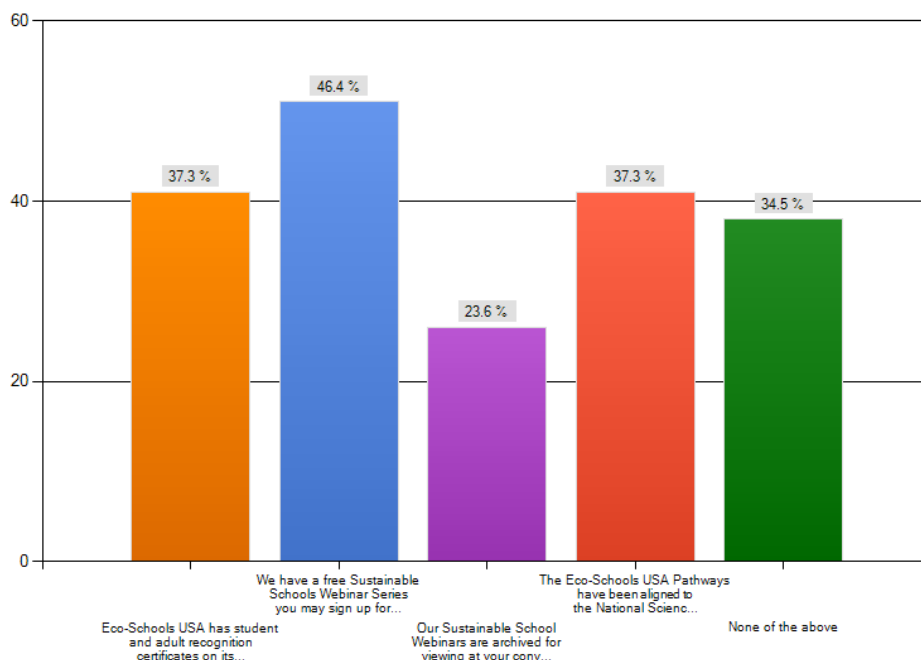




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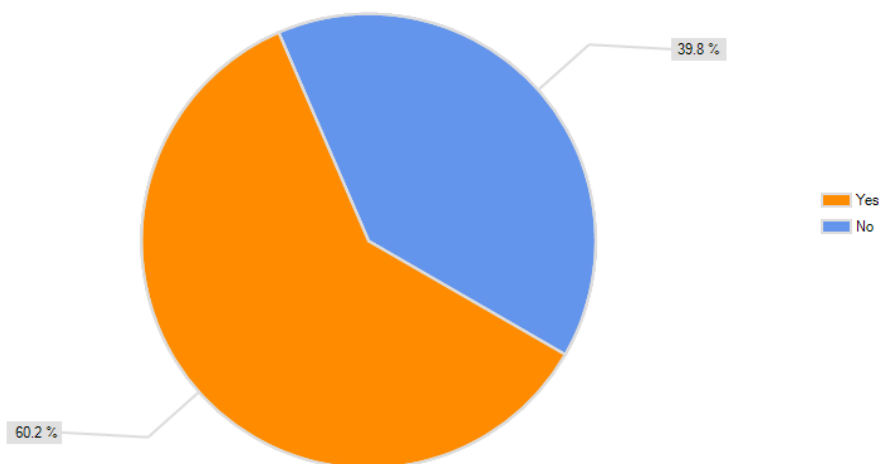
Awareness of Program Features

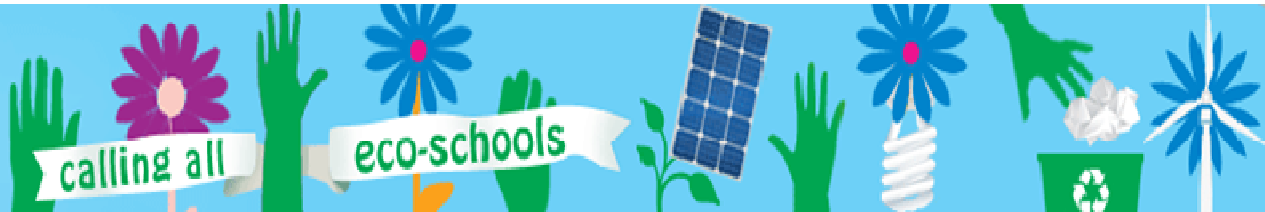
Did you know that...Please check all that apply.



Use of Social Media

Do you use social media (such as Facebook and Twitter)?

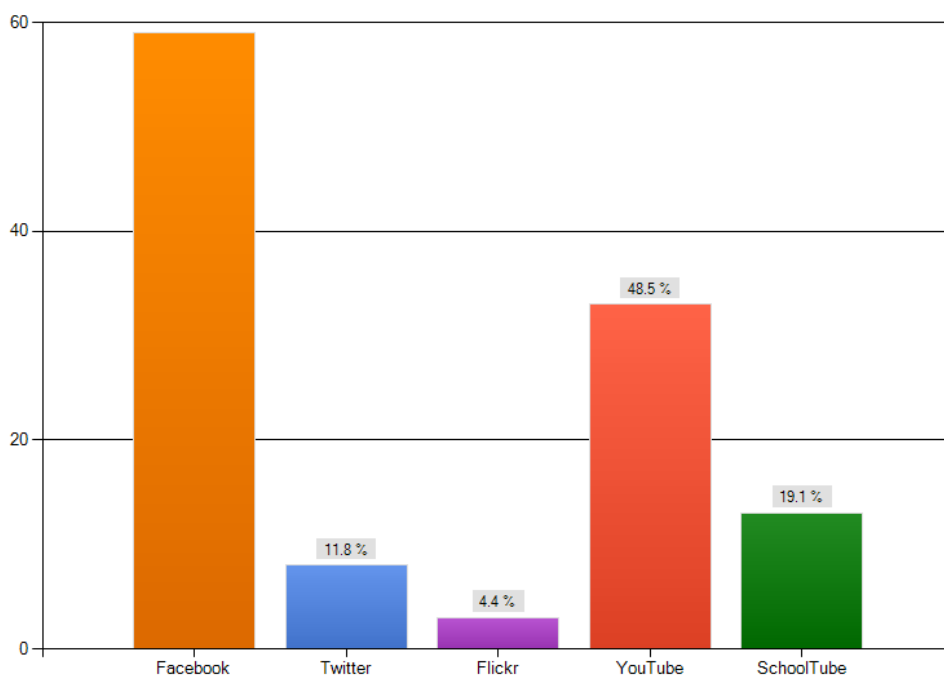


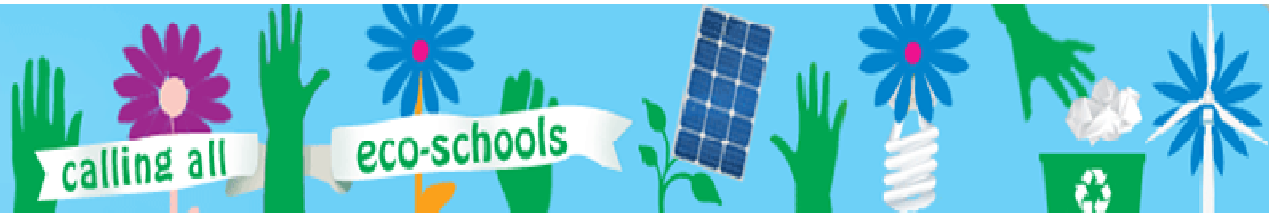


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Types of Social Media Used

If you answered "yes" to using social media, what types of social media do you use?





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Suggestions for Program Improvements

Response Text
- more elementary friendly requirements for green flag designation... getting students involved in weighing waste etc can be problematic. - Alternatives suggested for some challenges elementary schools may have in comparison to secondary schools.
Already given :)
Assign us an Eco-School mentor
Congratulations for doing a good job!
Connect with the upcoming Green Ribbon Award (NWF already is connected). I think your program will be a wonderful resource for schools like ours that hope to add a Green Ribbon to our Blue Ribbon (nomination).
Could the audits be leveled so that elementary students could more easily participate?
Create Smart Notebook presentations for September introduction to both school staff and for students that explain the program and FAQ's
Encourage Broward schools to participate in Eco-Schools as part of our Green Initiative. Both programs have similar ideas.
Encourage groups to start small with an outdoor area and increase it each year so the groups feel they have contributed from year to year.
Help schools to become of part the Eco-programs in their area. Many school are outside the program areas. Maybe these school could get parents within the areas to join the programs.
Help, advise with the Energy reduction. We are working very hard for the Green Flag, but we cannot replace light bulbs, etc. We have a record of our energy expenses, but dealing with a buracracy is challenging.
I didn't find the supporting activities for the lesson plans.
I do not know much about this program yet but am looking forward to getting more involved. No suggestions.
I have mistakely registered my home school twice in Rowan County, KY. Please remove Haight Homeschool and leave Haight Home School.
I haven't been a part long enough to really know.
I need informtion on how to receive certification.
I need more guidance on how to show that what these young children have done (admittedly limited) is working. Our building is new and relatively energy efficient. Second graders cannot install alternative energy! How can their efforts really make a change?
I need to become more familiar with what is offerred through your program.
I need to go over the entire scope of your program as I am totally blown away by the questions you asked me on this survey. I am so unaware.
I started one week ago
I think there should be regional places where on-site training can take place for teachers- where they can earn CEU's. I know I would be willing to help organize something in my area for Eco-Schools. I am in the Southeast (Birmingham).



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I will need to look at the website again. I am not sure that I looked at the curriculum links. I learned about the Eco-School at the Houston Environmental Education Summit on April 9, 2010.

I would like to have our school to have a personal contact/mentor who would review what we are doing and makes suggestions on how we could achieve our bronze goal or better still a green goal. We feel that we are on our own to figure out if we are doing all we need to do/more than we need to do/not enough of what we need to do. We have a dedicated student group whose enthusiasm is thrilling and we could use advice on how to capitalize and sustain that enthusiasm.

I'm appreciative of the support and advice you have given. Continue with the emails. That helps. I do appreciate having Marya's support as well. With all of the other challenges we are currently facing as a result of new standardized testing requirements and significant reduction in class size, my available time and resources are going to be a fraction of what they were this year. What fraction at this point is hard to tell, but I will continue to do my best to move this forward. The fact that it is real world applicable makes a lot of sense and does give me more pull with campus administration, however, again due to resource constraints of time and money, I'm not certain what I'll be able to accomplish next year.

It is a great well working program full of a lot of work that has great benefits.

Keep helping schools connect with the program.

Keep it up!

Keep it up!

Keep promoting it! It's a great way for schools to get a start on something they are interested in! Are you accepting new schools? If so-please let me know and I can help promote it

keep up the good work

Keep up the great work!

Keep up the great work! Love your program.

Make more presentations at school level and connect to more teachers.

Monitoring my blog instead of having me fill out forms Did you consult actual teachers? If so, did you really listen to the feedback? Running a green program is very time and labor intensive.

network with state groups that are endeavouring to do the same thing--in Kansas we have the Kansas Association of Conservation and environmental educators (KACEE), see www.kacee.org for website and contact links. I am a member of the KS Environmental Literacy Team who has been working on a plan to implement once the no child left behind act is passed federally--part of the plan is to have all high school graduates be environmentally literate. Check it out at the KACEE site.

No

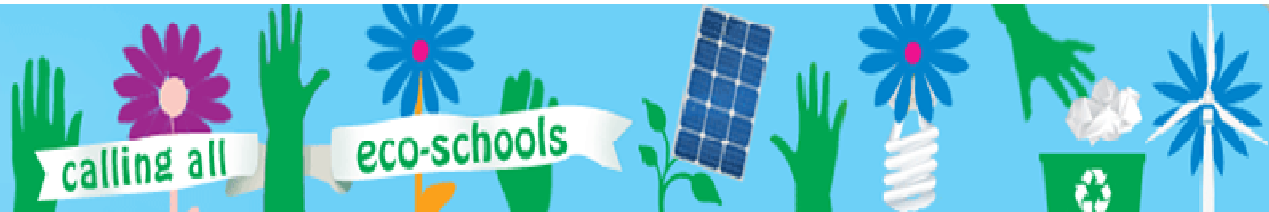
no

No

no

Nope.

Not at this time.



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Not at this time.
not for now
not yet
on-going support
Please make it easier to join with other existing groups, like greenribbonschools.com as they are helpful and all-inclusive.
Please send me a pamphlet with the highlights of the program so it's easier to read and refer to and share with others. I don't find online stuff very accessible!
present program early with requirements.
Provide more support to schools that are interested, but are having a hard time finding the time and support to really get off the ground. A webinar won't do it; perhaps 1 required webinar, and then you can go online to a help area and people can pose questions and share answers.
Send updates via email on environmental awareness days or Eco School focuses.
separate category for non-formal centers such as ours
Thank you for what you are doing.
The time question above depends upon what time my classes are in session which changes every year. there is no option for that.
To help schools keep engaged by offering grants to all each year to help with the cost of keeping the program healthy.
We did not get as far into the implementation as I had hoped we would. I would love to have more assistance in getting people to participate in the program.
We have testing constraint. The more this program can replace two other things, the more likely people will be to do it.
we need more guidance on the high school level. we have followed the model of elementary and middle schools, but we have different roadblocks.
What elementary programs do we have school wide that I can implement. Can you develop a meet the scientist kids blog and speaker series and an online vbookclub is there a hard Copy newsletter copy.
You have a wealth of information available, which is great. For me, there has been almost too much, and it has been hard to chunk it into bite sized pieces for my 5th grade class. I think my experience will help me progress next year, but I had to dedicate considerable class time to figure out what I can use as a plug in lesson plan, and what would take development time.