



Eco-Schools USA Year 3 Survey Results

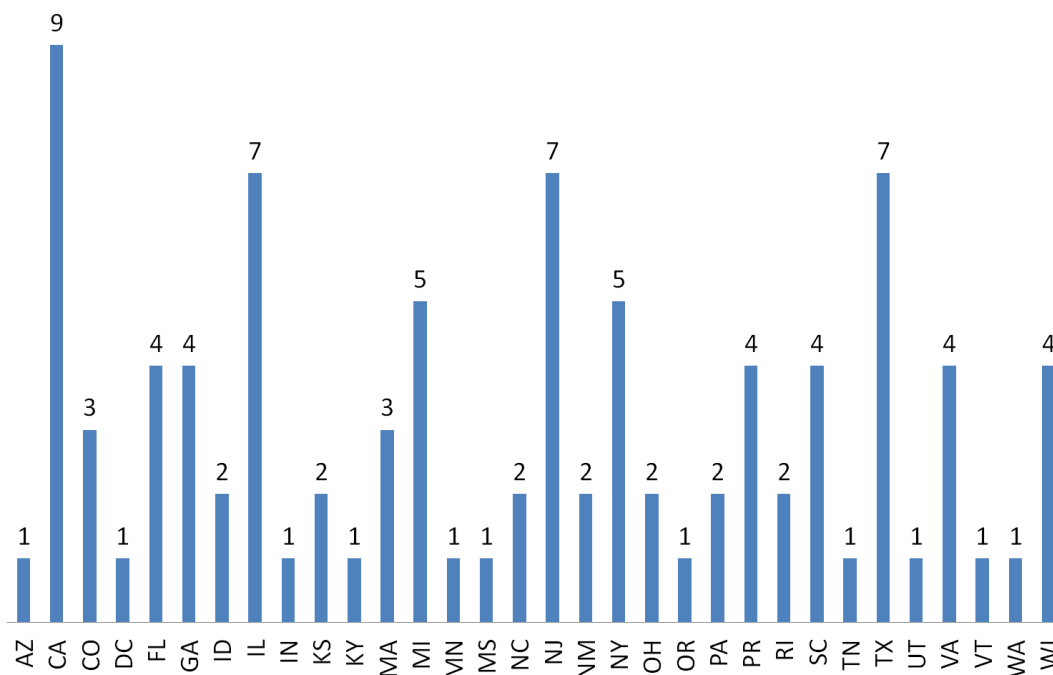
The Eco-Schools USA Year 3 Survey

The Eco-Schools USA program launched two years ago in 2009. By the end of the 2011-2012 school year, there were almost 2000 registered Eco-Schools located in 49 states, plus the District of Columbia. An online survey was created on May 8, 2012 and sent via email to all registered Eco-Schools. We received 95 responses to the survey. The following results are based on these 95 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.

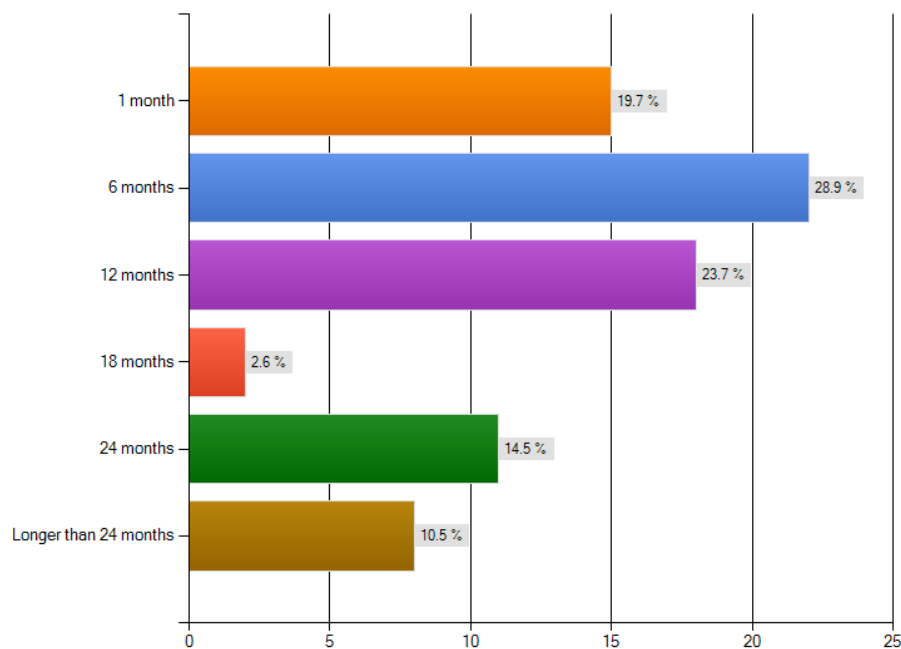
Survey Respondent Demographics



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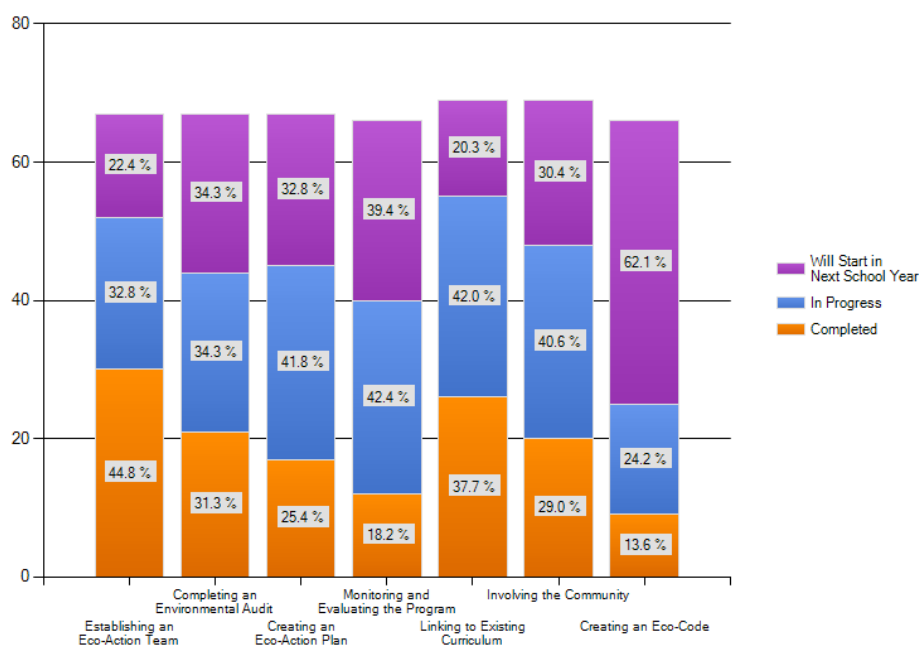
Registered Eco-Schools

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



7 Step Process

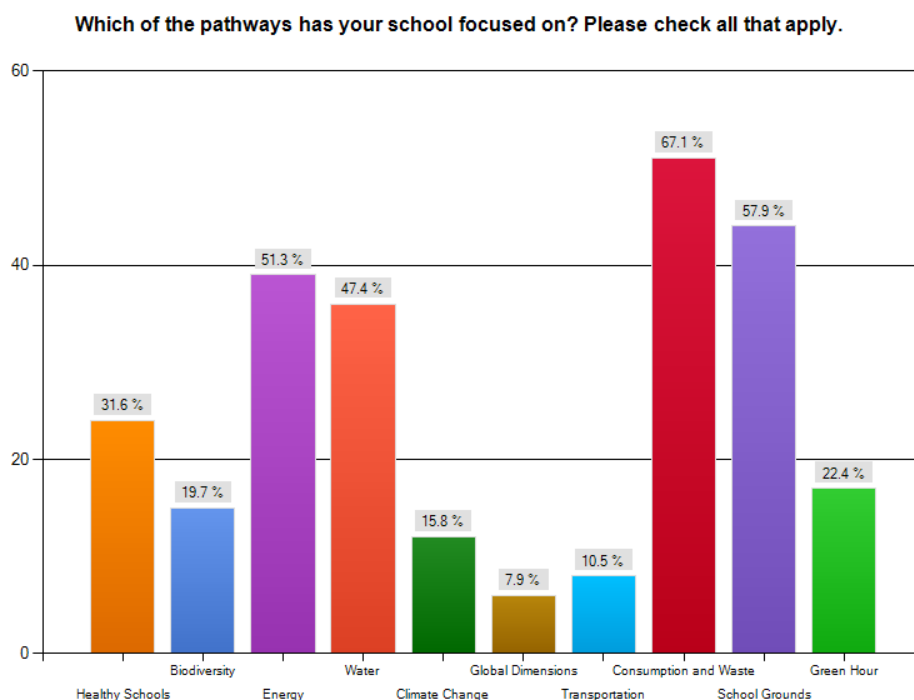
How much progress have you made towards completing each of the seven steps?





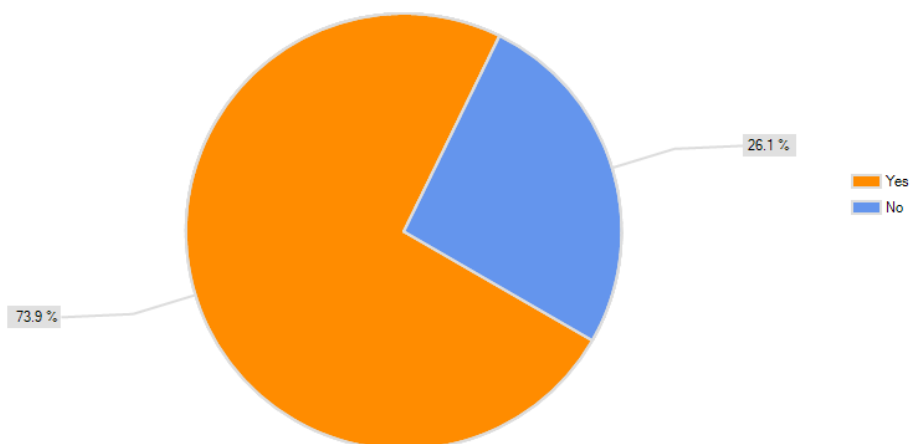
Eco-Schools USA Year 3 Survey Results

Pathway Focus Area



Created an Outdoor Classroom

Have you created an outdoor classroom (an area where lessons can be taught outdoors) or schoolyard garden at your school?

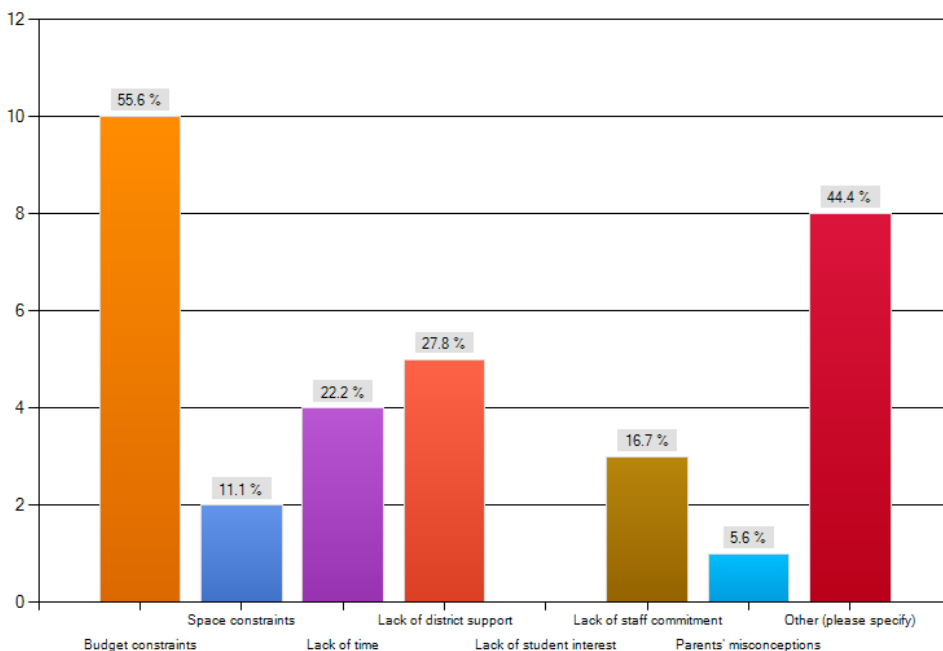




Eco-Schools USA Year 3 Survey Results

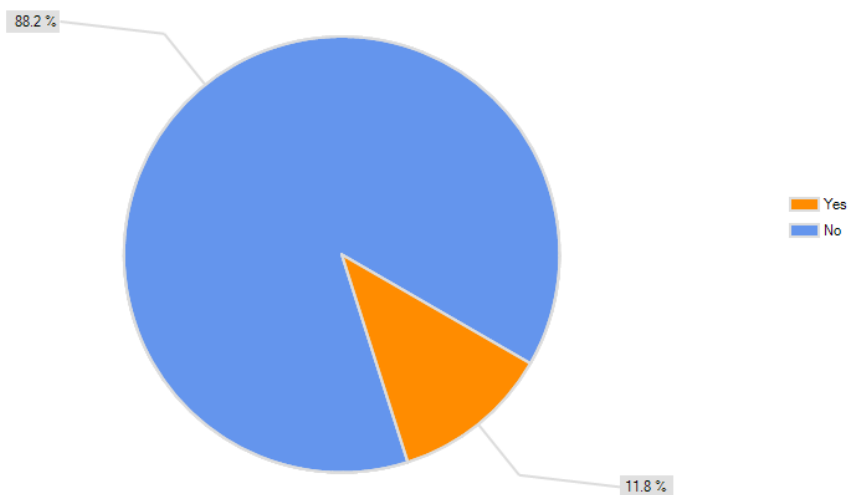
Barriers to an Outdoor Classroom

What barriers prevent you from having an outdoor classroom or schoolyard garden at your school? 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?

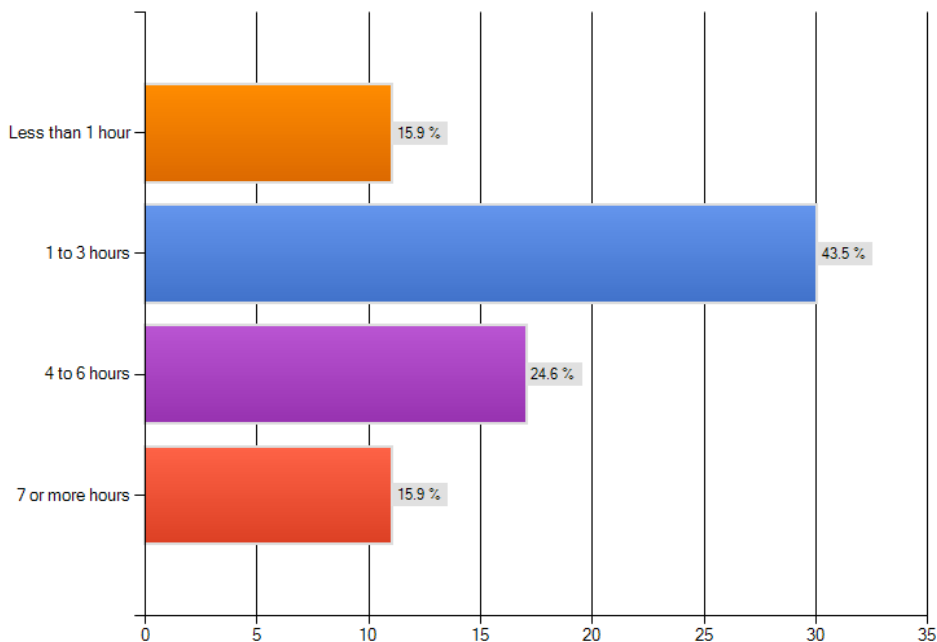




Eco-Schools USA Year 3 Survey Results

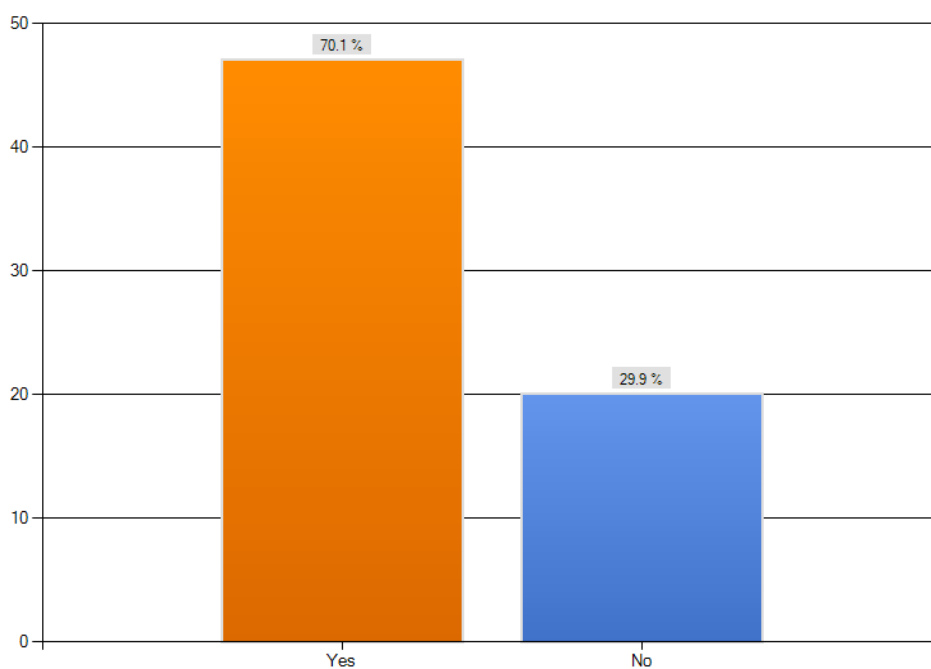
Time Students Spend Outdoors

How much time would you say the average student at your school spends outdoors during each week?



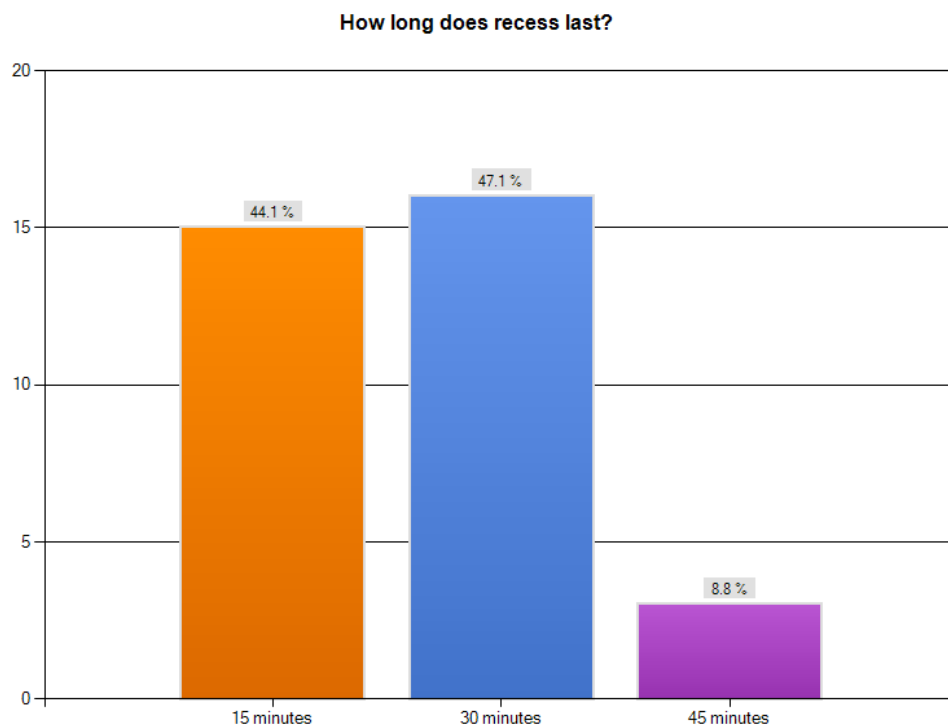
Do Students Have Recess Regularly

Do students at your school have recess regularly?

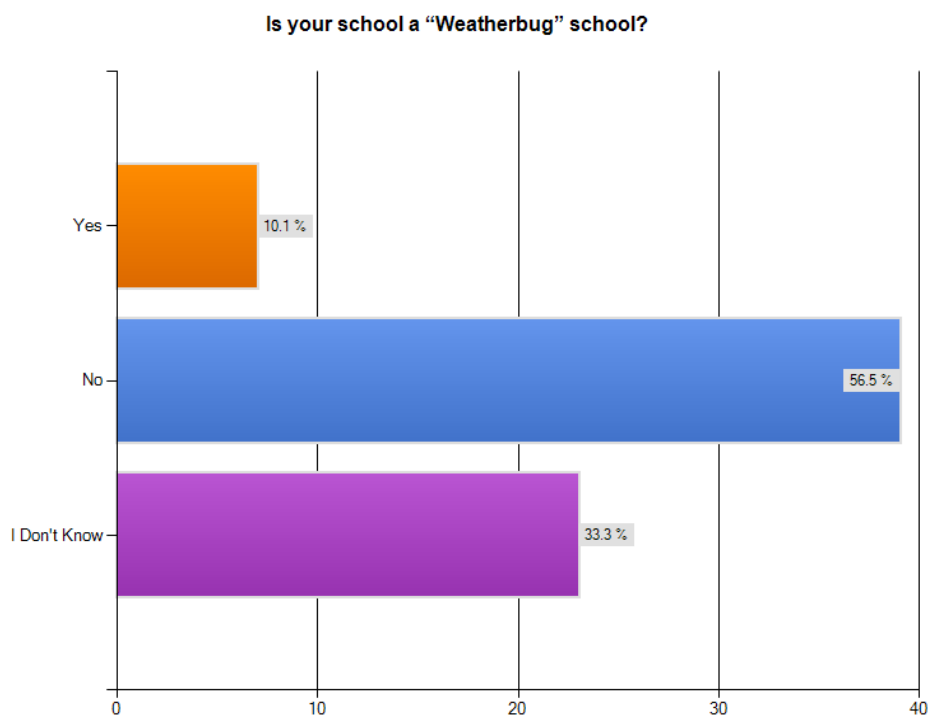


Eco-Schools USA Year 3 Survey Results

How Long Recess Lasts



Status as a 'Weatherbug' School

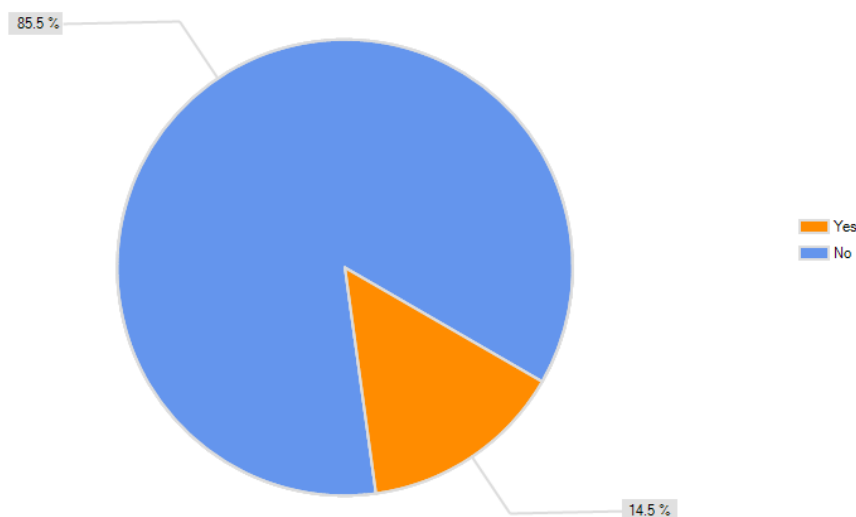




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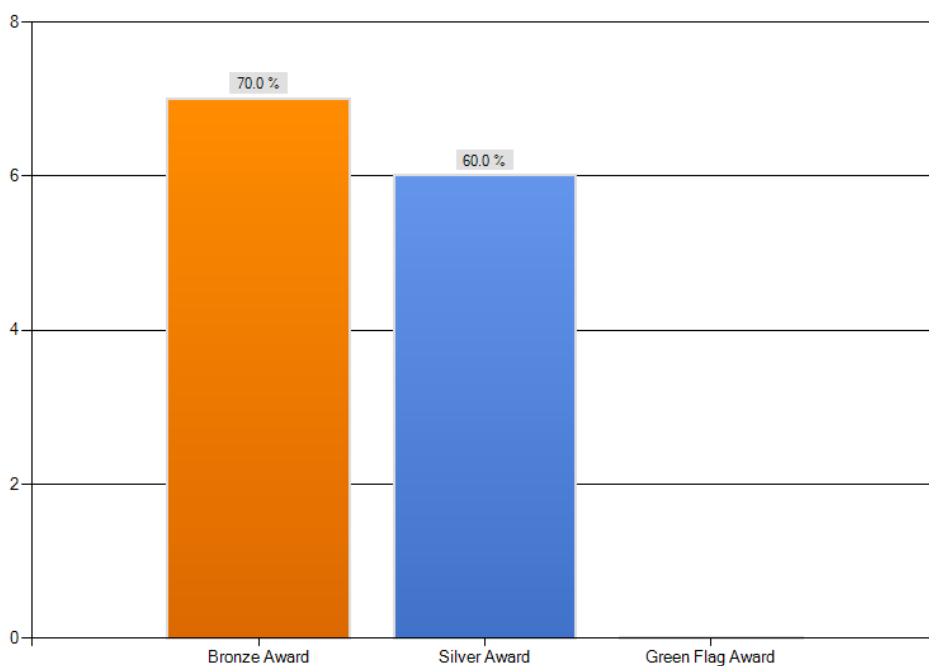
Award Level

Have you applied for an Eco-Schools USA award?



Applying for an Award

Which level of award did you achieve?

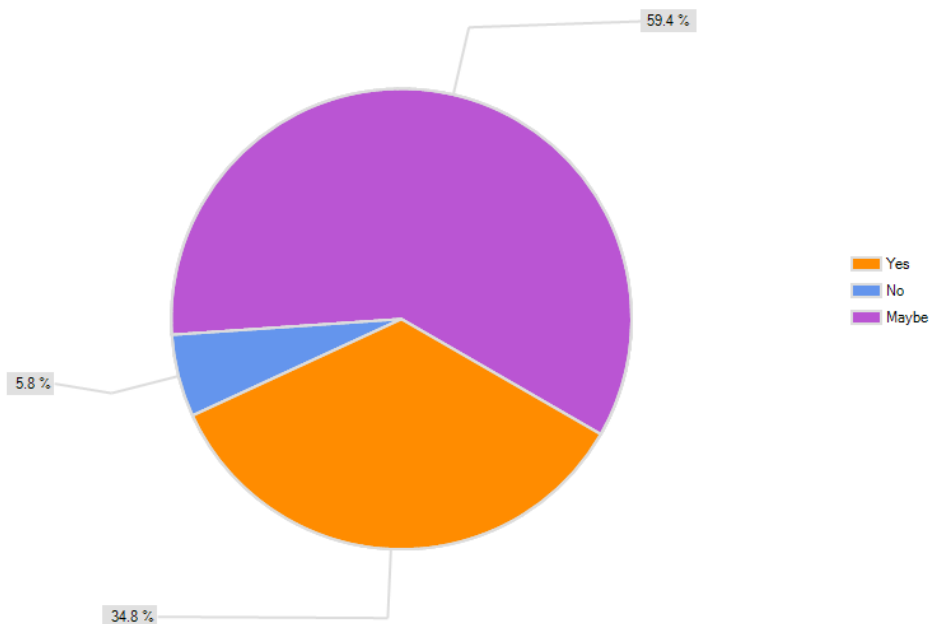




Eco-Schools USA Year 3 Survey Results

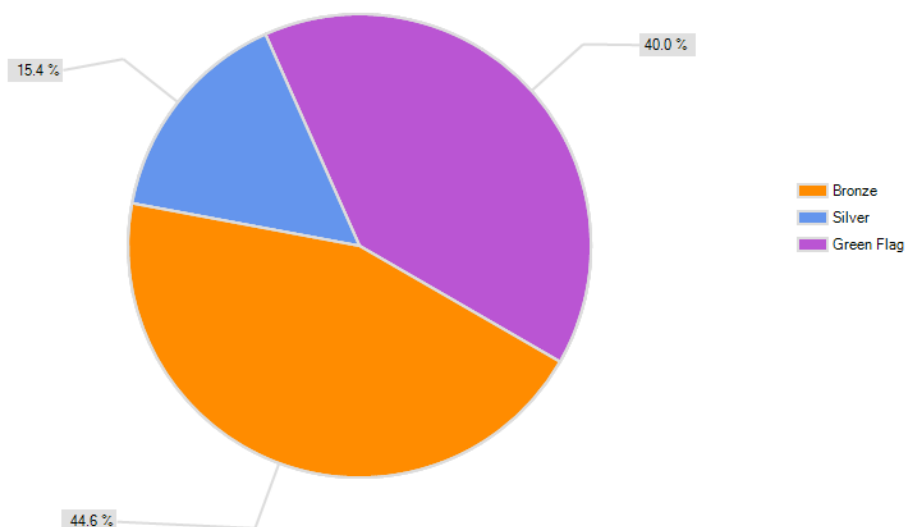
Plans for Applying Next Year

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



Which Award Level

Which level of award?

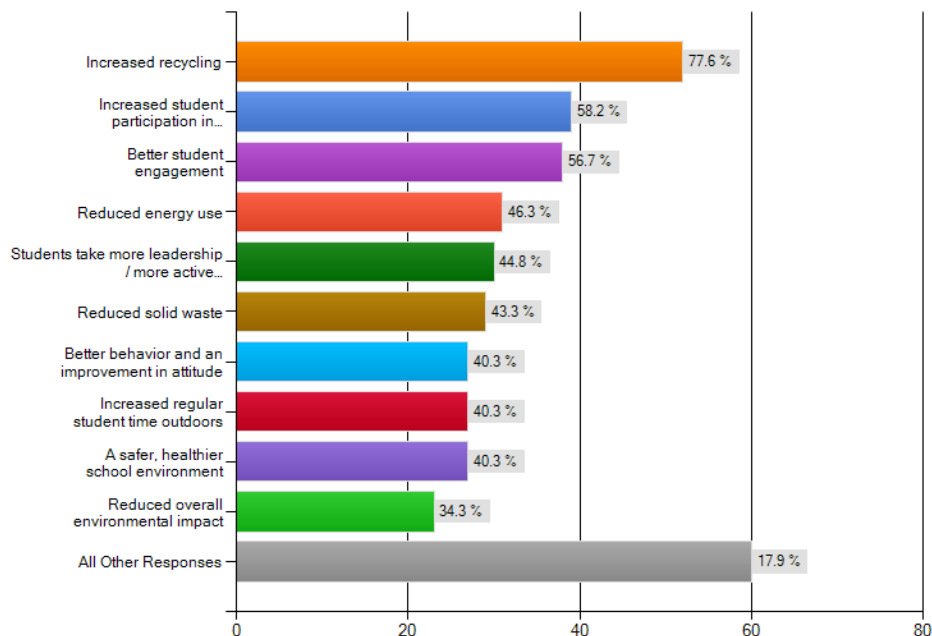




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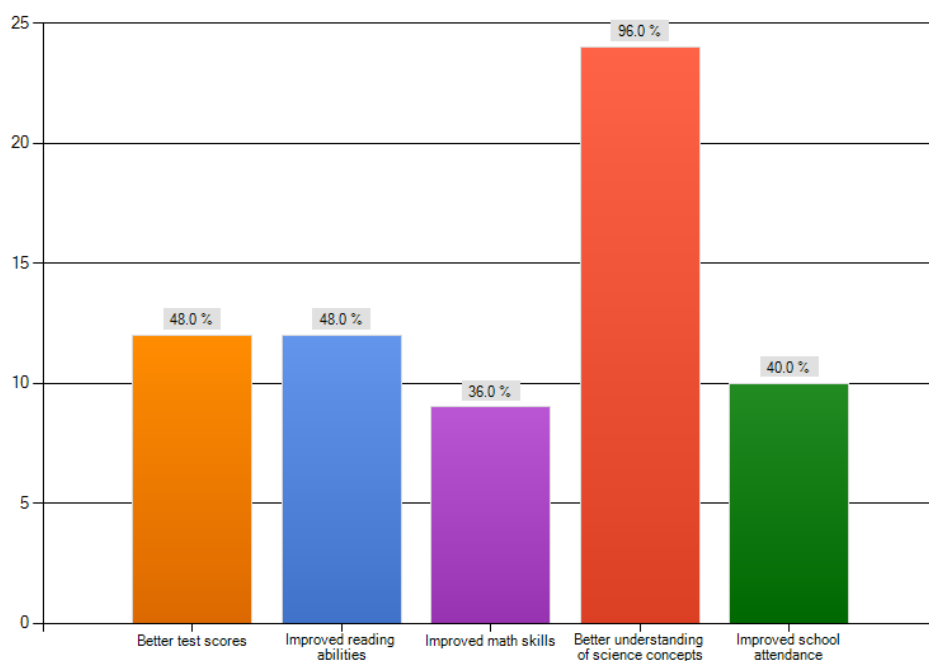
Type of Improvements Noticed

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



Areas of Academic Improvement

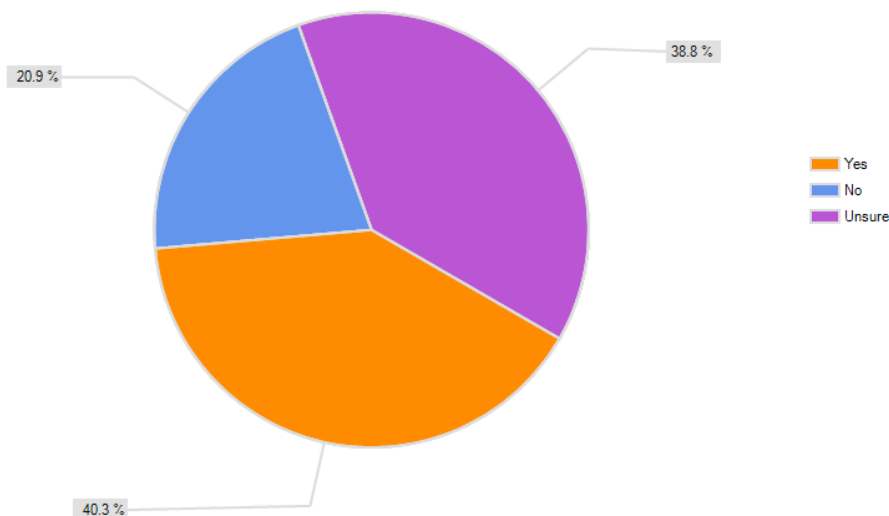
In what areas have you noticed academic improvements? Please check all that apply.



Eco-Schools USA Year 3 Survey Results

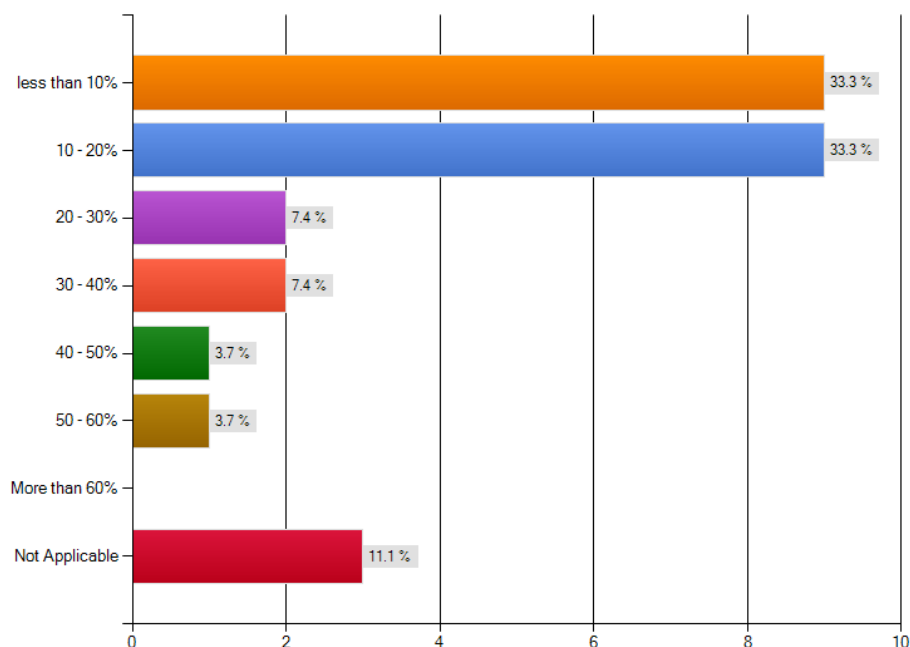
Facility Expenses Decreased as Part of Program

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



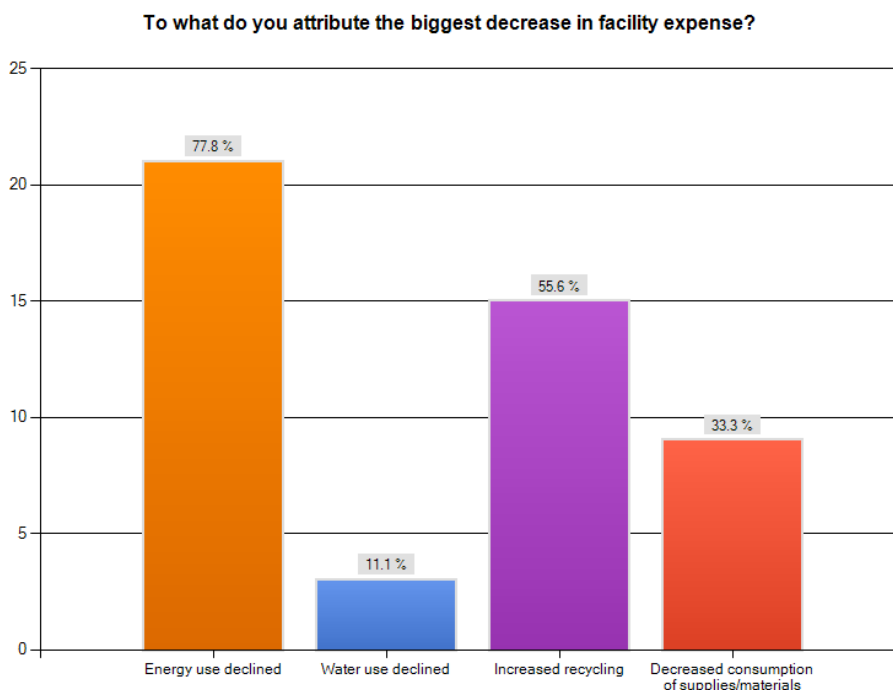
Amount Facilities Expenses Decreased

Your facilities expenses have decreased by approximately what amount?

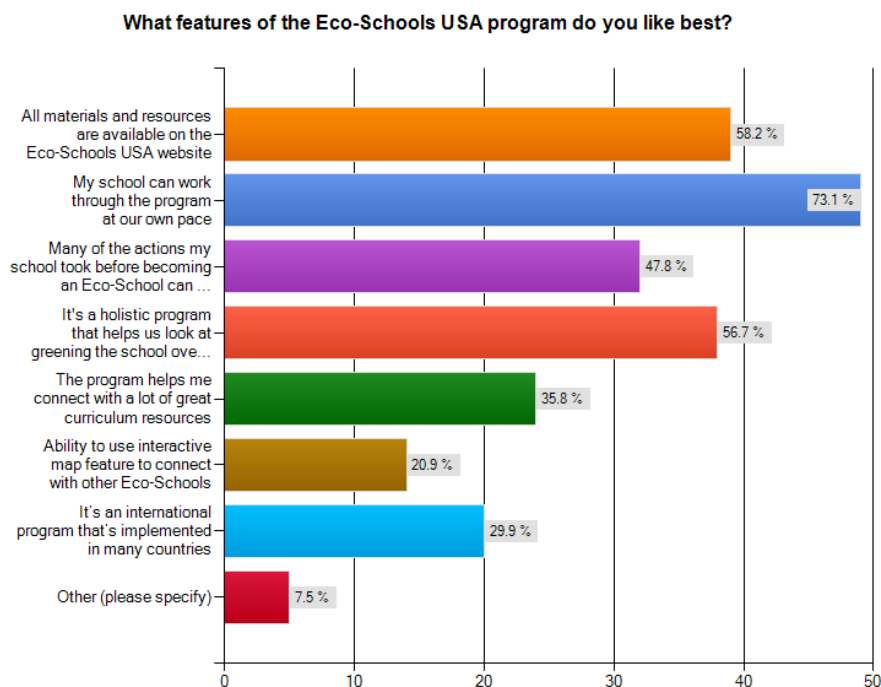


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Reason for Facility Expenses Decreasing



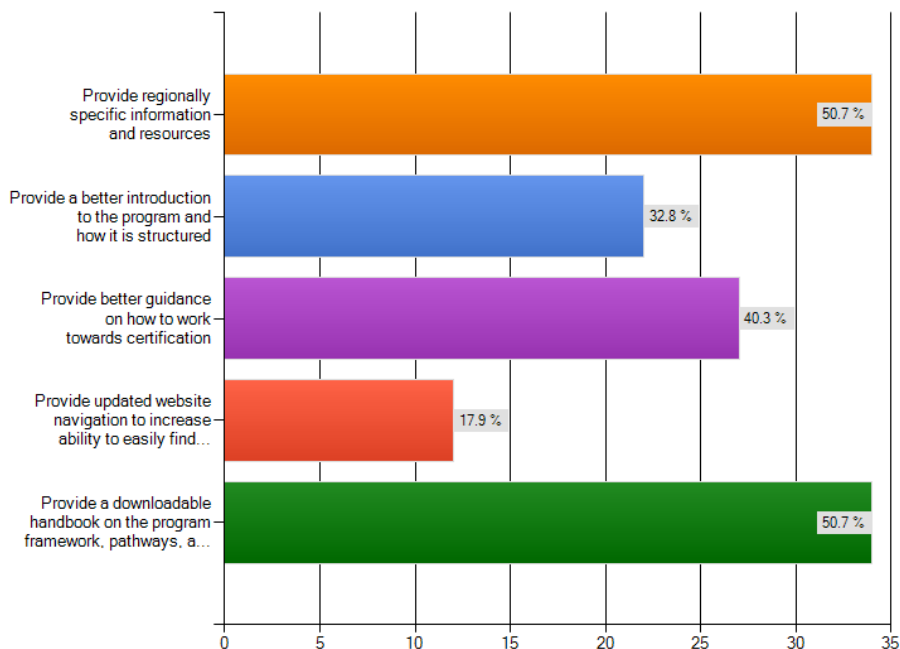
Features of the Program Like Best



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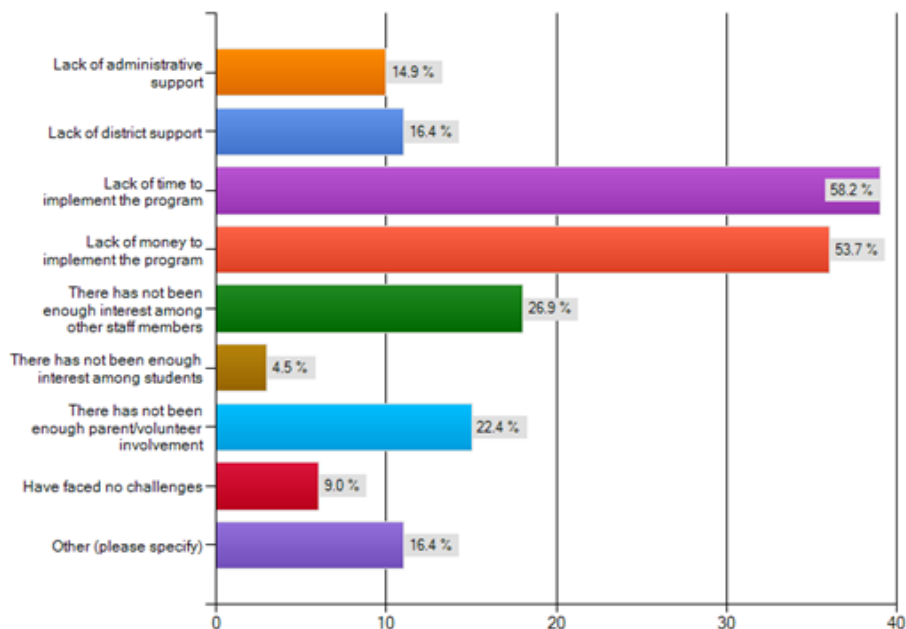
Aspects of Program that Need Improvement

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



Challenges of Implementing the Program

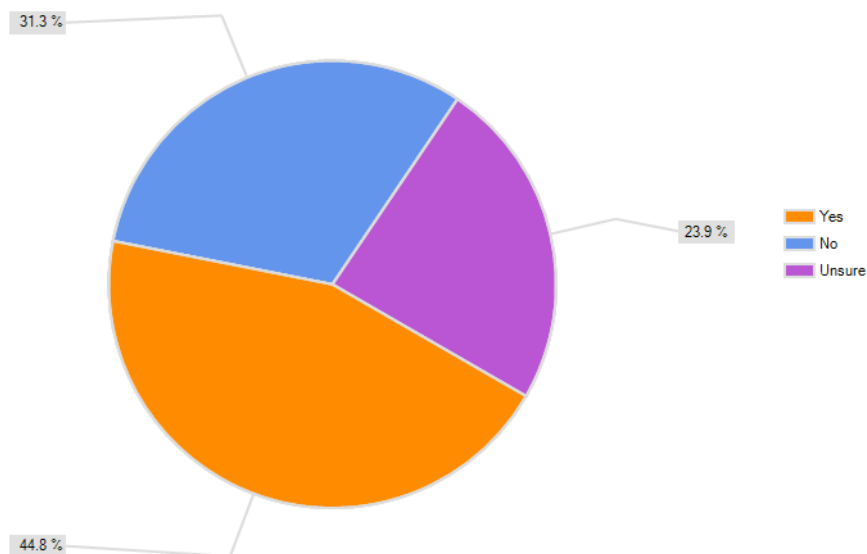
What challenges has your school faced in implementing the Eco-Schools USA program?
Please check all that apply.



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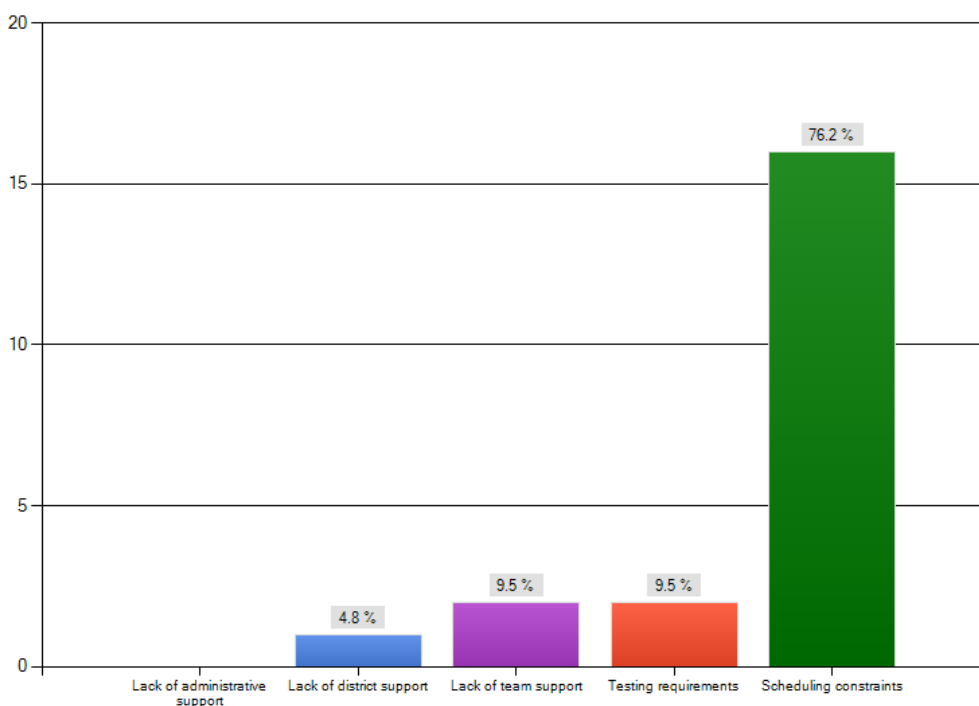
**Able to
Introduce
Program into
Class Curriculum**

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



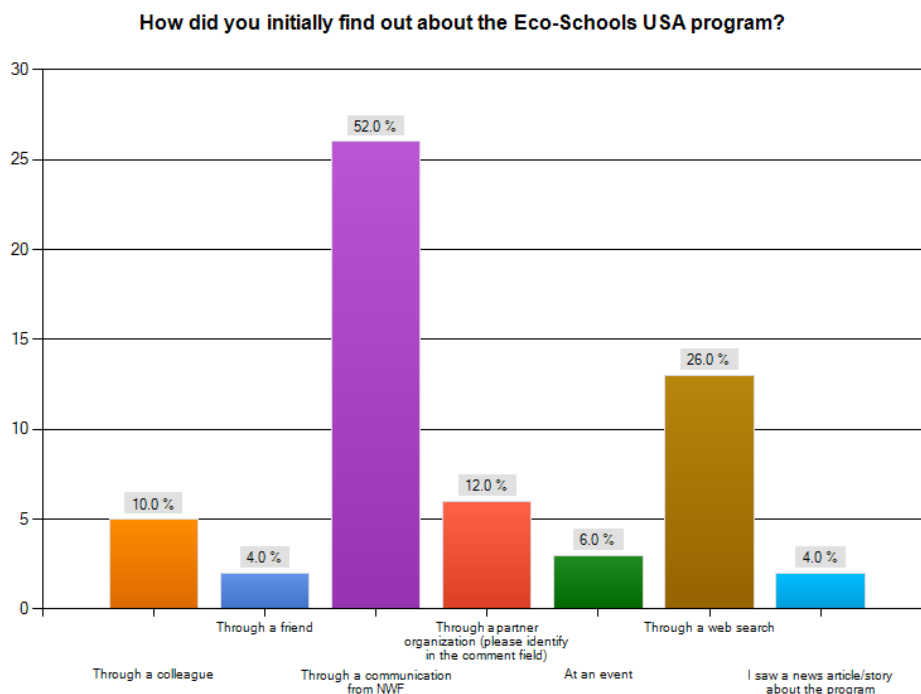
**Challenges of
Introducing
Program into
Class Curriculum**

Why not, or what challenges have you faced in doing so?



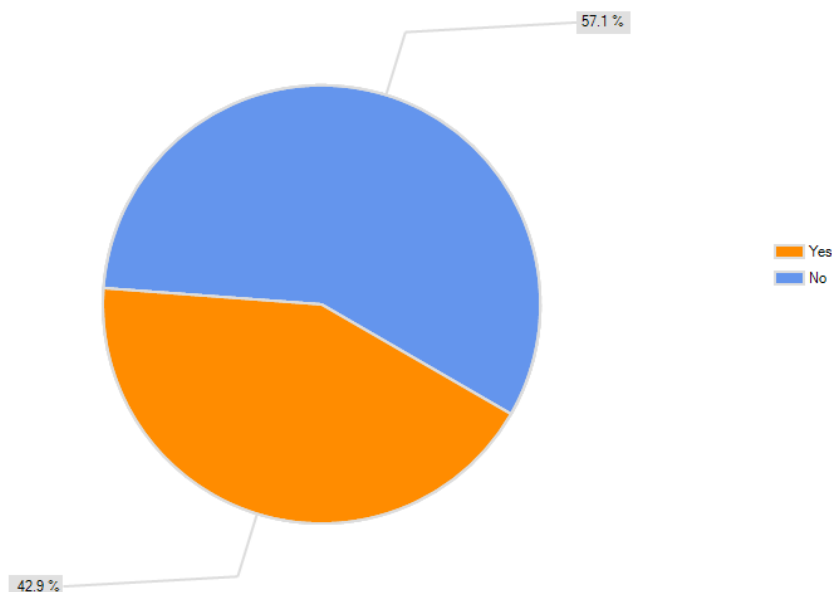
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How Found Out About Program



Participate in Other Green School Programs

Do you participate in any other green school programs? If 'yes', please list the program below.





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Suggestions for Program Improvements

Response Text

Highlight STEM skills that can be introduced taught and explored through the use of school gardens and water conservation projects

A blog about successes and failures of programming and a way to link local people together
Come lead a workshop at my school to help me interest other teachers!

I have really enjoyed coordinating this program at my school and don't have any suggestions. I love the webinars!

Keep it simple.

NOT YET

No

None at this time. Keep up the good work.

I think I missed the chance to apply for funding for our trial. We need to know when and who do we ask for grant money for a rain barrel and to fund posts along our trail.

Send short communications at regular intervals; reminders and ability to type our initiatives as we are completing them with a save/add/edit capability
You are doing a great job! Keep up the good work!

streamline the online documentation of your projects. Too many steps to do. Takes too much time, so I haven't been able to keep up to date as I would like
I am still unsure how this is tracked and what part I play.

No

I plan to apply for Bronze Award soon. Maybe someone could e-mail to me for instructions and encouragement.

Not sure.

Not at this time---I need to get back to grading papers.

I think the Green Flag requirements are slanted more toward smaller elementary schools. Larger middle and high schools have more state testing to prepare for and using percentages does not work. There should be a rubric for each level of school that is realistic.

I want to get it started at school but seem to be a lone voice in a sea of apathy.

The checklist is a nice idea. Periodic reminders throughout the school year of items remaining to be done could be helpful.

I am glad your program called me. I plan to follow the entire program next school year

I promise to do better next year. Bess Tanaka (spouse) started our kids school (Echo Lake Elementary in Shoreline) program this year and they've far outpaced us.
Thanks for your support!