



Award Checklist: Silver

Use this handy checklist to help track your school's progress through the Eco-Schools USA program and confirm that you are meeting criteria to apply for a silver-level award.
200 points are required to qualify for a Silver award.

CRITERIA	POINTS	COMPLETED	NOTES	TIPS
Eco-Action Team (Total 30 points)				
The school has established an Eco-Action team that is composed of a diverse group of teachers, students and community members.	10			Consider connecting with resource professionals from local government, conservation or academic entities.
The Eco-Action Team meets a minimum of six times a year.	10			Some schools meet more frequently in the beginning and then scale back meetings once their program has become established.
Students are part of the decision-making process and help keep minutes at Eco-Action-team meetings.	5			If students are old enough, give them the opportunity to lead some of the team meetings.
Student members of the Eco-Action team share information with the school.	5			Allow students to determine how they will share information and in what formats.
Environmental Audit (Total 35 points)				
An audit is completed on a formal basis using the Eco-Schools USA audit form for at least two pathways.	15			Include as many members of the school community in the auditing process as possible.



CRITERIA	POINTS	COMPLETED	NOTES	TIPS
Environmental Audit (continued)				
Students are involved in the auditing process.	10			Determine which audit steps are safe for students to complete and which should be completed with the assistance of or by an adult.
Results of the audit are shared with the whole school.	5			Go over audit results at an assembly, include them in a school-wide newsletter or other school-wide communications.
A baseline and post-action audit are conducted.	5			We recommend you complete the audit annually in order to measure and evaluate improvement in your school's environmental performance.
Eco-Action Plan (Total 35 points)				
Develop an action plan use the provided blank action plan worksheet, based on audit results that have quantifiable targets. Your action plan should focus on two pathways. List pathway's 1 and 2. _____	20			One of the two pathways can be the pathway the team focused on when applying for the silver-level award. They could also represent work toward two new environmental focus areas or be work addressed prior to joining Eco-Schools USA.
The action plan is shared with the entire school and local community	5			Use social media, PTA and open house events to share progress and accomplishments. Contact your local newspaper(s) and ask them to publicize details about the success of your Eco-Schools USA program. Use the sample press release.



CRITERIA	POINTS	COMPLETED	NOTES	TIPS
Eco-Action Plan, Continued				
A range of actions are planned to mitigate environmental problems.	10			Prioritize your actions by dividing them into what is achievable in the short, medium and long term.
Monitor and Evaluate (Total 35 points)				
The Eco-Action team monitors and reviews progress against timeframes and targets outlined in the action plan.	15			Your procedure for monitoring progress should be developed in parallel with the action plan.
Progress and challenges are communicated to the whole school.	5			Progress and challenges should also be recorded in meeting minutes.
The school shows significant progress on one large-scale project that is focused on the two Eco-Schools pathways.	5			Develop a project that will include and impact as many of the school community as possible.
Metrics data is entered on the award application for the pathway(s) your school is focusing on.	10			You should be able to pull metrics data from the pathway audit forms.
Link to Curriculum (Total 25 points)				
Environmental issues are integrated into the classroom at all grade levels and across disciplines .	15			You may not be able to integrate across as many disciplines as you'd like, but you should make an effort to integrate across as many as possible to show it is a whole school effort.
Student learning experiences are authentic, place-based and inquiry driven.	10			Eco-Schools USA has several lesson plans and curricula available.



Engage and Build Community (Total 20 points)

The school has a bulletin board, display case, website or newsletter which details Eco-Schools USA activities.	10			Have students write blogs, newsletter copy, or website content through their English or journalism class.
The entire school, along with volunteers from the community engage in a number of Eco-Schools activities	10			Consider holding special events or rally to educate people and get them engaged in taking action.

Eco-Code (Total 20 points)

An Eco-Code is developed that includes input from the whole school, and is agreed upon and adopted and is displayed prominently in the school for all who enter and visit the school.	20			The Eco-Code should demonstrate, in a clear and imaginative way, your school's commitment to improving its environmental performance.
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APPLYING FOR A SILVER AWARD

Steps

- 1** Check the [Eco-Schools USA map](#) to find out if your school is already registered as an Eco- School. If not, go to our [registration page](#) and sign-up! Complete the registration form and click 'submit'.
- 2** If you previously registered as an Eco-School, login to access your school's profile, <https://www.nwf.org/EcoSchools/Login.aspx>. You will need to enter your email.
- 3** Once on your school's profile page, locate the 'submit new form' section. Using the pull down menu select the silver award level and click 'submit'.
- 4** Fill-out the award application and click 'submit'. If the application is only partially completed you can click 'save' and return to it at a later point.
- 5** If the application is successfully entered and all criteria met, your school will automatically receive the Eco-Schools USA Silver award. A blue hyperlink will appear on your school's profile page. Click on it to download your award certificate.