Suggested Plan Pathways
2026-2027

Begin Your Journey: Primary

From waste to energy, water to wildlife, and food to climate, begin your sustainability journey with actions that build a solid foundation for environmental learning and action at your school. Start small and have fun making a difference!

Action Card	Points	Level
About Your Eco-Schools Program	10	Participant
Eco-Code	10	
Rethink Trash: Waste Audit	15	
Sit Spot	10	Bronze
Create an Endangered Species Coloring Book	10	
Bird-Friendly Schools	15	Silver
Repurposing and Innovative Recycling	10	Gold
Mayors' Monarch Pledge	15	Green Flag
EOY Survey	5	
Total Points	**100**	

Begin Your Journey: Secondary

Kick-start your action team's year with actions that support leadership, community engagement, and are bound to make a big impact in your school community!

Action Card	Points	Level
About Your Eco-Schools Program	10	Participant
Eco-Code	10	
Days of Service	15	
Divert Textile Waste	15	Bronze
Clean Earth Challenge	15	Silver
Exploring Green Careers	10	Gold
Create School Field Guides	10	
About Renewable Energy	10	Green Flag
EOY Survey	5	
Total Points	**100**	

Green STEAM

Through a green lens, dive into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) to explore the outdoors and innovative, sustainable solutions.

Action Card	Points	Level
About Your Eco-Schools Program	10	Participant
Eco-Code	10	
Create Your Own Action	15	
Species Diversity	15	Bronze
Redesign a Product for the Circular Economy	15	Silver
Schoolyard Habitats: Design the Habitat	20	Gold
Let's Talk Air	15	Green Flag
Total Points	**100**	

Waste

Help divert waste from landfills by collecting and analyzing data, communicating effective alternatives, and identifying ways to reduce, reuse, repurpose, and compost.

Action Card	Points	Level
About Your Eco-Schools Program	10	Participant
Eco-Code	10	
Rethink Trash: Waste Audit	15	
Low to No Waste School Events	15	Bronze
Vermicomposting and School-Based Composting	20	Silver
Clean Earth Challenge	15	Gold
Single Use Plastics	10	Green Flag
EOY Survey	5	
Total Points	**100**	

Nature Connection

Engage in activities that promote nature connection, create habitats for local wildlife, and bring the community together. Discover how small actions can make a big difference on health, well-being, behavior, and academic success.

Action Card	Points	Level
About Your Eco-Schools Program	10	Participant
Eco-Code	10	
Schoolyard Habitats: Assess Your Site	15	
Create Wildlife Homes	15	Bronze
Bird-Friendly Schools	15	Silver
Macroinvertebrate Surveying	15	Gold
Species Diversity	15	Green Flag
EOY Survey	5	
Total Points	**100**	

Note: These are suggested plans only; you can add or remove actions as needed throughout the year. Manage your school's plan at app.Eco-Schools.us. Orange locks represent actions all schools seeking certification must complete.

© 2026 National Wildlife Federation. Permission granted to reproduce for non-commercial educational uses only. All rights reserved.

Suggested Plan Pathways

Climate

Climate is a complex system made of many interconnected smaller systems. Build and nurture a foundation in climate science, then let students lead and move toward innovative, creative ideas for the future, and take collective action to promote and enact change.

Action Card	Points	Level
About Your Eco-Schools Program	10	Participant
Eco-Code	10	
Using Art to Represent Climate Change Data	15	
About Renewable Energy	10	Bronze
Climate StoryMaps: Rise of Extreme Heat	15	
Using Art to Represent Climate Change Data	15	Silver
Grow a Schoolyard Forest	20	Gold
EOY Survey	5	Green Flag
Total Points	**100**	

Wildlife

Build habitat, contribute to citizen science, and maintain native, chemical-free spaces for local wildlife to thrive by developing an action plan to support plant and animal species on the school grounds and in the surrounding neighborhood.

Action Card	Points	Level
About Your Eco-Schools Program	10	Participant
Eco-Code	10	
Become a Citizen Scientist	15	
Species Diversity	15	Bronze
Macroinvertebrate Surveying	15	Silver
Restoring Biodiversity Balance in the Schoolyard	20	Gold
Create an Endangered Species Coloring Book	10	Green Flag
EOY Survey	5	
Total Points	**100**	

Trees

Increasing tree canopy, growing a schoolyard forest, observing wildlife, growing food for the community, and more, trees are a win-win for the school community. Build an action plan and learning experiences around the wonderful world of trees.

Action Card	Points	Level
About Your Eco-Schools Program	10	Participant
Eco-Code	10	
Bird-Friendly Schools	15	
Species Diversity	15	Bronze
Leaf: Learning About Forests and Ecosystems	20	Silver
Grow a Schoolyard Forest	25	Gold
EOY Survey	5	Green Flag
Total Points	**100**	

Create Your Own

Engage in activities designed by the student-led action team that closely connect with the school's sustainability goals and community needs.

Action Card	Points	Level
About Your Eco-Schools Program	10	Participant
Eco-Code	10	
Sit Spot	10	
EOY Survey	5	
Total Points		

Choose a selection of actions from the Action Card Library to reach the team's certification goals.

Notes

Note: These are suggested plans only; you can add or remove actions as needed throughout the year. Manage your school's plan at app.Eco-Schools.us. Orange locks represent actions all schools seeking certification must complete. © 2026 National Wildlife Federation. Permission granted to reproduce for non-commercial educational uses only. All rights reserved.