



EcoSchools U.S.
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

EcoSchools U.S. Program Comparison

Old Program v. New Program

EcoSchools U.S. has made significant changes beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Below represents a comparison between the two versions along with descriptions to bring you up to speed on what's changed and feel better prepared to dive into the new version of the EcoSchools U.S. program

Eco-Schools USA-Version 2.0



Open-no registration date

Eco-Schools Seven Step Framework

12 Pathways to Sustainability

Action plans could be submitted at any time, 365 days a year.

Bronze, Silver, and Green Flag Awards received in response to forms filled out and a lot of documents to upload. Awards built up each other year over year.

Collected when logged into your Dashboard no visualization of the school's impact

REFRESHED LOGO

REGISTRATION

UPDATED FRAMEWORK

PATHWAYS ARE OUT

ACTION PLAN SUBMISSIONS

RECOGNITION CHANGES

DATA COLLECTION

EcoSchools U.S.-Version 3.0



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Annual registration required. EcoSchools Certification Application (ECA) will be closed between the 2nd week in June through the 2nd week in August.

EcoSchools U.S. Framework

Three EcoSchools U.S. Themes and Student-Led Action Card Library

Action plan submission window
First Friday in April to the first Friday in June

Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Green Flag certification achieved annually through a points-based system by responding to certification questions and sharing documentation that supports the school's sustainability journey

Data is collected and housed in the EcoSchools Certification Application (ECA) where you can see the impact of your work over time.

EcoSchools U.S. Program Comparison

Vocabulary

The words below are updated or new language that support the improved EcoSchools U.S. program.

Action Cards

Selected by student-led action teams to develop the school's action plan. An action card has many parts, like Connections to Curriculum and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as a guide and resources to support implementation. Log in to see how action cards are broken down or to see all the topics covered this year, review the Action Card Library found on the School Resources page.

Annual Registration

Every year registration will be required to connect to your school and begin a new action plan.

Certification

Certification replaces the word award. To receive a certification seal you must apply for certification annually.

Certification Questions

These questions are found as a part of every action card. Answering questions is how the action team gathers points toward certification.

Certification Seals

Certification Seals also replace the word award. Seals are awarded to schools who achieve enough points to receive recognition--Bronze (50) Silver (65) Gold (80) Green Flag (100+)

EcoSchools Certification Application (ECA)

The ECA replace the Dashboard. You must log in to the ECA to fully participate in the EcoSchools U.S. program. Here you will find your dashboard, action plan, action card library, your impact, and your achievements.

Framework

The EcoSchools Framework is one of two integral tools to a successful EcoSchools program as it lays the foundation for how action teams work as a part of a community to address important issues.

Impact Page

Found in the ECA, each school can see their impact across 9 different metrics. Log in to explore.

Submission Window

We highly encourage all schools to submit their action plans for review and certification during the submission window from the first Friday in April to the first Friday in June.

Themes

The EcoSchools U.S. themes are the 2nd integral tool to a successful EcoSchools program and are connected to each action card. These themes represent our priorities to address real and present threats posed by a changing climate and whose effects are significantly impacting wildlife, biodiversity, and the health and resilience of our communities.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS ON THE ECOSCHOOLS U.S. WEBSITE.

- [Who We Are](#)
- [Schools & Districts](#)
- [School Resources](#) - Start by reading the program and certification guide.
- [FAQ](#)