EcoSchools U.S. Action Card Library

Actions make up the foundation of EcoSchools certification and consist of a variety of fun and educational projects, campaigns, research, and challenges that help schools assess and improve their environmental practices. Action cards are designed to be flexible and adaptable to all curricula and school types to ensure that everyone across the United States can pursue certification. EcoSchools U.S. action cards also connect schools to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the global FEE network.

- 🌍: This symbol represents the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will denote an action card's primary connection.
- **Action**: Title of the action card
- **Description**: Brief description of the action card
- **EcoSchools U.S. Themes**: Wildlife and Biodiversity (green), Climate (yellow), and Healthy and Resilient Communities (blue). Each is associated with the same color found in the EcoSchools Certification Application's (ECA) Action Library.
- **Points Value**: Point total possible by completing the action and answering the certification questions. Annually, schools can certify at a Bronze (50 points), Silver (65 points), Gold (80 points), or Green Flag (100+ points) level.
- **Estimated Time To Complete**: The estimated time it will take to complete the action card, keeping in mind a number of variables that impact activity, project, and campaign completion. Even actions designed to be conducted in less than a week could be repeated throughout the year like macroinvertebrate surveys to support conclusions on stream health. Short = Less than a week | Medium = Less than a Month | Long = 3+ months
- 🔒: This symbol represents an action card that's locked meaning you must complete these actions as a part of your action plan.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active and Sustainable Transport</td>
<td>Run a campaign to encourage low-carbon transportation options such as walking, cycling, busing, and carpooling to school.</td>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Gardening and Greenhouses</td>
<td>Bring gardening inside for hands-on, year-round learning about plants, food systems, nutrition, and health and well-being.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Medium to Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let's Talk Air</td>
<td>Explore the properties of air and why good indoor air quality is important for human health.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Short to Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sit Spot</td>
<td>Cultivate awareness and well-being by regularly visiting one specific spot where you can sit, slow down, awaken your senses, and learn more about yourself and the local environment.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macroinvertebrates Survey</td>
<td>Learn about the hidden life in a community waterway or at your school and how it can indicate a healthy ecosystem.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Short</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Quality Testing</td>
<td>Learn about the quality of water in a local waterway or at your school and connect to community and wildlife health.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Short</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterway Clean-Up</td>
<td>Help protect your watershed by cleaning up a local waterway and surrounding area.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create a Rain Garden</td>
<td>A rain garden is a beautiful plantscape that filters polluted stormwater runoff. Students will choose plant species and plant a rain garden.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Long</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create Your Own Action Card</td>
<td>Do you have a plan for an action that doesn’t quite fit? Let us know all about it!</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>15+</td>
<td>Short to Long</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create an EcoCode</td>
<td>Connect with the school community to create a representation of the diverse sustainability achievements and efforts in progress.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Short</td>
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<tr>
<td>Getting Started</td>
<td>Start your year by building a strong action team, reflecting on student interests and community needs, then developing an action plan for success!</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Short</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact Storytelling</td>
<td>Use a public outlet to share a story about one of your EcoSchools' projects.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Short to Long</td>
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<tr>
<td>Divert Textile Waste</td>
<td>Reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair, and recycle old textiles such as clothes, shoes, and bedding, and help to divert waste from the landfill.</td>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Short to Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper and Cardboard School Recycling Program</td>
<td>A step-by-step guide to establish a paper and cardboard recycling program at your school.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Long</td>
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<td>Repurposing and Innovative Recycling</td>
<td>Recycle, repurpose, or repair items that are not recyclable through the regular recycling stream and help to divert waste from the landfill.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Short to Long</td>
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<td>Single-Use Plastics</td>
<td>Conduct a single-use plastics audit and determine how to inform the school community about their harmful impacts on wildlife, communities, and the climate in order to change single-use plastic behavior.</td>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vermicomposting and School-Based Composting</td>
<td>Get your hands dirty and turn your food scraps into nutrient-rich soil.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Medium to Long</td>
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<td>Climate Escape Room</td>
<td>Do you have what it takes to &quot;escape&quot; climate change? Increase your awareness of the global climate crisis while engaging in a fun and immersive online learning experience!</td>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Short to Medium</td>
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<td>Energy Vampires</td>
<td>Identify energy vampires and opportunities to reduce power use to reduce greenhouse gases.</td>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grow a Schoolyard Forest</td>
<td>Increase tree canopy within small places to improve the school’s carbon footprint, support wildlife, and decrease heat island impacts.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Long</td>
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<td>Restoring Biodiversity Balance in Your Schoolyard</td>
<td>Let’s focus on designing a plan for your school to remove invasive plant species and restore the habitat of your school grounds by planting native plants.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Medium to Long</td>
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<td>Track School Transportation Emissions</td>
<td>Track how staff and students travel to and from school to better understand transportation-related GHG emissions and the transportation options you have.</td>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Bird-Friendly Schools</td>
<td>Learn to identify local bird species and take action to make your school safe for birds.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Create an Endangered Species Coloring Book</td>
<td>Engage students in the research, development, and design of a coloring book about an endangered species in your region.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Short</td>
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<td>Create School Field Guides</td>
<td>Do you want to unlock the secrets and hidden treasures in your own schoolyard? Then, embark on this great project-based learning experience to create school-based nature field guides!</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Short</td>
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<td>Create Wildlife Homes</td>
<td>Support wildlife populations by creating safe spaces they can nest, feed, and play.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Endangered Species Awareness Community Event</td>
<td>Engage the community, educate participants, and inspire action toward the conservation and preservation of one or multiple endangered species and their habitats in your region.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish Stewards</td>
<td>Get hooked on fish! Learn about fish lifecycles, habitat, cultural connections, and stewardship actions needed to improve watershed health.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Medium to Long</td>
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<td>LEAF Learning About Forests</td>
<td>Learning about forests involves gaining knowledge, understanding, and hands-on field experiences related to forests, including their biodiversity, importance, functions, services to ecosystems and humans, and conservation.</td>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Species Diversity</td>
<td>Observing and identifying local wildlife in outdoor spaces at home or at school.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Short to Medium</td>
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<td>Become a Citizen Scientist</td>
<td>A citizen science project is a collaborative scientific endeavor in which members of the public participate actively in scientific research.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Rebuild</td>
<td>Join the Extraordinary Earth Project. Learn more about this environmental art project starting 8/17. This card supports the Days of Service Campaign.</td>
<td>Wildlife and Biodiversity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Short</td>
</tr>
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<td>Clean Earth Challenge</td>
<td>Join the movement and take the Clean Earth Challenge! It’s as simple as picking up trash on a walk, at school, or local park. This action card supports the Clean Earth Challenge Campaign.</td>
<td>Healthy and Resilient Communities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Days of Service</td>
<td>Throughout the school year, build in opportunities to bring the community together in the spirit of service--service to the school, to the community and to wildlife. This card supports the Days of Service Campaign.</td>
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