



# Eco-Schools USA

Join for free and take your school's sustainability work to the next level by becoming a part of the largest green schools program in the world!

Through school-based action teams, led by students and including administrators, educators, and community volunteers, the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA provides student-led teams with a framework to address sustainability through unique research and application-based learning experience.

The Eco-Schools program strives to model environmentally sound practices and enhance science and academic achievement. Additionally, it works to foster a greater sense of environmental stewardship and leadership among youth and community.

In December 2008, National Wildlife Federation was granted host status for K-12 schools in the United States by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). This honor-this charge fits seamlessly with National Wildlife Federation's work to promote environmental education, connect people with nature and raise awareness about the impacts to people and wildlife from climate change.

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## CONTACT

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# Participating in the Largest Green Schools Program in the World



In a world of over seven billion people, with limited natural resources, individuals and societies have to learn to live together and take responsible actions based on the understanding that actions here and today can have implications for the lives and livelihoods of people in other parts of the world, as well as for future generations.

Empowering learners to live responsible lives and to address complex global challenges means that education has to promote competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios, and making

decisions in a collaborative way. This calls for new approaches to learning, the development of vibrant green economies and societies, and the emergence of a “global citizenship.”

Education for Sustainable Development is about enabling communities to constructively and creatively address present and future global challenges and create more sustainable and resilient societies. Eco-Schools USA allows students to explore and advocate for sustainable schools, communities and beyond.

## Seven Step Framework

The Seven Step Framework is your road map for implementing the Eco-Schools USA program at your school. Following the framework exposes students to “green” career paths and facilitates their transition to higher education, the workplace, and adult life. Each step helps to build student confidence, communication, and collaboration skills. At the same

time, following the steps allows students to think creatively and critically about environmental or sustainability challenges at their school and develop place-based solutions. In this way, students develop necessary 21st-century skills and an affinity for STEM disciplines.

## Pathways to Sustainability

The Pathways to Sustainability are the environmental focus areas student-led Eco-Action teams use to improve the school’s environmental footprint. Chosen based on interest or need.



## 3-Tiered Award System

Once a school has registered as an Eco-School and implemented the Seven Step Framework, they can apply for an Eco-Schools award using their school’s personalized dashboard.

There are three awards in the Eco-Schools USA point-based system: Bronze, Silver and the prestigious Green Flag.

