Eco-Schools USA Healthy Schools Audit
Mercury Use

Learning Objectives

- To collect information about toxics and other health-related issues that affects the school building and grounds.
- To draw connections between these issues and the physical health of the school population.
- To interpret and analyze the information gathered to identify priority issues to address.

Curriculum Links

Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health, Citizenship

Eco-Schools USA Pathways

Healthy Schools

Has an inventory been performed of mercury-containing materials in science labs, maintenance areas, art rooms, the nurse's office, home economic rooms, and industrial arts/metal shop areas?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Are instruments containing mercury properly labeled?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Has staff and faculty been trained on how to properly clean up a mercury spill? *Note: Mercury spill kits are available from many scientific supply catalogs.*	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does the school ensure that mercury and mercury-containing products are not disposed of down the drain?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does the school have a protocol to properly manage and recycle mercury and mercury-containing products?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Has the school eliminated liquid mercury?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does the school have a mercury-free purchasing policy that chooses non-mercury products over those that contain mercury?	☐ Yes	☐ No
If no mercury-free alternative is available, does the school choose the product containing the least amount of mercury available for that particular device?	☐ Yes	☐ No

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Does the school ensure that historical mercury has been cleaned out of traps, sumps, and pipes in the sewer lines?	☐ Yes ☐ No
When the school remodels or replaces old equipment, are thermostats, switches, relays, sensors, and gauges containing mercury replaced with non-mercury alternatives?	☐ Yes ☐ No

Adapted from Illinois EPA Green Schools Checklist

You will want to keep the data in this table handy, as you will need to report this information when you apply for an Eco-Schools USA award. 1) What percentage of the school's cleaning supplies are certified green?	_____ %
2) Does your school have IAQ monitoring program? IAQ – Indoor Air Quality	☐ Yes ☐ No
3) Does your school utilize an integrated pest management approach to treating the school campus?	☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPORTANT NOTE

The three questions above are found on all six Healthy Schools audits. If you have completed this information for already please just copy the information. If you have made progress from the first time you collected data and need to update your metrics please do so.

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